

2017 Legislative Update Week 7

Monday February 20 - Friday February 24

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 7 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 7 contained four legislative days, which means we're already through day 24 of 40. HBAG members flooded the Gold Dome on Tuesday to push our legislative agenda and remind law-makers of our industry's economic impact on the state. Members in attendance heard from Senator Mike Dugan, sponsor of SB 2 - the FAST Act - and Chairman of the Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee, we had one-on-one meetings with individual legislators, we fed legislators and their staff 300 Chik-fil-a lunches, and of course, we had our annual photo-op with the Governor. Thank you to all HBAG members who participated in this important event.



While GAC did not meet this week, we did see plenty of action on our tracking sheet take place during a busy week 7. Bills that moved include:

- [HB 194](#) - [Rep. Todd Jones \(R-Cumming\)](#) - requires zoning boards to consider the potential for overcrowded schools when approving an application for re-zoning. **OPPOSE** - passed the House Government Affairs Committee by substitute and now waits in Rules
- [HB 203](#) - [Rep. Brian Strickland \(R-McDonough\)](#) - new procedures for home owners associations to expand their scope and take control from delinquent developers. **MONITOR** - passed the House
- [HB 204](#) - [Rep. Brett Harrell \(R-Snellville\)](#) - prohibits local governments from including fees for services on a property tax bill. **SUPPORT** - passed the House Ways & Means Committee and now waits in Rules
- [HB 239](#) - [Rep. Lee Hawkins \(R-Gainesville\)](#) - allows the Division of Low-voltage Contractors of the State Construction Industry Licensing Board to require continuing education credits. **MONITOR** - failed a House floor vote
- Our "building design elements" bill, which would prohibit local governments from passing ordinances dictating the aesthetic designs of single-family dwellings, has hit a major road block. The attorney in the Office of Legislative Counsel who was tasked with drafting the bill sent it back to our sponsor with a note about the likelihood of a constitutional challenge, citing Georgia's state constitution giving the power of zoning to counties and municipalities and our bill's potential "infringement" on that power. This results in a major setback for our effort and very likely stalls the bill for the 2017 session. *Please stay tuned for continued updates on this issue.*

Crossover Day is Friday, March 3. A bill must pass its original chamber to be eligible for passage this year.

The Home Builders Association of Georgia is represented at the state capitol by Government Affairs Director Austin Hackney and our contract lobbying team of Troutman Sanders Strategies - principally Sam Hill. Please contact Austin at ahackney@hbag.org with any questions or concerns about the legislature and HBAG's Government Affairs Committee.

GAC will meet next week - **Thursday March 2 at 11:00 am** at the HBAG office in Atlanta. A meeting notice with an agenda, tracking sheet, and last meeting's minutes will be forthcoming.