
Gold Dome Report

2020 Georgia Legislative Session

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In the longest legislative session in Georgia history – caused by the long COVID pause from mid-March to mid-June – lawmakers handled a number of thorny and difficult issues, including the passage of a constitutionally-required \$26 billion state-funded budget for FY 2021. As we have reported throughout this journey, the budget preparation took much of the oxygen out of the Gold Dome in the waning days of the Session after initially breezing through prior to the world-wide pandemic slamming the brakes on state revenue. When lawmakers left the capitol in March, our state’s financial picture looked bright – caused, in part, by historically low unemployment numbers. Fast forward to June when every family in the state was impacted by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Many individuals were teleworking and schools were shuttered – leaving students to receive virtual instruction. Thousands of individuals lost their jobs, shattering unemployment numbers and increasing the percentage of those without work to more than 30 percent. Countless numbers of Georgians were physically impacted by actually contracting the disease or losing a loved one to the pandemic – and lawmakers and staff were not immune. Nonetheless, resiliency was essential to the state’s recovery efforts. The Governor made a plan to reopen Georgia’s economy, get folks back to work and return students to schools. The completion of the legislative session was proof of the resiliency. One prays these efforts will succeed in the face of the virus’ resurgence.

[HB 793](#), the state’s new spending plan for FY 2021, touches every individual in the state. As House Appropriations Chair Terry England (R-Auburn) commented, there’s a person at the end of every dollar required to be cut. Due to a decline in state revenue collections, Governor Kemp’s Office of Planning and Budget Director, along with House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairmen, directed agencies to prepare new budgets with a 14% reduction from FY 2020. This news was a shock – not just to agencies but also to the public and the advocates for state services. Declines in state collections were not just the result of the falling sales taxes but also due to postponement of the income tax filing deadlines and collections of motor fuel taxes. By June when lawmakers were meeting with agencies better news emerged – the agencies were instructed to plan for an 11% reduction rather than 14%. Meanwhile, the number crunchers looked at collections received by the state and projected for the state’s flagging economy. Governor Kemp issued a new revenue estimate for the revival session, reflecting that the state might manage a balanced budget with a 10% reduction, noting that his revenue estimate would be revised by around \$2.9 billion or a total of \$25.9 billion expected collections. This news was a relief: drastic cuts in all program areas would not be necessary – but education and healthcare (including mental health) would see the bulk of the reductions. The Governor and General Assembly made it clear that whatever plan was developed – it was essential that the State retain its AAA bond rating. We have included a brief report on various budget program areas which is incorporated into this Report.

The resumed Session was much busier than anyone expected. One major initiative was the enactment of a “hate crimes” law, finally passing in reaction to the shootings of African American citizens by the police or would-be cops here in Georgia. Georgia was one of four states nationally without a hate crimes statute. That changed on June 26, 2020, when Governor Kemp signed [HB 426](#) into law as Act Number 329. HB 426, which was authored by

Representative Chuck Efstation (R-Dacula), enacts stronger penalties for crimes motivated by bias and prejudice. It does not create a separate crime. Further, it grants a prosecutor the ability to request enhanced penalties and the presiding judge, once an individual is convicted, the discretion to impose those penalties. Many lawmakers in both parties worked on this initiative from its inception during this legislative cycle.

Upon the conclusion of the bill signing period, Governor Kemp indicated his plans to call a special session of the General Assembly. The Governor cited the urgent need to address a possible technicality which occurred during the passage of [HB 105](#) but also left the door open for more legislation to address “other budgetary or oversight issues.”

As we intensely monitored the 40 days this legislative session, we have prepared a report examining some of the higher profile pieces of legislation. We have included a substantial number of measures in this report, but it does not cover every piece of legislation offered in the 2019-2020 legislative cycle.

We welcome you to review the Report and look at the bills and resolutions we have outlined. The full legislative website may be accessed at www.legis.ga.gov, and of course, please let us know if you have any questions.

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Budget Highlights

The FY 2021 budget became a significant inflection point for the General Assembly upon resumption of the legislative session in June. Georgia's Constitution mandates that the General Assembly pass a balanced budget prior to the beginning of each fiscal year beginning July 1. Thus, budget writers were faced with a tight deadline in which to understand the economic picture and provide a comprehensive budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic led to immediate and severe revenue deficits forcing Governor Kemp and Appropriations Committee Chairmen Terry England (R-Auburn) and Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) to request 14% cuts from all state agencies; with no programmatic exceptions. Eventually, as state revenues rebounded slightly in the late spring and revenue estimates subsequently increased slightly, agencies ultimately saw cuts creep closer to 10%. This number reflects a \$2.2 billion year-over-year cut in state spending after Governor Kemp offered \$250 million from the state reserve fund and another \$50 million in tobacco settlement funds to bolster revenue. The final budget did not include specific programmatic exemptions.

Significant aspects of the budget include:

- 10% reduction in the Quality Basic Education formula (totaling \$950,243,063) but full funding of enrollment growth, training and experience, equalization, sparsity, and student transportation;
- Funding of \$268.7 million for growth in Medicaid is included to meet the projected need as well as recognition of more than \$165 million in savings due to the temporary 6.2 percent increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage ("FMAP") rate as authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- Full funding of Medicaid care for mothers until six months postpartum (totaling \$19,684,703 in state funds) and funding of county public health grants; and
- Restoration of many contracts for provision of direct services for behavioral health and developmental disabilities, including no cuts to crisis services.

We would also like to take a moment to reflect on the tragic passing of Senator Jack Hill this spring. Senator Hill has been aptly described as a true statesman by his colleagues. A truly resolute leader who rose out of humble beginnings to become a stalwart servant to the state, Senator Hill – a grocer by profession from Reidsville – guided the state through previous severe budget crises and his leadership in these times will be sorely missed. The Senate, however, chose his mentee, Senator Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia), to pick up the mantle and carry on the work of the Senate to help craft the FY 2021 Budget with his colleagues.

See the Budget Appendix at the end of this report for a selection of notable budget line items organized by department.

Passed Legislation

Alcohol

[HB 879](#), authored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville), provides multiple changes to the state's alcohol laws including, notably, allowing for home delivery of alcoholic beverages. Specifically, the bill makes the following changes:

- O.C.G.A. § 3-2-7.1 creates a streamlined and uniform licensing procedure for the issuance and renewal of alcoholic beverages.
- O.C.G.A. § 3-3-1.1 clarifies the state's intent in regulating alcohol sales and allows for individual provisions to be stricken by courts without damaging the intent of other provisions.
- O.C.G.A. § 3-3-7 (j.2)(1) provides for local referenda to increase the allowable hours of Sunday sales of malt beverages and wine from an 11:30 PM deadline to 12:00 midnight.
- O.C.G.A. § 3-3-10 provides for the delivery of alcoholic beverages. The bill outlines verification methods to ensure buyers are at least 21 years of age and sets provisions to conduct background checks of delivery employees. Payment for these purchases must take place before the delivery is made.
- O.C.G.A. § 3-3-21 is amended to remove a distance requirement from college campuses for locating liquor stores.
- O.C.G.A. § 3-3-26 is amended to allow for samples to be provided inside liquor stores.

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 558**. It took effect upon his signature.

[HB 1093](#), authored by Representative Stephen Meeks (R-Screven), amends O.C.G.A. § 2-8-13 to establish the Agricultural Commodity Commission for Wine and Grapes. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 557**. It took effect upon his signature.

Banks and Banking

[HB 781](#), authored by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), is the annual update to Georgia's Banking Code in Title 7. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 492**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[SB 462](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), removes the Georgia Industrial Loans' regulation and oversight from the Department of Insurance and places that regulation and oversight with the Department of Banking and Finance in Chapter 3 of Title 7. These loans, made by bonded licensees, are limited to \$3,000.00 per individual. Further, the loans are limited to a period of 36 months and 15 days or less. Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 409** on June 30, 2020. The Act took effect upon signature and applies to any loans made on and after July 1, 2020.

Child Welfare

[HB 578](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), amends O.C.G.A. § 49-12-14 so that the Department of Human Services may receive from “any law enforcement agency conviction data that is relevant to a person whom the department, or its contractors is considering as a final selectee for employment or to serve as a volunteer, intern, or student in a position the duties of which involve direct care, treatment, custodial responsibilities, access to confidential or legally protected systems or information, or any combination thereof for its clients or for administrative support functions.” Further, it adds in subsection (d) that all “conviction data which is received is to be for the exclusive purpose of making employment decisions; or determining the fitness and suitability to provide services to the department or its contractors in the capacity of an employee, volunteer, intern, or student; or decisions concerning children in the custody of the department or who are the subjects of a child protective services referral, complaint, or investigation and shall be privileged and shall not be released or otherwise disclosed to any other person or agency.” Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 476**. The provisions of this Act took effect upon signature.

