

2016 Legislative Update Week 2

Wednesday January 20 - Friday January 22

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



Week 2 of the Georgia General Assembly started out with the state offices closed Monday to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Tuesday was a full day of budget hearings for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Both Chambers were back in session Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The calendar was set for the remainder of the session with Crossover Day (Day 30) falling on February 29 and Sine Die (Day 40) falling on March 24.

Two new issues have come up that require GAC's attention at our meeting next week.

The first is the potential creation of "townships" for the purpose of zoning and regulating land use and development. These townships would be created by the Georgia General Assembly and would be able to circumvent the existing zoning and land use plans previously established in that local jurisdiction. This issue is manifested in the following legislation:

- **HB 785** - Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek)
- **HR 1051** - Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek) *this is a constitutional amendment which means the Legislature is voting to put the question on the election ballot and requires 2/3 majority approval in each chamber to pass*
- **SB 272** - Senate Majority Caucus Chairman William Ligon Jr. (R-Brunswick)
- **SR 724** - Senate Majority Caucus Chairman William Ligon Jr. (R-Brunswick) *this is also a constitutional amendment*

The other new issue for GAC's consideration is the potential for "additional educational facilities" to be a new approved use for development impact fees. The language used is narrowed down to those areas containing a "school system which has had enrollment growth of at least 15 percent over the preceding five-year period." This issue is manifested in the following legislation:

- **HR 864** - Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek) *this is also a constitutional amendment*
- **HR 1017** - Mike Dudgeon (R-Johns Creek) *this is also a constitutional amendment*
- **SR 624** - Michael Williams (R-Cumming) *this is also a constitutional amendment*

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.