

2016 Legislative Update Week 9

Monday March 7 - Friday March 4

Legislative Days 32, 33, 34, 35

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Home Builders Association of Georgia

Week Nine was a busy week at the Gold Dome. Every day was filled with committee meetings - most lasting well into the evening. Several marquee issues progressed - the “campus carry” bill ([HB 859](#)) passed the Senate on Friday. The Religious Freedom bills have lost momentum as has the “brunch bill” ([HB 535](#)) - which allows alcohol sales at restaurants starting earlier on Sunday mornings. The biggest political event at the Capitol was candidate qualifying, where more than 50 lawmakers picked up primary opponents.

Bills on HBAG’s GAC Tracking Sheet which saw movement are:

- [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 out of Senate Regulated Industries Committee on Tuesday with a new substitute that gives that authority to the Governor’s office. GAC continues to **SUPPORT**.
- [SB 191](#) – [Sen. Lindsey Tippins \(R-Marietta\)](#): This bill prohibits local governments from going over and above the state standards for underground utility contractors – the Call Before You Dig Law. The bill passed out of House Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunications Committee Wednesday and was adopted by the House Thursday. The bill will have to be agreed to by the Senate or it will go to conference committee. GAC continues to **SUPPORT**.
- [SB 258](#) – [Sen. Fran Millar \(R-Dunwoody\)](#): This bill that prohibits a property tax appeals board from raising your assessment during the appeals process was heard in House Ways & Means Subcommittee this week. The subcommittee inserted language from HB 990 into the bill. HB 990 clarifies that the three year assessment lock resulting from a property tax appeal applies when a final decision to reduce the value is made by the Board of Equalization, hearing officer, arbitrator, Superior Court or by written agreement between the tax assessor and the property owner. It passed the subcommittee and is now in full Ways & Means. To cover all the bases, language from SB 258 was inserted into HB 990, which is currently in Senate Finance Committee. GAC continues to **SUPPORT**.

GAC took up only one new bill at the 3/10 meeting:

- [HR 1553](#) – [Rep. Jimmy Pruett \(R-Eastman\)](#): This resolution creates the House Study Committee on Homes for Georgia’s Families. The focus of the study committee will be preventing homelessness by providing affordable housing. GAC recognizes the need for HBAG to have a presence in this process and voted to **MONITOR**.

GAC will not meet next week.