[HB 911](#), authored by Representative Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), amends Titles 16, 35, 42 and 49 to provide felony offenses of improper sexual conduct by a foster parent in the first and second degrees and for criminal penalties for such offenses. This legislation makes sexual conduct by a foster care parent with a child have the same punishment that a teacher has when he or she engages in sexual conduct with a student. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 21, 2020 as **Act Number 480**. This Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 912](#), by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), amends Titles 15 and 49 to strengthen laws and supports for foster children and foster families. Specifics in the bill include:

- O.C.G.A. § 15-11-64(d), regarding juvenile courts, requires that each clerk of the juvenile court collect data on all cases in which a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child is placed in foster care and has also been alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent child and transmit such data as required by court rules. Data, at minimum, is required on adherence on each case by the court to the time frames contained in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-102.
- O.C.G.A. § 15-11-110(c), regarding continuing of a hearing in a dependency proceeding, clarifies that a stipulation between attorneys or the convenience of the parties does not constitute good cause. Hearings with dependency case time limitations required by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-102 and termination of parental rights hearings are mandated to take priority in attorney conflict resolution over all other civil and criminal hearings and nonjury appearances in any other class of trial court. The need for discovery does not constitute good cause, unless the court finds that a person or entity has failed to comply with an order for discovery.
- O.C.G.A. § 15-11-340(d), relating to criteria for receiving services, development of transition plan, and termination, requires that a determination is to be made every 12

months rather than every 60 days to determine if a child is still eligible for extended care youth services.

- O.C.G.A. § 49-5-8(a)(1)(A), relating to child-placing agencies (“CPAs”), is clarified so that the Department of Human Services is authorized “to contract with, certify, or partner with licensed child-placing agencies to assist with or provide such casework services.” It also adds in (H) that the Department can use these licensed CPAs for providing casework. It further adds in (a)(10) of this Code section that the department is authorized to require varying levels of initial and annual training “based on the experience of the foster parents, the age and needs of the foster child or children, and whether the foster parents are providing only respite care.” Training may be offered online.
- O.C.G.A. § 49-5-8.1 adds language to permit babysitting of foster care children by an individual who is at least 18 years of age on an occasional short-term basis. Occasional means once per week or less on varying days and not exceeding twice per month and ‘short-term’ means no more than consecutive hours). The foster parents must follow the reasonable and prudent parent standard in selecting and arranging for such babysitting services.

Governor Kemp signed HB 912 on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 466**. It took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 993](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), amends Titles 15, 19, 31 and 49, to repeal in its entirety the child abuse registry. The reports of abuse and neglect may be uploaded in the State’s SHINES database. This registry elimination will save the state approximately \$1.5 million annually and such savings are built into HB 793, the budget for FY 2021. Additionally, this legislation requires the State’s registrar for vital records, maintained by the Department of Public Health, to provide to the Division of Family and Children Services copies of or data derived from certificates and reports filed with the State registrar upon notification by the Division of Family and Children Services of receipt of a report of abuse or neglect concerning a child or his or her parents or siblings pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5. Reports or data are required to include records related to birth or death, fetal death, and putative father registry of this state concerning a child or his or her parents or siblings. Further, the Department of Public Health and DFCS are to jointly establish policies, procedures, and schedules regarding the transmittal of copies of records or data as jointly deemed necessary. The legislation also requires that the Department of Public Health and the Division of Family and Children Services enter into agreements to make these changes effective. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 410**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 439](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), addresses enhanced notice to and improved participation of foster, pre-adoptive and relative caregivers in review hearings, placement hearings and presumptions, termination of parental rights hearings (including dispositional phase). It requires in Chapter 11 of Title 15 that the court in making any findings take into consideration the testimony of and evidence provided by any foster parent, caregiver, relative or other individual in whose physical custody the child has resided. It also adds in O.C.G.A. 15-11-215(d) that the Council of Juvenile Court Judges is by rule to provide for methods “by which persons entitled to notice, including those not represented by counsel, may electronically file an objection to the placement change. Such rule shall provide for the use of a

standard form that the objector may file electronically with the clerk of such court and which upon filing shall be distributed electronically to all parties and others entitled to notice.” This use of electronic notice is the first such notice in the Code. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 21, 2020 as **Act Number 479**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

Civil Practice Act and Liability

[SB 359](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), originally began as a version of the “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” in Title 33. However, the House substituted new language into the bill because surprise billing was addressed in HB 888. The new language creates the “Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act” in O.C.G.A. § 51-16-1 et seq. Liability protections afforded under this new law are provided in two ways: first, through a broad limitation of liability for any “COVID-19 liability claim;” and second, through a rebuttable presumption of assumption of risk if entities make specific efforts to warn customers and entrants. The limitation of liability in the Act is facially expansive, covering any healthcare provider or facility and any other “entity” for any “COVID-19 liability claim” unless there is a showing of gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional infliction of harm. The expansiveness of this limitation comes from the two liberally defined terms: (1) entity; and (2) COVID-19 liability claim. SB 359 defines entity as:

any association, institution, corporation, company, trust, limited liability company, partnership, religious or educational organization, political subdivision, county, municipality, other governmental office or governmental body, department, division, bureau, volunteer organization; including trustees, partners, limited partners, managers, officers, directors, employees, contractors, independent contractors, vendors, officials, and agents thereof, as well as any other organization other than a healthcare facility.

COVID-19 liability claim is defined equally as broad, covering causes of action arising from transmission, infection, exposure, or potential exposure of COVID-19 on a premises or by a person. It also covers causes of action arising from acts or omissions in the healthcare setting where the response to COVID-19 reasonably interfered with the provision of healthcare services and those arising from the manufacturing, labeling, donating, or distributing personal protective equipment or sanitizer during the public health state of emergency. In addition to the broad limitation of liability aimed at limiting successful claims to those where an actor was at least grossly negligent, SB 359 also includes a rebuttable presumption for assumption of risk on the part of customers and entrants to any property to further reduce claims and provides businesses and entities express guidance for how to provide access and services with some level of comfort. To take advantage of this presumption, entities that are not healthcare facilities and providers may either post signage or include on a receipt or proof of purchase specific language provided in statute to inform the entrant or bearer that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 while on the premises. Similarly, healthcare facilities and providers must post signage at points of entry that includes similar language. The Act provides granular detail on how these presumptions are achieved, down to the font style and size of the warnings. There are limits and exceptions to its scope: SB 359’s liability limitation will only be available for causes of action

that accrue through July 14, 2021, unless renewed by the legislature. Additionally, the Act does not interfere with or supersede any requirements or provisions in the state's criminal code, health regulations, worker' compensation program, emergency management statutes, or executive orders in force during the public health emergency. While the Act appears to provide guidance and protection to entities that want to get back to business, its contours and application to a business's operations will vary based on existing case law and interpretation by courts in the days ahead. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 588**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 451](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), addresses O.C.G.A. § 9-3-51, relating to limitations on recovery for deficiency in planning, supervising, or constructing improvement to realty or for resulting injuries to property or person, so that this Code section does "not apply to actions for breach of contract, including, but not limited to, actions for breach of express contractual warranties." [HB 968](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstrotation (R-Dacula), mirrored this effort. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 380**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

Corporations

[HB 230](#), authored by Representative Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta), creates a new Article 18 in Chapter 2 of Title 14 so as to provide for "benefit corporations" defined as a "corporation whose articles of incorporation contain a public benefit provision and a statement that the corporation is a benefit corporation." It further defines that the term, 'public benefit,' as "a positive effect, or reduction of negative effects, on society, on the environment, or on one or more communities or categories of persons, entities, or interests, other than shareholders in their capacity as shareholders, including effects of an artistic, charitable, cultural, economic, ecological, educational, environmental, literary, medical, religious, scientific, social, or technological nature." Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 487**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Courts

[HB 576](#), authored by Representative Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville), amends Chapters 6 and 21 of Title 15. The legislation establishes a priority list for the clerk of any superior court of this state who receives partial payments, as ordered by the court, of criminal fines, bond forfeitures, or costs directing distribution of such sums and adds that the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund is moved to the fourth order of the priority listing. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 553**. This Act took effect upon signature of the Governor.

[HB 786](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), adds judgeships in the Flint, Ogeechee and Flint Circuits. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 493**. The Act took effect upon approval of the Governor.

[HB 865](#), authored by Representative Mitchell Scoggins (R-Cartersville), is a comprehensive update to the “Revised Probate Code of 1998” in Title 53 which also incorporates changes through Titles 5, 7, 9, 10, 13 15, 23 and 50. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 508**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HR 1023](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), addresses waivers of sovereign immunity by the state and its political subdivisions and is the culmination of several years’ worth of efforts on this issue. It proposes a constitutional amendment to Article I, Section II at Paragraph V to “waive sovereign immunity and allow petitions to the superior court for relief from certain acts of this state or certain local governments or officers or employees thereof that violate the laws of this state, the Constitution of Georgia, or the Constitution of the United States.” The amendment does not limit the power of the General Assembly to further waive the immunity provided in Article I, Section II, Paragraph IX and Article IX, Section II, at Paragraph I. Governor Kemp signed this Resolution on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 596**. This question will be placed on the November ballot for voter approval.

