

2017 Legislative Update Week 6

Monday February 13 - Friday February 17

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Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 6 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 6 contained four legislative days, which means we're already through day 20 of 40. [SB 2](#) - The FAST Act - passed the Senate chamber unanimously on Friday and will be sent to the House for consideration. [HB 194](#), which requires local zoning boards to consider the potential for over-crowding schools when reviewing a zoning application, was heard in House Governmental Affairs subcommittee on Tuesday but no vote was taken. [HB 204](#), which prohibits local tax assessors from including fees for services - such as garbage or sewer - on a property tax bill, passed the House Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday. The House and Senate versions of a bill that would require licensed low-voltage contractors to complete 4 hours of continuing education annually passed their respective committees this week.

GAC met this week at the HBAG office on Thursday February 16. A sponsor for our building design elements bill has been identified and a bill will be dropped next week. GAC also discussed an issue with the FY'18 state budget which eliminates and transfers positions from the Georgia Soil & Water Commission and will be addressing the issue as the budget process moves forward. GAC took a position on several new bills:

- [HB 267](#) - [Rep. Kimberly Alexander \(D-Hiram\)](#) - requires all employers to provide paid sick leave to employees and provides rules for doing so. **OPPOSE**
- [HB 271](#) - [Rep. Jesse Petrea \(R-Savannah\)](#) - EPD bill updates the way the shoreline is measured, new methods include using the "ordinary high water mark", etc. **MONITOR**
- [HB 285](#) - [Rep. David Knight \(R-Griffin\)](#) - requires tax assessors to consider the effects of regulatory costs and income tax credits when determining fair market value. **MONITOR**
- [HB 302](#) - [Rep. Randy Nix \(R-LaGrange\)](#) - changes the language required in the advertisement required when a local government raises the millage rate to provide clarity to taxpayers. **MONITOR**
- [SB 140](#) - [Sen. Butch Miller \(R-Gainesville\)](#) - *Senate companion to HB 239* - requires licensed low-voltage contractors to complete 4 hours of continuing education annually. **MONITOR**
- [SB 162](#) - [Sen. Frank Ginn \(R-Danielsville\)](#) - prevents government condemners from low-balling offers on real property by providing for a penalty. **SUPPORT**

The **2017 Legislative Rally & Winter Board Meeting** will take place at the state capitol this coming Tuesday, February 21. HBAG members will meet at 9:00 am in Room 216 of the capitol and receive a greeting from Senator Mike Dugan, Chairman of the Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee. There will also be a photo opportunity with Governor Nathan Deal. Please plan on joining your fellow HBAG members as we meet with our legislators and push our legislative agenda. Visit www.hbag.org to register for this event. Take the time now to contact your legislator and let him or her know you're coming - your participation as a local constituent is what makes this event so effective.

GAC will not meet next week at the HBAG office in Atlanta. An update will be given at the Winter Board meeting on Tuesday.