

# 2017 Legislative Update Week 8

Monday February 27 - Friday March 3

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Welcome to the HBAG Legislative Update for Week 8 of the Georgia General Assembly's 2017 Legislative Session. Week 8 contained four legislative days, which means we're already through day 28 of 40 - and Crossover Day. Crossover Day occurred on Day 28 this year (it has been Day 30 for the past several years). This day is significant to the legislative process because it is the final day by which a bill must pass its originating chamber to be eligible for passage into law this year. Among the issues up for debate on Crossover Day this year were casinos, guns on college campuses, new limits on pipeline companies using eminent domain, and plenty more. Bills on HBAG's tracking sheet that saw movement this week include:

- [HB 87](#) - [Rep. Brad Raffensperger \(R-Johns Creek\)](#) - provides for the annual registration for businesses (and non-profits) with the Secretary of State to be valid for up to 3 years at a time - **SUPPORT** - passed the House, sent to Senate Economic Development & Tourism committee
- [HB 192](#) - [Rep. Beth Beskin \(R-Atlanta\)](#) - provides protections to corporate boards from punitive judgements resulting from a new interpretation of the standard of negligence - **SUPPORT** - passed the House on Crossover Day
- [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** - stalled in House Rules and will not move this year
- [HB 204](#) - [Rep. Brett Harrell \(R-Snellville\)](#) - prohibits local governments from including fees for services on a property tax bill - **SUPPORT** - passed the House, sent to Senate Finance committee
- [HB 271](#) - [Rep. Jesse Petrea \(R-Savannah\)](#) - provides new definitions and procedures to EPD for shoreline protection - **MONITOR** - passed the House by substitute on Crossover Day
- [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** - passed the House on Crossover Day
- [HB 302](#) - [Rep. Randy Nix \(R-LaGrange\)](#) - changes the language required in the advertisement required when a local government raises revenues to provide clarity to taxpayers - **MONITOR** - passed the House on Crossover Day
- [SR 152](#) - [Sen. Frank Ginn \(R-Danielsville\)](#) - creates the Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia - **MONITOR** - passed the Senate on Crossover Day

GAC met at the HBAG office in Atlanta on Thursday and took positions on several new bills:

- [HB 410](#) - [Rep. Alan Powell \(R-Hartwell\)](#) - places a limit on the amount a property owners association can assess from a buyer at closing and tightens the rules around the letter a property management company sends to closing to affirm that the seller is current on dues - **OPPOSE**
- [HB 456](#) - [Rep. Debra Bazemore \(D-Riverdale\)](#) - enacts new procedures for financing a real estate transaction through an executory contract to provide more notice before the seller can repossess the property after the buyer becomes non-compliant to the contract - **MONITOR**
- [HB 459](#) - [Rep. Sam Teasley \(R-Marietta\)](#) - renders unenforceable the clause in a builder's contract which prohibits the buyer from bringing a third-party to the job-site - **OPPOSE**
- [HB 525](#) - [Rep. Debbie Buckner \(D-Junction City\)](#) - requires a tax assessor to consider the effects of a buffer along state waters when calculating the fair market value of real property - **SUPPORT**
- [HR 362](#) - [Rep. Lynn Smith \(R-Newnan\)](#) - (companion bill to [SR 152](#)) - creates the Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia - **MONITOR**
- [SR 224](#) - [Sen. Frank Ginn \(R-Danielsville\)](#) - creates the Joint Study Committee on Storm-Water Management Fees - **MONITOR**

GAC also received an update on the progress of [SB 2](#) - The FAST Act - which has passed the Senate unanimously and has been sent to the House Small Business Development Committee. HBAG continues to **SUPPORT** the bill and remains engaged in the process.

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](mailto:ahackney@hbag.org) with any questions or concerns about the legislature and HBAG's Government Affairs Committee.

GAC will meet next week - **Thursday March 9 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.