[SB 38](#), authored by Senator William Ligon, Jr. (R-Brunswick), adds a method for the abolition of a county police department and returning the law enforcement functions of such department to the sheriff of the county at O.C.G.A. § 36-8-6. This legislation is in response to the alleged mishandling of cases in Glynn County. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 608**. The Act takes effect upon approval of the Governor and is to be repealed on January 1, 2022.

[SB 295](#), authored by Senator John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa), adds at O.C.G.A. § 15-6-88(b)(2) that the “amounts fixed in the minimum salary schedule (for clerks of superior courts) in subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be increased by any state cost-of-living or general performance based increases that have been applied or are effective prior to January 1, 2020. Any state cost-of-living or general performance based increases effective on or after January 1, 2020, shall be calculated as provided in this Code section.” Similar provisions are also granted to tax collectors and tax commissioners in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-183(b)(2)(B)(2). Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 543**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Criminal Justice

[HB 823](#), authored by Representative Houston Gaines (R-Athens), addresses human trafficking by commercial truck drivers by adding at O.C.G.A. § 16-5-46 a new subsection (l) so that any “individual who knowingly uses a commercial motor vehicle while committing the offense of trafficking a person for labor or sexual servitude in violation of this Code section shall also be punished by the revocation of the defendant's commercial driver's license and disqualification from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life in accordance with Code Section 40-5-151.” A conforming amendment is also added at O.C.G.A. § 40-5-151(e) with this language. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 21, 2020 as **Act Number 478**. The bill took effect upon signature.

[HB 983](#), authored by Representative Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville), amends O.C.G.A. § 42-1-12 and revises the information required to be provided by sexual offenders when they register. It also permits a sexual offender, who is in a state or privately-operated hospice facility, skilled nursing home, or residential health care facility, with the approval of the sheriff of the county where such sexual offender resides, to satisfy the annual registration requirements by registering at any time during the sexual offender's month of birth. It also removes the requirement that a sexual offender who resides in such a facility, with the approval of the sheriff of the county where such sexual offender resides, be fingerprinted. The changes will reduce the number of times that law enforcement must visit these facilities for these registrations. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 554**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 984](#), authored by Representative James Burchett (R-Waycross), amends Chapter 10 of Title 17 that addresses the procedure for sentencing and imposition of punishment, so as to change provisions relating to sentencing; provide credit for time served; and change provisions relating to the commencement of a sentence when the case has been appealed (If the defendant was at liberty under bond during the pendency of the appeal, then once the remittitur of the appellate court is made the judgment of the court in which the conviction is had, the prosecuting attorney is to have the burden of notifying the defendant of the commencement of the sentence within 90 days of such remittitur. If the prosecuting attorney fails to provide such notice, the sentence is to be computed from the date of such remittitur.). Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 503**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[SB 288](#), by Senator Tonya Anderson (D-Lithonia), amends Titles 3, 10, 16, 24 and 35 to permit the restriction of court records for certain misdemeanor and pardoned offenses. This legislation received widespread support from the business community, including the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. The legislation allows a prosecutor discretion to permit this restriction upon application by the defendant. There is a lifetime limit on getting case restrictions and seals – only two are permitted. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 582**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[SB 337](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), amends O.C.G.A. § 16-11-90(b), addressing invasion of privacy, to include falsely created videographic or still images of other persons within the prohibition against the transmission of photography or videos depicting nudity or sexually explicit conduct of another person under certain circumstances (when the post is for harassment or causes financial loss). Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 488**. The Act takes effect January 1, 2021.

[SB 393](#), authored by Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough), amends sections of Title 35 as follows:

- Codifies the Legal Division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in O.C.G.A. § 35-3-3 (the divisions in the Code presently include the Investigations Division, the Forensic Sciences Division, and the Georgia Crime Information Center Division); and
- Expands the jurisdiction of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in regards to street gang terrorism and prevention so that attorneys within the Legal Division may serve at the request of a district attorney, solicitor-general, or United States Attorney in the

prosecution of any civil or criminal case within the jurisdiction of such district attorney, solicitor-general, or United States Attorney and, while providing such assistance to such district attorney, solicitor-general, or United States Attorney, such attorneys are granted the same authority and power as an attorney employed by such district attorney, solicitor-general, or United States Attorney in O.C.G.A. § 35-3-4.

Governor Kemp signed SB 393 on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 390**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 394](#), authored by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), amends the authority of the Attorney General so as to investigate and prosecute crimes of trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude in O.C.G.A. § 16-5-46(a). It adds that the Attorney General is to have authority to employ peace officers (as defined in O.C.G.A. § 25-8-2(8)(A)). The legislation also adds at O.C.G.A. § 45-15-17, relating to the Attorney General's powers to conduct investigations generally and the issuance and enforcement of subpoenas, adding that the Attorney General has the authority to employ peace officers. Finally, it adds in O.C.G.A. § 49-4-146.1(k), relating to Medicaid assistance identification and investigation of violations, notifications and authorizations, that the Attorney General has the authority to investigate and prosecute any offenses or criminal cases arising under the provisions of this Code section and to perform any duty that necessarily appertains thereto. Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 377** on June 29, 2020. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020

[SB 402](#), by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), concerns judicial releases and amends portions of Titles 15, 16, 42 and 52. It amends:

- O.C.G.A. § 17-6-12 and defines the term, “unsecured judicial release” (which means “any release on a person's own recognizance that does not purport a dollar amount through secured means as provided for in Code Section 17-6-4 or 17-6-50 or property as approved by the sheriff in the county where the offense was committed” and permits a judge to issue such if noted on the release order and if such person is not charged with a bail restricted release crime).
- O.C.G.A. § 17-6-1(e), relating to bailable offenses, procedure, schedule of bails, and appeal bonds, by adding new paragraphs to subsection (e) by adding:
 - "(4) Any bond issued by an elected judge or judge sitting by designation that purports a dollar amount shall be executed in the full-face amount of such bond through secured means as provided for in Code Section 17-6-4 or 17-6- or shall be executed by use of property as approved by the sheriff in the county where the offense was committed.
 - (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this Code section shall prohibit a duly sworn sheriff from releasing an inmate from custody in cases of medical emergency with the consent of the judge in the county in which he or she presides."
- O.C.G.A. § 15-11-507, adding that a child may be issued an unsecured judicial release.
- O.C.G.A. § 16-10-51, eliminating release on his or her “own recognizance” and in its place adds “unsecured judicial release.”

- O.C.G.A. § 42-3-74, adding that “no person shall be released on an unsecured judicial release as provided for in Code Section 17-6-12 or approved for a pretrial release and diversion program without first having the approval in writing of the judge of the court having jurisdiction of the case.”
- O.C.G.A. § 52-7-26, adding that an individual charged with certain watercraft misdemeanor crimes are prohibited from obtaining an unsecured judicial release.

Governor Kemp signed SB 402 on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 547**. The Act took effect upon the Governor’s signature.

[SB 477](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), amends O.C.G.A. § 17-4-20.1, regarding the investigation of family violence cases, so that it defines the term, ‘predominant aggressor’ which means “the individual who poses the most serious, ongoing threat, which may not be the initial aggressor in a specific incident.” It directs the officer to arrest the predominant aggressor rather than the “primary” physical aggressor. The officer is take into account all of these factors: “(A) Prior family violence involving either party; (B) The relative severity of the injuries inflicted on each person, including whether the injuries are offensive versus defensive in nature; (C) Threats that created the fear of physical injury; (D) The potential for future injury; and (E) Whether one of the parties acted in self-defense or in defense of a third party; (F) Prior complaints of family violence; and (G) Whether the person had reasonable cause to believe he or she was in imminent danger of becoming a victim of any act of family violence.” Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 578**. It took effect upon his signature.

Education

[HB 86](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), amends O.C.G.A. § 20-2-987.7, addressing complaint policies for teachers and other school personnel. It provides a separate appeals process for summative performance ratings (unsatisfactory or ineffective) contained in personnel evaluations for teachers who accepted a school year contract for their fourth or subsequent consecutive school year; provides for the establishment of appeals policies by local units of administration; provides for appeals hearings to be conducted by independent third parties or system administrators; and requires local units of administration to submit copies of their complaint policies to the Department of Education no later than July 1, 2021. The content of this bill was also adopted into [SB 68](#), which was signed prior to this bill. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 546**. The Act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

[HB 444](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), amends the “Move on When Ready Act” which is to be known as the “Dual Enrollment Act” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-163.1. The bill limits eligibility for participation in dual enrollment to twelfth, eleventh, and some tenth graders for some courses and caps participation at 30 semester hours. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on April 28, 2020 as **Act Number 327**. The Act takes effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 755](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), adds at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068.1(c.3) that each local board of education which has one or more local charter school is required to provide each local charter school with a preliminary annual allotment sheet which itemizes the preliminary state, local and federal allocations to be provided by the local school system to the local charter school for the upcoming fiscal year no later than 45 days after the local school system receives its preliminary annual allotment sheet from the state Department of Education. It further adds that if an adjustment to the allocation is necessary, the local board of education is required to provide the local charter school 30 days' notice before the allocation is actually adjusted and publish the amended itemized allotment sheet in a "prominent location" on its website. The legislation also amends O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131(c) to require that each local school system is to annually notify, prior to each school year commencement, the parents of each student by letter, electronic means, or other reasonable means in a timely manner of the options available to the parents including all relevant dates and deadlines. Each local school system is to also post in a prominent location on its website the information required. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 552**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 855](#), authored by Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville), adds a new Code Section at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-152.2 directing that the State Board of Education adopt, on or before August 1, 2021, rules, regulations, and protocols for the "immediate and deliberate assessment" of whether exposure to trauma has adversely impacted a foster care student's educational performance. Further it requires that the Department of Education provide guidance to local school systems and requires that the local school systems immediately and deliberately assess newly enrolled foster care students to determine the need for special education and other services for that student. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 497**. The Act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

