

2016 Legislative Update Week 1

Monday January 11 - Friday January 15

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Hello and welcome to the first HBAG Legislative Update of the 2016 session of the Georgia General Assembly. As you know, 2016 is an election year. All 236 of our state legislators are up for re-election and they are anxious to complete this 40-day legislative session and return to their districts to campaign.

There are many new faces at the Capitol this year:

- *Larry Walker III* - Senate District 20 (R-Perry)
- *JaNice VanNess* - Senate District 43 (R-Conyers)
- *Taylor Bennett* - House District 80 (D-Brookhaven)
- *Shaw Blackmon* - House District 146 (R-Bonaire)
- *Doreen Carter* - House District 92 (D-Lithonia)
- *Sheri Gilligan* - House District 24 (R-Cumming)
- *Jodi Lott* - House District 122 (R-Evans)
- *Marie Metze* - House District 55 (D-Atlanta)
- *Clay Pirkle* - House District 155 (R-Ashburn)
- *Dr. Betty Price* - House District 48 - (R-Roswell)

All the bills left on last year's Tracking Sheet are still eligible for consideration this year. We'll be keeping a close eye on the whole list which includes the following:

- **HB 33** from Rep. Tom Taylor (R-Dunwoody) - puts criminal penalties on anyone "interfering with a code enforcement officer"
- **HB 51** from Rep. Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson) - adds HOA and other fees to what must be paid in order to redeem a foreclosure
- **HB 267** from Rep. Trey Kelly (R-Cartersville) - streamlines the process of signing and witnessing deeds and mortgages
- **SB 191** from Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta) - prohibits local governments from enacting unique amendments to the state's "call before you dig" laws

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 to register for this event. Take the time now to contact your legislators and set an appointment to see them.

REMINDER: The Tree Ordinance Legislation Task Force is still on-going. Members are: Jim Brown - Chairman, Brian Canady, Dennis McConnell, Tim Thornton and Stanley Richardson. If you have questions or input for this initiative, please contact Austin Hackney or any of the task force members listed.

GAC will meet next on Thursday January 28 at 11:00 am at the HBAG office in Atlanta. A meeting notice with agenda, tracking sheet, and last meeting's minutes will be forthcoming.