

# 2016 Legislative Update Week 10

Monday March 14 - Friday March 18

Legislative Days 36, 37, 38

[Austin Hackney](#), Government Affairs Director



## Home Builders Association of Georgia

Week Ten at the Gold Dome saw each chamber debating legislation from the other chamber - and working with the other chamber to get their own bills passed. They were in session on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week, with committee meetings every day. At this stage in the session, everyone's energy is spent trying to get bills out of Rules Committee or trying to make sure they stay there permanently. Several bills we're watching moved this week.

- **HB 364** - [Rep. David Knight \(R-Griffin\)](#): This bill allows taxpayers to appeal directly to the Georgia Tax Tribunal when the Commissioner of the Dept. of Revenue has determined their property is being taxed unlawfully by their local government. The bill also adds punishments to local governments for taxing properties unlawfully. It passed out of Senate Finance and is now in Rules Committee. GAC is in a **MONITOR** position on the bill.
- **HB 471** - [Rep. Ron Stephens \(R-Savannah\)](#): This bill allows equipment rental companies to line-item charge a 1.5% "property tax recovery fee" to cover the cost of the property tax on their inventory. The bill was tabled in Senate Finance and will be ineligible to become a law at this point. GAC continues to **OPPOSE**.
- **HB 821** - [Rep. Al Williams \(D-Midway\)](#): This bill directs all state licensing boards to expedite and streamline the licensing process for veterans and their spouses. The bill leaves the details of how to make that happen to each licensing board. The bill passed out of the Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities Committee this week and is now in Rules Committee. GAC continues to **MONITOR** the bill.
- **HB 952** - [Rep. Chad Nimmer \(R-Blackshear\)](#): This bill protects members of the Residential Contractor Licensing Board from anti-trust lawsuits by adding "executive oversight" to the state code regulating the SoS Licensing Boards. The bill passed the Senate with substitute language this week and will need to be agreed to by the House or it will go to conference committee. GAC continues to **SUPPORT**.
- **HB 1025** - [Rep. Tom Taylor \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill allows a local government to "tack and mail" property maintenance violation citations rather than perform personal service. GAC voted to **OPPOSE** the bill. It had lost momentum as late as Monday afternoon but appeared on a Senate Judiciary Committee agenda for Tuesday. The bill passed with a new mandate for a "waiver of service", sent certified mail, that would be the first attempt at service before initiating the "tack and mail" procedure. This version passed and now awaits the Rules Committee.
- **SB 258** - [Sen. Fran Millar \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill started out as a measure to prohibit a property tax appeals board from raising your assessment during the appeals process. The House Ways & Means Committee has deemed it a "christmas tree" and has attached language from several other bills to the legislation. GAC continues to **SUPPORT** but is currently reviewing the new language.

GAC will *not* meet next week as Days 39 and 40 are scheduled for Tuesday (3/22) and Thursday (3/24).