[HB 957](#), authored by Representative Jan Jones (R-Milton), amends Chapter 2 of Title 20 regarding charter schools. The legislation provides that certain charter school employees are to be included in the health insurance fund for public school teachers (State Health Benefit Plan). It further provides that local start-up charter schools and state charter schools are required to have proof of residency either at the time of application or enrollment. It extends the terms of members appointed to the State Charter Schools Commission, which remains a total of seven members appointed by the State Board of Education, and provides for ownership and handling of student records by state charter schools. It also revises the deadline for the audit to be conducted by the Department of Audits and Accounts for those state charter schools which provide for virtual school instruction; currently, that deadline is December and this changes it to April of each year in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2093(a)(3). Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 357**. The Act takes effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 68](#), authored by Senator Freddie Powell Sims (D-Dawson), became an omnibus education proposal in a Conference Committee Report which was adopted by both the House and Senate. The legislation contains:

- Language from HB 86 which amends O.C.G.A. § 20-2-987.7, addressing complaint policies for teachers and other school personnel. It provides a separate appeals process for summative performance ratings (unsatisfactory or ineffective) contained in personnel

evaluations for teachers who accepted a school year contract for the fourth or subsequent consecutive school year; provides for the establishment of appeals policies by local units of administration; provides for appeals hearings to be conducted by independent third parties or system administrators; and requires local units of administration to submit copies of their complaint policies to the Department of Education no later than July 1, 2021.

- Original language from [SB 68](#) which amends Chapter 2 of Title 20 to: (1) provide for training for local board of education members and local school superintendents on financial management; (2) provide for monthly reporting to the local board of education on the financial stability of the local school system; (3) provide for designation by the Department of Audits and Accounts of high-risk local school systems and moderate-risk local school systems based on annual audits; and (4) provide for financial management provisions in flexibility contracts and system charters.
- Language from [HB 32](#) which amends Chapter 2 of Title 20 regarding the appointment of the Chief Turnaround Officer by the Governor and the role of the State School Superintendent in identifying turnaround eligible schools; and language to provide for annual reporting by the Chief Turnaround Officer.
- Language requiring that local school boards provide a public comment period during every monthly meeting in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-58(b).

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 389**. The provisions of the Act took effect on July 1, 2021.

[SB 367](#), authored by Senator P.K. Martin, IV (R-Lawrenceville), addresses the numbers of required assessments given to students. The legislation amends O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281 to reduce the number of student assessments; provide for when assessments must be administered; and provide for analysis of locally implemented assessments. The Department of Education is required to annually publish a report of aggregated data from local schools and local school systems that compares performance to other states using data from such features. It also outlines date guidance on when tests are to be administered by the local school systems such that local school systems are to administer the State-required end-of-grade assessments for grades three through eight within 25 school days of the school system's last school day of the regular school year. The State-required end-of-course assessments for grades nine through 12 are to be administered on dates set by the Department of Education. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 22, 2020 as **Act Number 485**. This Act takes effect on August 1, 2020.

[SB 430](#), authored by Senator William Ligon, Jr. (R-Brunswick), adds a new Code Section at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-319.5 to authorize local school systems to enroll home study students and private school students in one or more courses at a college and career academy that is located geographically within the student's resident school system, so long as space is available in such course or courses. It further requires that home study students and private school students enrolled in courses in college and career academies are to meet all of the same requirements for enrollment and participation in a course; be subject to all rules, including the school's code of conduct; and be subject to any fees for a course which are applicable to the public school students enrolled in the college and career academy. These home study and private school students are required to be responsible for transportation to and from the college and career

academy. The local board of education is to earn FTE funds for each home study student and private school student enrolled in one or more courses pursuant to this Code new section at a college and career academy that has a charter with such local board of education. The local board of education is prohibited from charging charge home study students or private school students tuition to enroll in a course. Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 379**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 431](#), authored by Senator John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa), adds a definition for ‘on-time graduation rate’ at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-210(b): the “graduation rate of the four-year cohort of students that attend a school continuously from October 1 of the calendar year four years prior to the calendar year of the regular date of graduation of that cohort and graduate on or before that regular date of graduation. This graduation rate shall be calculated in addition to, and not as a substitute for, any other graduation rate provided for by federal, state, or local law or regulation." Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 518**. The Act takes effect upon his signature.

Employment

[HB 1090](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), creates a number of revisions in Titles 34 and 45. In addition to requirements to assist new mothers, the legislation also codifies permissions granted the Georgia Department of Labor in its handling of unemployment issues during the pandemic. The bill includes:

- Amendments to O.C.G.A. § 34-1-6, requiring an employer to provide paid break time of a reasonable duration to an employee who desires to express breast milk at the worksite during work hours. (It prohibits requiring a salaried employee from using paid leave during any break or reducing the employee’s salary as a result of taking a break to express breast milk during the workday). It does not require the employer to provide paid break time to an employee on any day that the employee is working away from any of the employer’s worksites. It also requires the employer to provide a “private location, other than a restroom” for such purposes. There is an exemption for employers who employs fewer than 50 employees if a hardship would be imposed on the employer through difficulty or expense.
- A new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 45-1-7 so that these requirements not only apply to private employers but also State agencies. It does add that no agency is liable for making reasonable efforts to comply.
- Amendments to address the Department of Labor’s concerns:
 - O.C.G.A. § 34-8-30, regarding deductible earnings, to clarify that the Commissioner may establish an amount which may be earned weekly (this permits the Commissioner to set the amount of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$300.00)
 - O.C.G.A. § 34-8-70(i), expanding the duties and powers of the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and permitting him or her the authority to adopt emergency rules when a statewide emergency is declared by the Governor is in

effect and the General Assembly is not in session. Such rules may: (1) modify the maximum benefit amount for regular state benefits (not to exceed 26 times the weekly benefit amount); (2) suspend unemployment insurance tax filing and payment deadlines and penalties; (3) waive charges to employers for benefits paid; (4) expedite processing of claims; and (5) waive work search reporting requirements. It further sets the expiration date for any emergency rule adopted and requires that it be published on the Department's website as well as be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and chairs of the House Committee on Industry and Labor and the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.

- O.C.G.A. § 34-9-193, addressing the weekly benefit amount, setting a calculation for claims filed prior to and after June 14, 2020
- Adding a new Article 11 of Chapter 8 of Title 34 permitting the Commissioner the authority to adopt, amend, or rescind rules and regulations or take other action in order to establish a work-sharing program that provides employers with an alternative to layoffs. (It would allow employers to voluntarily reduce employees' hours by 10-60 percent in lieu of layoffs and provide employees with prorated unemployment benefits). It would require that such program conform to federal requirements.

Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 595**. This Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 408](#), authored by Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough), addresses Title 34 and makes changes requested by the Georgia Department of Labor following rules to address pandemic issues. The contents of the legislation are:

- Amendment to O.C.G.A. § 34-1-10(f) to repeal this section of the Code on July 1, 2023, unless extended by an Act of the General Assembly
- Amendment to O.C.G.A. § 34-8-30, addressing deductible earnings allowing the Commissioner of the Department of Labor to establish the amount a claimant may earn for services performed to not be less than \$50.00 nor more than \$300.00 weekly. Amounts in excess will continue to be subtracted from the weekly benefit amount.
- Addition of a new subsection (i) to O.C.G.A. § 34-4-70, addressing the duties and powers of the Commissioner, permitting him or her the authority to adopt emergency rules when a statewide emergency is declared by the Governor and in effect and the General Assembly is not in session. Rules which may temporarily be addressed are enumerated and are directed to be published on the Department's website and submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and chairs of the House Committee on Industry and Labor and the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.
- Amendment to O.C.G.A. § 34-8-193(d) and (e), addressing the determination of weekly benefit amount for claims filed prior to June 14, 2020 and after June 14, 2020.
- A new Article 11 of Chapter 8 of Title 34 authorizing the Commissioner to adopt, amend, or rescind rules and regulations and to take other action deemed necessary or suitable in order to establish a work-sharing program that provides employers with an alternative to layoffs (allows employers to voluntarily reduce employees' hours by 10-60 percent in

lieu of layoffs and provide employees a corresponding prorated share of unemployment benefits). This program is required to conform with federal requirements. See also [HB 1090](#).

Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 378** on June 29, 2020. The Act took upon his approval.

