

2016 Legislative Update Week 7

Monday February 22 - Friday February 26

Legislative Days 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

[Austin Hackney](#), Government Affairs Director



Home Builders Association of Georgia

Week Seven of the Georgia General Assembly was a rare five-legislative-day work week. This was the big legislative push to Crossover Day (Legislative Day 30) which will be Monday February 29. All legislators know that their bills have to be approved in committee, voted out of Rules Committee, and approved with a floor vote by the end of Day 30. GAC saw many of our bills move this week ahead of the Crossover Day deadline.

Bill's on HBAG's GAC Tracking Sheet which saw movement:

- [HB 364](#) - [Rep. David Knight \(R-Griffin\)](#): This bill was dropped last year with “dummy” language. The substitute passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee 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 adds punishments to local governments for taxing properties unlawfully.
- [HB 471](#) - [Rep. Ron Stephens \(R-Savannah\)](#): This bill was also dropped last year with “dummy” language. The substitute passed out of House Ways & Means allows equipment rental companies to line-item charge a 1.5% “property tax recovery fee”. Proponents say this will even the playing field for smaller rental operations to compete with the multi-state businesses who are able to move inventory out of state to avoid property taxes. GAC disagreed - these companies should address this property tax discrepancy directly, not legislate the cost on to customers.
- [HB 773](#) - [Rep. Penny Houston \(R-Nashville\)](#): This bill would increase the bond limit for the Georgia Dream Homeownership Program from \$1.3B to \$3B and it passed the House Floor and was assigned to Senate Appropriations.
- [HB 821](#) - [Rep. Al Williams \(D-Midway\)](#): This bill, which would require state licensing boards to expedite their processes for veterans or their spouses but would leave the details to each licensing board, passed the House Floor and was assigned to Senate Regulated Industries.
- [SB 258](#) - [Sen. Fran Millar \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill prohibits property tax appeals boards from punitively increasing the tax amount due when a taxpayer appeals their assessment and is up for a Floor Vote today.
- [SB 259](#) - [Sen. Fran Millar \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill provides a “floating homestead exemption” matching the amount of increase in a property tax assessment. It passed out of Senate Finance but is not on the Senate Rules Calendar for Day 30.
- [SB 334](#) - [Sen. Valencia Seay \(R-Riverdale\)](#): This bill would allow College Park to charge an additional 1% sales tax to fund sewer infrastructure improvements. It failed in a Senate Finance committee vote.

- [SB 344](#) - [Sen. Michael Williams \(R-Cumming\)](#): This bill would allow boards of education in high growth school districts to levy a development impact fee to pay for new school buildings. It was tabled in Senate Finance and therefore *will not* be eligible for Crossover Day.
- [SB 351](#) - [Sen. Brandon Beach \(R-Alpharetta\)](#): This bill would prohibit crematories within 2000 feet of a residential subdivision. GAC interpreted the language to also mean that residential subdivisions would be prohibited within 2000 feet of a crematory. It was heard in Senate Regulated Industries but did not receive a vote.

GAC took positions on several new bills at the 2/25 GAC Meeting:

- [HB 909](#) - [Rep. Barry Fleming \(R-Harlem\)](#): This bill prohibits insurers from basing their fire insurance rates on an ISO rating that doesn't take into account a rural community's fire department or service response time. GAC voted to **MONITOR**
- [HB 996](#) - [Rep. Dominic LaRiccia \(R-Douglas\)](#): This bill would allow metal recyclers to make cash payments for regulated materials up to \$20 per transaction. GAC voted to **OPPOSE**
- [HB 1004](#) - [Rep. Rick Jasperse \(R-Jasper\)](#): This bill rewrites the code section regulating surveyors allowing for more electronic submissions of mapping and platting and providing for sanctions on violators. GAC voted to **MONITOR**
- [HB 1025](#) - [Rep. Tom Taylor \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill allows for local ordinance violation citations to be "tacked and mailed". GAC voted to **OPPOSE**
- [HB 1026](#) - [Rep. Doreen Carter \(D-Lithonia\)](#): This bill establishes fines for violators of local ordinances who fail to correct their violations. It also establishes a "post-foreclosure registry" to track the purchasers of foreclosed properties. GAC voted to **OPPOSE**
- [HB 1063](#) - [Rep. Chuck Martin \(R-Alpharetta\)](#): This bill changes the process for the renewal or dissolution of home owner association covenants after the 20-year period. GAC voted to **MONITOR**
- [HR 1343](#) - [Rep. Tom McCall \(R-Elberton\)](#): This House Resolution encourages the federal Environmental Protection Agency to immediately withdraw the proposed "Waters of the US" Clean Water Plan rule. GAC voted to **SUPPORT** and asked that HBAG send a letter of support and thanks to the author and all signers of this important resolution.
- [SR 1018](#) - [Sen. John Wilkinson \(R-Toccoa\)](#): This is the Senate companion of HR 1343. GAC voted to **SUPPORT** and asked that HBAG send a letter of support and thanks to the author and all signers of this important resolution.

GAC also recognized a Senate Resolution - [SR 1033](#) - [Sen. Bill Jackson \(R-Applying\)](#) - which expresses condolences for former Senator Joey Brush and honors his service to the state and his career as a Home Builder.

GAC will meet Thursday March 3 at 11:00 am at the HBAG office in Atlanta.



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