

# 2016 Legislative Update Week 4

Monday February 1 - Thursday February 4

*Legislative Days 13, 14, 15, 16*

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HBAG had a busy week under the Gold Dome in Week Four. Several bills on our tracking sheet were discussed in committee and two received floor votes. HB 593 (additional CE requirements for low-voltage electrical contractors) failed on the House floor. HB 402 (see below) passed its floor vote and will now be transmitted to the Senate for consideration. GAC met on Thursday February 4 and took the following positions:

## **OPPOSE:**

- **HB 894** – *Rep. Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek)* - enabling legislation for “educational buildings” development impact fees. The bill includes a few new provisions such as including school systems where student enrollment is “projected” to experience 15 percent or more growth. It also creates an advisory committee with no acknowledgement of the development community.

## **SUPPORT:**

- **HB 402** – *Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee)* - this bill addresses one of GAC’s key initiatives – workforce development. It provides an incentive in the form of a workers comp insurance premium discount to those employers who participate in a work place learning opportunity program and hire a qualified high school student.
- **HB 773** – *Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville)* - provides more funding to the Dept of Community Affairs/Georgia Housing & Finance Authority to use in their Georgia Dream Home Ownership Program. The program has helped 44,000 Georgia families purchase their first home since it was started in 1976.
- **SB 258** – *Sen. Fran Millar (R-Dunwoody)* - when a property owner appeals a tax assessment, the appeals board may reduce the tax amount due but is prohibited from increasing the tax amount due.

## **MONITOR:**

- **SB 259** – *Sen. Fran Millar (R-Dunwoody)* - provides a floating homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes equaling the amount increase in tax assessed value from the previous year.

**REMINDER:** HBAG’s Legislative Rally and Winter Board Meeting will take place at the state capitol in Atlanta on Tuesday February 16. Please visit [www.HBAG.org](http://www.HBAG.org) to register for this event. Take the time now to contact your legislators and set an appointment.

GAC will meet *Thursday February 11th at 11:00 am* at the HBAG office in Atlanta.