Hate Crimes

[HB 426](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstoration (R-Dacula), is Georgia's 'hate crimes law.' Georgia was one of four states in the country without such a law. This legislation establishes enhanced penalties for crimes involving bias or prejudice rather than a new crime in Chapter 10 of Title 17. It permits in O.C.G.A. § 17-10-17 enhanced penalties for five designated misdemeanors (simple assault, simple battery, battery, criminal trespass and misdemeanor theft by taking) and felonies. It permits the prosecution to seek such penalties and allows for judicial discretion in imposing the enhanced penalties on individuals who are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It also adds a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 17-4-20.2, relating to arrests by law enforcement officers, so that if a law enforcement officer investigates an incident in which it appears that the defendant intentionally selected any victim or group of victims or any property as the object of the offense because of the victim's or group of victims' actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability or physical disability (whether an arrest or not is made), then the officer is required to submit to his or her law enforcement officer's supervisor or other designated person a written report of the incident entitled, 'Bias Crime Report.' The form used for this report is to be created by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; the report is to be considered for statistical purposes. If an arrest is made of the defendant, he or she is entitled to review and copy any report prepared and the victim is also entitled to such report. The law also requires that each police department (including local precincts and county sheriff's departments) are to report all such incidents (both arrests and non-arrests) to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation which is required to publish an annual report. Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 329** on June 26, 2020. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

Health

[HB 521](#), authored by Representative Houston Gaines (R-Athens), adds a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 43-11-53 to authorize temporary, limited licenses for dentists and dental hygienists licensed in good standing in other states to provide free dental care to low-income patients in Georgia on a volunteer basis at "charitable dental events." These events are required to be hosted by a specific "hosting entity" which is required to be registered and authorized to conduct business in Georgia. Such individuals participating in these events, who must submit an application for this temporary, limited license 30 days prior to the event, are to have an "unrestricted license;" be retired and not currently engaged in such practice either full time or part time or obtain a license issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-11-42; and have been issued a

license by a licensing jurisdiction following the successful completion of a clinical licensing examination. Individuals are to have criminal background checks. Once issued, these temporary, limited licenses are valid for no more than five consecutive calendar days. Hosting entities for these events are required to notify at least 60 calendars prior to the charitable dental event the State's dental board. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 477**. The Act took effect upon approval of the Governor.

[HB 987](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), contains a series of protections for the elderly who are in long-term care facilities. It adds a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 30-5-4.1 to prohibit any person from discriminating or retaliating against a person who makes a report, who testifies in a judicial proceeding arising from a report, who provides protective services, who testifies in any judicial proceeding or who participate in an Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team. It also increases the fines which the Department of Community Health is to impose against a facility for violations of law, rule, regulation or formal order in O.C.G.A. § 31-2-8 and grants the Department additional authority if a facility averts payment of fines. It also adds in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-3.2 that not only nursing homes and intermediate care homes licensed by the state but also now personal care homes and assisted living communities are to give notice for any deficiency in which the facility has received notice of any sanction imposed. There are staffing and training requirements as well as financial requirements enumerated for personal care homes (25 beds or more) with added requirements if such facility operates a "memory care" unit in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12. The personal care homes may not employ a medication aide unless that individual is on the Department's medication aide registry and the law outlines medications which such aides may administer, requiring the aide to document any administration of medication. The legislation adds at O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12.2 minimum staffing requirements for assisted living facilities as well training requirements for staff and outlines the financial stability requirements for these facilities (including that a 60-day notice is required to the Department and residents if there is an impending bankruptcy or property eviction and a 14-day notice if there is a change in ownership that may force residents to be discharged or relocated). The legislation creates a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12.4 to require an assisted living community or personal care home which operates a memory care center to obtain a "certificate" from the Department and meet certain staffing and staff training requirements. In addressing issues arising from COVID-19, the legislation adds a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12.5, requiring notice about confirmed infections and requirements for protective measures (including maintenance of a seven-day supply of masks, gowns, eye protection and gloves). It adds in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12.6 that 90 days from the effective date of this Act that each staff member and resident of a long term care facility in the State be tested for initial baseline molecular SARS CoV-2. At O.C.G.A. § 43-7-2, it changes the name of the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators to the State Board of Long-Term Care Administrators, adding in administrators of personal care homes and assisted living facilities to this Board. The legislation also requires that these administrators become licensed after July 1, 2021. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 403**. The Act took effect upon Governor Kemp's signature.

[SB 321](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), amends Chapter 34 of Title 43 to authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations. This change is an expansion in

these nurses' scope of practice. Currently, they may only order such tests when a patient's situation is life-threatening. It also revises provisions relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants and numbers of physician assistants who may work under one supervising physician (four) and also adds new permissions for physician assistants who have completed a board approved anesthesiologist assistant program and work in a licensed hospital and other specified health settings. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 563**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 340](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), creates in O.C.G.A. § 1-4-23 that September 1 of each year is designated as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 581**. It took effect upon his signature.

[SB 345](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), addresses Chapter 2 of Title 26 in order to provide requirements for the preparation and providing of food by nonprofit organizations in accordance with the Department of Public Health requirements. There are new definitions for terms of 'food sales establishment' and 'food service establishment.' It authorizes the county or municipality to issue permits for the operation of nonprofit food sales and food service at events sponsored by the county, municipality or an organization. Such permit is good for up to 120 consecutive hours or a continuous period of up to 12 weeks between May 15 and August 15 and four additional weeks during the calendar year under certain conditions. The county board of health is required, upon request by the county or municipality, to supply educational materials regarding food safety to the event organizers and the public and conduct food safety inspections to ensure compliance. The legislation also contains requirements for food temperatures to be maintained. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 591**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 372](#), authored by Senator Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia), modernizes and clarifies a number of provisions relating to the Department of Public Health across various titles in the Code. Some of the specific changes include:

- O.C.G.A. § 16-13-71(c)(14.25), regarding Georgia's dangerous drug list and specifically the drug naloxone so that this drug used with drug overdoses may be obtained not only from a dispenser but also a licensed distributor or wholesaler;
- O.C.G.A. § 17-10-15, regarding Georgia's AIDS transmitting crimes provisions, eliminating a requirement of the court to mail a copy of a verdict or plea of guilty involving such crime to the Department of Public Health and the Department then testing that individual within 30 days of receipt of the verdict or plea;
- O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-5, relating to the Office of Women's Health by eliminating the advisory council associated with this Office;
- O.C.G.A. § 31-10-25(e), regarding the Office of Vital Records and transfers of records to the State archives so as to maintain such records for 125 years rather than 100 years;
- O.C.G.A. § 31-16-1 et seq., regarding care and treatment of chronic renal disease patients to substantially revise by eliminating a number of provisions in that chapter; and
- Eliminating the reference to the term, "venereal" throughout the Code and in its place inserting "sexually transmitted."

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 388**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 395](#), authored by Senator Ben Watson (R-Savannah), amends Chapter 7 of Title 31 so as to add in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-75.1(c) that the standard of indigency is 138 percent of the federal poverty level (rather than 125 percent of the federal poverty level) based on guidelines established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of determining certain indigency care. It also adds in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-83(c) additional methods for the investment of funds by hospital authorities which hold an irrevocable trust wherein the corpus exceeds \$75 million or more. This permission outlines how 30 percent of that funding may be invested. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 471**. This Act took effect upon his signature.

Housing

[HB 969](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstoration (R-Dacula), addresses Chapter 3 of Title 8 relating to fair housing. It contains numerous changes relating to the unlawful practices in selling or renting dwellings and the procedures, remedies and judicial review related to those. It clarifies that complaints of discriminatory housing practices may be filed with the federal government as well as the Commission on Equal Opportunity and also changes how complaints brought so that such are brought before an administrative law judge, not the board of commissioners. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 556**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Insurance

[HB 716](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), amends O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.23 to require that all carriers that issue a health benefit plan in the state file proposed agent commission rates with the Department of Insurance. The bill also specifies that no commission must be given to an agent for the first term of a plan sold during a special enrollment period; however, any renewal of such plan must be granted commission. Governor Kemp signed the legislation on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 565**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 789](#), authored by Representative Mark Newton (R-Augusta), creates the "Surprise Bill Transparency Act" in Chapter 20C of Title 33. It specifically establishes a health benefit plan surprise bill rating system based on the number of checkmarks and X-marks between zero and four that a health benefit plan's in-network hospital has earned. This is determined based upon the number of qualified hospital based specialty group types with which such health benefit plan is contracted for the provision of healthcare services with a checkmark indicating the presence of an in-network particular type of qualified hospital based specialty group and an X-mark indicating the absence of an in-network particular type of qualified hospital based specialty

group. There is a proviso that if a hospital does not provide one of the qualified hospital based specialties, then the absence of that specialty is required to be designated by a green N/A mark. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 475**. The bill becomes effective on November 1, 2020.

