

2016 Legislative Update Week 5

Monday February 8 - Thursday February 11

Legislative Days 17, 18, 19, 20

Austin Hackney, Government Affairs Director



HBAG had another busy week under the Gold Dome in Week Five. Twelve new bills with an impact on the housing industry were entered and brought forward for discussion at GAC's meeting on Thursday February 11.

OPPOSE:

- **HB 966** - *Rep. Johnnie Caldwell Jr. (R-Thomaston)* - moves the stream buffer measuring point out to the "ordinary high water mark".
- **SB 334** - *Sen. Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale)* - expands the ability to enact a sales tax for sewer and water projects to municipalities which participate in a sewer service agreement.
- **SB 344** - *Sen. Michael Williams (R-Cumming)* - creates an education use for development impact fees in areas served by "high growth school systems".
- **SB 351** - *Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta)* - prohibits "crematories" within 2000 feet of a residential neighborhood.

SUPPORT:

- **HB 921** - *Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville)* - provides tax credit incentives to promote revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns.
- **HB 952** - *Rep. Chad Nimmer (R-Blackshear)* - provides authority for the Governor to supervise all professional licenses granted by the state.
- **SB 338** - *Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta)* - provides a hardcopy form for the exemption from workers comp insurance for companies with three or less employees.

MONITOR:

- **HB 821** - *Rep. Al Williams (D-Midway)* - requires state licensing boards to streamline the transition process for returning veterans or their spouses moving in from out of state.
- **HB 938** - *Rep. Brian Prince (D-Augusta)* - requires tax lien holders to maintain properties until the lien is redeemed.
- **HR 1198** - *Rep. Lynn Smith (R-Newnan)* - encourages the EPD to review its regulations providing for the protection of underground drinking water.
- **SB 326** - *Sen. Rick Jeffres (R-McDonough)* - 2 part bill shortens the turn-around time for Soil & Water permitting and requires Level 2 reviewers and designers to be licensed.
- **SB 354** - *Sen. Bill Jackson (R-Applying)* - allows for CUVA use to continue for property owners age 65+ when previously approved land use changes to "wildlife habitat".

REMINDER: HBAG's Legislative Rally and Winter Board Meeting is NEXT WEEK 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.

GAC will NOT meet next week.