[HB 888](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville), amends Title 33 to create the “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act.” Specific provisions of the bill include:

- Definitions in O.C.G.A. § 33-20E-2 including:
 - Balance Bill: the amount that a nonparticipating provider charges for services provided to a covered person. Such amount equals the difference between the amount paid or offered by the insurer and the amount of the nonparticipating provider’s bill charge, but shall not include any amount for coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles due by the covered person.
 - Contracted amount: the median in-network amount paid during the 2017 calendar year by an insurer for the emergency or nonemergency series provided by in-network providers engaged in the same or similar specialties and provided in the same or nearest geographical area. Such amount shall be annually adjusted by the department for inflation which may be based on the Consumer Price Index but shall not include Medicare or Medicaid rates.
 - Surprise bill: a bill resulting from the occurrence in which charges arise from a covered person receiving healthcare services from an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility.
- O.C.G.A. § 33-20E-4 requires that an insurer providing benefits for emergency medical services must pay for the services regardless of whether the provider or facility is a participating provider. Insurers are proscribed from requiring prior authorization or retrospectively denying payment for medically necessary services. If a covered person receives service from a nonparticipating provider, the provider must not bill more than the person’s deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or other cost-sharing amount under their plan. The insurer must then pay the greater of:
 - The verifiable contracted rate paid by all eligible insurers;
 - The most recent verifiable amount agreed to by the insurer and nonparticipating provider for the same services when the provider was in-network; or
 - The higher amount as determined by the insurer based on the complexity of the services.

Any services from a nonparticipating provider must count towards a covered person’s deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

- O.C.G.A. § 33-20E-6 prohibits insurers from denying or restricted covered benefits from a participating provider for a covered person because they received out-of-network services.
- O.C.G.A. 33-20E-7 clarifies that a person knowingly obtaining out-of-network care does not constitute a surprise bill.
- O.C.G.A. 33-20E-8 provides for an all-payer health claims database to be maintained by the Department of Insurance.
- O.C.G.A. 33-20E-9 et seq. provides for an arbitration process between insurers and providers in the case of disputed claims.

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 470**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 893](#), authored by Representative Matthew Gambill (R-Cartersville), amends O.C.G.A. § 33-1-17 to reduce the frequency of assessments of the Special Insurance Fraud Fund from quarterly to annually. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 407**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 1050](#), authored by Representative Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee), addresses the Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association in O.C.G.A. § 33-8-1 et seq. It adds health maintenance organizations to the entities paying into this Association. Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 405** on June 30, 2020. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 303](#), authored by Senator Ben Watson (R-Savannah), creates the “Georgia Right to Shop Act” in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.27. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires that insurers must make an interactive online mechanism for the public to compare payment amounts accepted by in network providers, obtain an estimate of the average amount accepted by in-network providers, obtain an estimate of out-of-pocket costs, compare quality metrics, and access an all payer claims database.
- Requires insurers to provide notification that the actual amount that a covered person would be responsible to pay could vary depending on unforeseen costs arising during the provision of health care.
- Requires insurers provide estimates of both out-of-pocket costs incurred by a person that has exceeded their deductible and those that have not exceeded their deductible.

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 567**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 482](#), authored by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), relates to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination and provides for a state all-payer claims database in Chapter 53 of Title 31. It also creates a Georgia All Payers Claims Database (“GAPCD”) Advisory Committee which is a 12-member Committee made up of these individuals: (1) the director, who is to serve as the chairperson; (2) the chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee; (3) the chairperson of the House Appropriations Health Subcommittee; (4) the director of the Office of Planning and Budget, or his or her designee; (5) one member from the hospital industry to be appointed by the Governor; (6) one member from the health care philanthropic community to be appointed by the Governor; (7) one member from the insurance industry to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; (8) one member who is a medical provider to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; (9) the commissioner of public health, or his or her designee; (10) the commissioner of community health, or his or her designee; (11) The Commissioner of Insurance, or his or her designee; and (12) the director of the Center for Health Analytics and Informatics of the Georgia Institute of Technology. This Advisory Committee is to make recommendations on the creation and operation of this all-payer claims database by March 1, 2021. The legislation outlines the objectives of the GAPCD which are to “facilitate

data-driven, evidence-based improvements in access, quality, and cost of health care and to promote and improve public health through the understanding of health care expenditure patterns and operation and performance of the health care system.” Such identified uses of the GAPCD include, but are not limited to: “(1) establishing baseline health care cost information; (2) monitoring and analyzing health care costs; (3) assessing population health; (4) Measuring utilization of health care services; (5) identifying health disparities; (6) informing consumers of cost and quality of health care; (7) supporting the planning and evaluation of health care operations and care; (8) improving coordination of care; (9) enabling oversight of health insurance premium medical loss ratios; and (10) conducting waste, fraud, and abuse studies.” Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 580**. The operational commencement of the database is contingent upon the allocation of funds from the General Assembly and \$750,000 was allocated in the FY 2021 budget (Department of Community Health) for this purpose. See [HB 793](#).

Pharmacy

[HB 759](#), authored by Representative Butch Parrish (R-Swainsboro), is the annual dangerous drug update in Title 16. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 372**. The Act took effect upon signature.

[HB 791](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), enacts the “Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act” in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.23 and O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80. This law requires that a Georgia licensed insurer which provides prescription medication coverage as a part of a policy/contract waive time restrictions on prescription medication refills (including suspension of electronic ‘refill too soon’ limitations) so as to allow individuals to refill prescriptions in advance and authorize payment to pharmacies for a 30 day supply of any prescription regardless of the date upon which the most recently filled prescription has occurred. It does require that the individual seeking this 30 day supply be in a county or other area that is declared to be under a state of emergency by the Governor or that is under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service. It also requires that the medication have refills remaining and that such request for the 30 day supply be made within the 30 day time frame from the origination of the emergency. The pharmacist dispensing this medication is not permitted to fill such for a Schedule II controlled substance. Further, the pharmacist dispensing the medication must in his/her professional judgment believe that the medication is essential to the maintenance of life or the continuation of the therapy for a chronic condition or the interruption of the therapy might reasonably produce undesirable health consequences (physical or mental discomfort). The permission does require that the physician document the prescription and notify the prescriber of the emergency dispensing within 48 hours of dispensing. It also authorizes a pharmacist to dispense up to a 90-day supply of a maintenance medication for treatment of chronic illnesses up to the total number of dosage units as authorized by the prescriber on the prescription under certain conditions. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 590**. This Act took effect upon his signature.

[HB 918](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), addresses pharmacy benefit manager regulations and repeals O.C.G.A. § 26-4-110.1. It also amends O.C.G.A. § 26-4-118 regarding the Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights. Changes enacted include the elimination of the audit performed by the Department of Community Health under Article 7, Chapter 4 of Title 49. It requires the entity conducting the audit to give the pharmacy notice at least 14 days prior to conducting the audit and provide a comprehensive list of claims by prescription number to be audited and the cost of such claims are prohibited from being used as a criterion in determining which claims to audit. Further the audit is not to include more than 100 prescriptions per audit and the entity is not permitted to audit more than 200 prescriptions in any 12 month period provided that a refill shall not constitute a separate prescription. It further clarifies what is considered fraud. It also extends the time within which the pharmacy may correct any error (moving it from 30 to 60 days) following receipt of the preliminary audit report when such may be subject to recoupment for overpayment. It adds that a pharmacy is not to be held responsible for any penalty or fee in connection with an audit and there is to be no recoupment of funds from a pharmacy in connection with claims for which the pharmacy has already been paid without first meeting certain requirements. It also enumerates when a recoupment is permitted (fraud, an error resulting in overpayment (limiting it to the amount of overpayment) or a miss-fill under certain conditions). It also limits the number of times an audit of a pharmacy may occur (once every six months). The Department of Insurance Commissioner maintains the enforcement authority; it also requires that the Commissioner to promulgate rules and regulations for enforcement as well as investigate complaints and address recoupment. The legislation amends O.C.G.A. § 26-4-119, relating to the “Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act” to clarify what is a ‘referral’ which in part adds that “ordering of a patient to a pharmacy that has an affiliate either orally or in writing, including online messaging by a person who is licensed under Title 33 as a result of an arrangement or agreement between the person and the pharmacy’s affiliate.” Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 564**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 946](#), authored by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), is an extensive set of revisions to the regulation and licensing of pharmacy benefit managers (“PBMs”), beginning at O.C.G.A. § 33-64-1 et seq. Some of the revisions include:

- O.C.G.A. § 33-64-2 to increase licensure fees for PBMs from \$500 to \$2,000 for initial licensure and from \$400 to \$1,000 for renewal. Fines for acting as a PBM without a license are increase to \$2,000 per transaction and \$10,000 per transaction if the violation occurred knowingly. The bill also grants the Insurance Commissioner the authority to suspend a license.
- O.C.G.A. § 33-64-4 to urge the department to require use of a physician for prior authorization or step therapy appeals or determination reviews.
- O.C.G.A. § 33-64-7 to allow the Insurance Commissioner to:
 1. Conduct financial examinations and compliance audits of PBMs;
 2. Investigate complaints of alleged violations;
 3. Issue cease and desist orders if a PBM is taking action that violates this chapter;
 4. Order reimbursement to an insured, pharmacy, or dispenser who has incurred financial loss as a result of a violation of this chapter;

PBMs must make their records available to the Insurance Commissioner. These records may be daintified of any protected health information.

- Creating a new Code Section at O.C.G.A. § 33-64-9.1 to require PBMs file methodologies used in determining reimbursement in order to determine maximum allowable cost appeals. This Code Section also requires PBMs to use the national average drug acquisition cost as reference for ingredient drug product components for reimbursement. PBMs are proscribed from discriminating against pharmacies that dispense drugs subject to an agreement under 42 U.S.C. Section 256B. PBMs are also prevented from basing reimbursement on patient outcomes or scores unless agreed to in advance with the pharmacy. PBMs cannot impose a point-of-sale or retroactive fee.
- O.C.G.A. § 33-53-10 to require PBMs offer health plans the ability to receive 100% of all rebates. PBMs must report the aggregate number of rebates collected annually. Additionally, all PBMs must communicate the difference between the amounts reimbursed by PBMs and the amount the PBM charge the health plan. Any calculation of out-of-pocket maximums or deductibles must include any amount paid by the insured on his or her behalf through a third-party payment.
- Tighten anti-steering language in O.C.G.A. § 33-64-11 along with outlawing the withholding of prior authorization for lower cost drugs or removing low cost drugs from a formulary with the intent of causing an insured to seek another plan.
- Further increase anti-steering enforcement in O.C.G.A. § 33-64-12 by adding a penalty of 10% of the aggregate dollar amounts reimbursed to pharmacies in the previous calendar year.

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 583**. There are different effective dates included for portions of this legislation.

[SB 313](#), authored by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), establishes extensive regulation revisions to pharmacy benefit managers and is identical to [HB 946](#) by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin) which also passed and signed. This bill was signed by Governor Kemp on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 584**. There are different effective dates for portions of this legislation.

[SB 391](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), creates the “Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act” in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.27 and O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80. This legislation is similar to HB 791 but does not contain the language allowing the pharmacist to exercise his or her professional judgment and in consultation with the patient, dispense up to a 90-day supply of maintenance medication for treatment of chronic illnesses up to the total number of dosage units as authorized by the prescriber on the prescription. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 589**. This Act took effect upon his signature.

Professions

[HB 752](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), addresses three previously enacted interstate compacts for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, psychologists, and physicians that were enacted in 2019. The changes included in this legislation amend Title 43 to provide for national background checks by the submission of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Georgia Crime Information Center for licensing of these professionals. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 548**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 914](#), authored by Representative Heath Clark (R-Warner Robins), adds that notwithstanding other provisions in the law, “a professional licensing board or other board shall issue an expedited license by endorsement to any individual that: (1) Is a spouse of a service member or transitioning service member stationed within this state; (2) Holds a current license to practice such occupation or profession issued by another state for which the training, experience, and testing are substantially similar in qualifications and scope to the requirements under this state to obtain a license; (3) Is in good standing in such other state; and (4) Passes any examination that may only be required to demonstrate knowledge of the laws and rules and regulations of this state specific to the practice of the profession, business, or trade for which such expedited license by endorsement is being sought” at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-34.1. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 607**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 932](#), authored by Representative Houston Gaines (R-Athens), enacts changes to the “Georgia Podiatry Practice Act” in Chapter 35 of Title 43. It further makes conforming changes in O.C.G.A. § 14-7-4. The law permits a podiatrist to “organize and jointly own a professional corporation with any Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Osteopathy who are practicing within their own scope of practice as established by law.” It also provides the Board the authority to conduct fingerprint based criminal background checks of applicants for licensure and requires such background check to be conducted and produce “satisfactory results” for the licensure as a podiatrist. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 474**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[SB 310](#), authored by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), amends Chapter 15 of Title 43 to provide for the profession of professional structural engineer. Two similar bills were also proposed, [HB 516](#) (which was vetoed in 2019 by Governor Kemp) and [HB 790](#) (which remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee). Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 561**. The legislation took effect upon his signature

[SB 346](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), addresses the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. The bill amends O.C.G.A. § 43-50-20(a) to increase the membership of the Board to include a seventh member who is a “registered veterinary technician” who has actively engaged in the practice for five years prior to the appointment to the Board. It further amends duties of the Board and adds at O.C.G.A. § 43-50-21.1 so it may to conduct a professional health program to provide monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired veterinarians in this state. It further allows the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board, to enter into a contract with an entity for the purpose

of establishing and conducting such professional health program. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 514**. It took effect upon his signature.

Public Safety

[HB 838](#), authored by Representative Bill Hitchens (R-Rincon), creates a new offense of bias motivated intimidation at O.C.G.A. § 35-8-7.4. This offense is defined as maliciously and intentionally intimidating, harassing, or terrorizing another person because of that person's actual or perceived employment as a first responder. A person found guilty of this offense must serve a minimum of one-year imprisonment. The bill also creates a private cause of action for peace officers against any person that causes damages to the peace officer as a result of their performance of official duties; or due to the filing of a complaint the filer knew to be false. This bill was signed by Governor Kemp on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 569**. This Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Public Utilities

[HB 244](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), addresses the powers of electric membership corporations in Chapter 3 of Title 46 to enact the "Georgia Broadband Opportunity Act." It adds at O.C.G.A. § 46-3-200.4(b) that in order to promote the deployment of broadband services in Georgia, and as "except as required by the Tennessee Valley Authority for its distributors in this state, on and after July 1, 2021, the rates, fees, terms, conditions, and specifications in any pole attachment agreement entered into by a communications service provider and an electric membership corporation shall be as determined by the commission, except as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section. Such determination shall be made after consideration of what is just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and commercially reasonable. The commission shall by rules and regulations prescribe the process for making such a determination providing all interested parties the opportunity to be heard and to present evidence. On or before January 1, 2021, the commission shall publish the pole attachment rates, fees, terms, conditions, and specifications." Subsection (e) allows "any electric membership corporation and communications service provider" to enter into a mutual agreement as to the rates, fees, terms, conditions, and specifications for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers" that differ from those established by the commission. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 592**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 972](#), authored by Representative Penny Houston (R-Nashville), adds at O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91(b) that any operator (person who engages in the transportation of natural gas by pipeline) which "violates any rule or regulation of the Public Service Commission prescribed in O.C.G.A. § 46-2-20(i), or which fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any order after notice thereof, shall be liable to a penalty not to exceed the maximum penalties provided for in 49 C.F.R. Section 190.223." This requires that Georgia's penalties be the same as those imposed by the

federal government for any such violation. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 502**. The Act took effect on July 29, 2020.

[SB 370](#), authored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), amends O.C.G.A. § 46-3-205(c), regarding use of easements, so as to provide for compliance with certain safety and permit requirements when electric easements are utilized for broadband services (these might include safety measures and engineering review costs). Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 516**. It took effect upon his signature.

[SB 373](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), amends Chapter 3 of Title 14, relating to directors and officers of nonprofit corporations and directors and officers of electric membership corporations and foreign electric cooperatives. In subsection (a), it requires that a director of such an entity to “perform his or her duties in good faith and with the degree of care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.” It also amends in subsection (b) of this Code section what the director may rely upon in performing his or duties. In subsection (c), it establishes a “a presumption that the process a director followed in arriving at decisions was done in good faith and that such director exercised ordinary care; provided, however, that this presumption may be rebutted by evidence that such process constitutes gross negligence by being a gross deviation from the standard of care of a director in a like position under similar circumstances.” Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 391**. The provisions of the bill apply to causes of action arising after July 1, 2020.

[HB 820](#), authored by Representative Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville), amends O.C.G.A. § 32-2-41.3, providing that the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation may administer the Georgia Freight Railway Program (subject to appropriations). It also establishes three subprograms within this Program: (1) the Rail Enhancement Plan; (2) Rail Preservation Plan; and (3) Rail Industrial Plan. There is an annual report to be prepared of the activities of the Program which is to be forwarded to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the General Assembly. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 593**. It takes effect on January 1, 2021.

Retirement and Pensions

[HB 195](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-7-103 to increase the payout amount to beneficiaries who are members of the Georgia Firefighters’ Pension Fund but pass away before receiving any benefits from the fund. Current Code lists the amount as \$5,000.00; the bill raises the amount to \$10,000.00. Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 370**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 245](#), authored by Representative Debbie Buckner (D-Junction City), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-17-80 to remove a requirement that a surviving spouse receiving benefits from the Peace Officers’ Annuity Fund loses their benefits upon remarrying. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 467**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 292](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-21-5 by deleting a requirement for the University System of Georgia to remit payments to the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 402**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 663](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstoration (R-Dacula), adds in a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 47-23-49 that “on and after July 1, 2020, each individual employed full time as a judge in the state-wide business court established pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution shall become a member of this retirement system” (Georgia Judicial Retirement System). It also permits such individuals to be provided creditable service for the period January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This court was established in 2019. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 371**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 664](#), authored by Representative Barry Fleming (R-Harlem), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-23-43.1 to add employees of the Office of Legislative Counsel that require admission to the State Bar of Georgia to the Judicial Retirement System. Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 383**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 1017](#), authored by Representative Dominic LaRiccia (R-Douglas), amends O.C.G.A. § 45-9-85(a), relating to payment of indemnification for death or disability, So as to add that in the case of death suffered in the line of duty by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, emergency management specialist, state highway employee, or prison guard, “payment is required to be made to: “(i) the surviving un-remarried spouse or; (ii) the surviving children who are under the age of 19 or, if a student enrolled in an institution of postsecondary education at the time of such death, under the age of 24 or (iii) individuals not otherwise provided for under this subparagraph who are the dependents of the spouse or deceased person as shown in the spouse's or deceased person's most recent tax return.” In “the case of organic brain damage suffered in the line of duty by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, emergency management specialist, state highway employee, or prison guard, payment shall be made to the legal guardian of the organically brain damaged person.” Governor Kemp signed this legislation as **Act Number 385** on June 29, 2020. This Act applies to claims regarding any incident giving rise to a death occurring on or after August 1, 2016. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 26](#), authored by Senator William Ligon (R-Brunswick), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-101 to allow individuals who were members of the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan immediately prior to becoming a member of the Employees’ Retirement System (“ERS”) to obtain creditable service within ERS for all prior service with their Defined Contribution Plan employer. Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 386**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[SB 176](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-2-112 to require that, when any member of a retirement system that accepts paid employment after their retirement, the new employer must pay employer and employee contributions to the retirement system. Additionally, the payment of the member’s allowance is suspended in these instances. Members are also unable to earn creditable service for these employment periods. Governor

Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 510**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 249](#), authored by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-17-1 to allow jail officers to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The bill also amends O.C.G.A. § 47-17-44 to increase the monthly dues of the fund. The fee increases to \$25 between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. After this date the fee can be set by the board but must fall between \$25 and \$50. O.C.G.A. § 47-17-60 is amended to require the greater of \$10 or 10 percent of fines imposed in a criminal case be given to the Fund -- \$5 or 5 percent in a pretrial diversion situation. The bill further amends O.C.G.A. § 47-17-80 to increase the monthly payment structure of the fund's beneficiaries from \$17.50 per year of creditable service to \$25.15 per month per year of creditable service until July 1, 2021 when the amount increases to \$30 per month per year of creditable service. Governor Kemp signed this bill on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 551**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 294](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), will allow the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia to invest a portion of its funds in alternative investments, which may include venture capital and real estate. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 522**. The Act will take effect on January 1, 2021.

Social Services

[HB 1114](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), addresses Georgia's maternal and infant mortality issues and adds a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159 to require Medicaid coverage for: (1) lactation care and services, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 43-22A-3(5), to pregnant and lactating women and to children who are breastfeeding or receiving their mother's milk; and (2) postpartum care for mothers for a period of six months following the date the woman gives birth. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 16, 2020 as **Act Number 473**. The Act took effect upon signature but requires an appropriation of funds, in an express line item in the Budget, to be fully effective.

State Government

[HB 487](#), authored by Representative Josh Bonner (R-Peachtree City), establishes in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-93 the "Robert Argo Disaster Volunteer Relief Act" to authorize certain employees of state agencies to be granted leave with pay in order to participate in specialized disaster relief services. This leave is for no more than 15 workdays in a 12 month period. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 575**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 511](#), authored by Representative Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville), amends Title 50 and transfers the Atlanta-region Transit Link ("ATL") Authority to the Department of Transportation. There are also changes in appointments of individuals to serve on this Authority,

which remains at 16 members. It also amends O.C.G.A. § 48-9-3 to provide for the use of the Consumer Price Index in determining an excise tax to be imposed on motor fuel. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 572**. It takes effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 777](#), authored by Representative John Corbett (R-Lake Park), requires at O.C.G.A. § 8-2-23(d) that the Department of Community Affairs, on or after July 1, 2020, “undertake a review of the tall mass timber provisions of the 2021 International Building Code, approved by the International Code Council, for the purpose of considering whether the department, with the approval of the board, shall amend the Georgia state minimum standard codes to include provisions for tall mass timber as contained in the 2021 International Building Code for construction types IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C.” Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 387**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

[HB 780](#), authored by Representative Clay Pirkle (R-Ashburn), amends O.C.G.A § 50-16-34(7), regarding the State Properties Commission, to allow the Commission the ability to use an “opinion of value” in the valuation of state property where conveyance of the property by the state is for the sole and direct benefit to the state. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 491**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 848](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), amends Chapter 5 of Title 50 concerning the Department of Administrative Services’ disposition of surplus property in an effort to expand options open to the Department which may be in the state’s best interest in disposing that property (eliminating a charitable institution’s requirement to be providing services within the state). Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 496**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 901](#), authored by Representative Mike Cheokas (R-Americus), amends two provisions in Title 50, regarding the powers of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority:

- O.C.G.A. § 50-17-63(b) to authorize the State’s treasurer to invest in mutual funds and
- O.C.G.A. § 50-23-5 to provide for the power to make loan commitments and loans to local governments and nongovernmental entities for projects that permanently protect land and water, or interests therein, that are in their undeveloped natural states or have been developed to be consistent with, or are restored to be consistent with identified conservation purposes.

Governor Kemp signed HB 901 on August 3, 2020 as **Act Number 545**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[HB 953](#), authored by Representative Bonnie Rich (R-Sugar Hill), amends Chapter 5 of Title 50 to provide new authority for the Department of Administrative Services to enter into or authorize agreements with cooperative purchasing organizations; to provide that certain terms in particular types of state contracts shall be void and unenforceable and should not be included in such agreements (examples include any requirement that the state or any agency, authority, board, bureau, commission, department, institution, or any other entity thereof to: “(A) Defend,

indemnify, or hold harmless another person; or (B) Be bound by terms and conditions that are unknown at the time of signing such contract or which may be unilaterally changed by the other party”); to require the Department of Administrative Services to provide such information on its website; to specify that bids, offers, or proposals and registers thereof be required to be subject to public disclosure provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50.” Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 501**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 998](#), authored by Representative Trey Rhodes (R-Greensboro), amends Titles 12, 27 and 50. It extends the term of the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority, permitting it to exist for an additional 40 years; designates the shoal bass as the State’s riverine sport fish; amends the implied consent warning for hunting under the influence; and addresses language corrections for operating a watercraft under the influence. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 500**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 134](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), transfers in O.C.G.A. § 50-12-131(a) the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust from the Department of Community Affairs to the Board of Regents. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 579**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 358](#), authored by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), designates in a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 50-3-89 that the muscadine grape is the official State grape. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 598**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 416](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), originally dealt with O.C.G.A. § 20-4-37, relating to the Office of College and Career Transitions and powers and duties, which proposed to change the name of the Office of College and Career Transitions to the Office of College and Career Academies. Late in the legislative session this underlying bill was completely substituted for language that imposes reductions on the salaries of the Lieutenant Governor and members of the General Assembly in O.C.G.A. § 45-7-4(a) for the 2021 state fiscal year. The reductions are 14 percent of the salary for the Lieutenant Governor and 10 percent of the salaries of the members of the General Assembly. Governor Kemp signed this bill on July 14, 2020 as **Act Number 469**. These changes in this Act took effect upon signature.

[SB 474](#), authored by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), establishes in O.C.G.A. § 50-7-12 and O.C.G.A. § 50-7-14 that the Department of Economic Development or the Department of Natural Resources has the duty to construct, operate, and maintain welcome centers and tourist centers assigned to such agency by the Governor and keep them supplied with educational pamphlets and other materials and information. Presently, that authority is only vested with the Department of Economic Development. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 382**. The Act took effect on July 1, 2020.

Study Committees

[SR 87](#), authored by Senator Elena Parent (D-Atlanta), creates the Senate Study Committee on Digital Education and Screen Time in Georgia Public Schools. Georgia law already encourages school systems to purchase instructional materials and content in a digital or electronic format. This Study Committee will be composed of three members of the State Senate and it is to stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 470](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), creates the Senate Study Committee on Music Workforce Development. This study committee will be composed of six members of the State Senate and will stand abolished on December 31, 2020.

[SR 483](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), creates the Senate Study Committee on Georgia County Boards of Elections and Registration. This study committee will be composed of six members of the State Senate and two citizens and will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 520](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), creates the Senate Study Committee on Midwifery Practices. This study committee will be composed of five members of the State Senate and will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 899](#), authored by Senator Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville), creates the Senate Alcohol Franchise Law Study Committee. This study committee will be composed of five members of the State Senate and will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 959](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), establishes the Senate Systemic Inequalities Study Committee. This study committee will be composed of four members of the State Senate and will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 981](#), authored by Senator Gloria Butler (D-Atlanta), establishes the Senate Study Committee on Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems. This study committee will be composed of five members of the State Senate and will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 1007](#), authored by Senator Bill Cowsert (R-Athens), is part of the “hate crimes” package passed this year. The Resolution creates the Senate Law Enforcement Reform Study Committee to conduct a “comprehensive review and study of law enforcement techniques, patterns, and practices.” It will look at such things as use of force, de-escalation techniques, use of chokeholds/strangleholds, no knock warrants, and many other practices. This study committee is to be composed of five members of the State Senate, including the Chairs of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committees and this Committee stands abolished on December 15, 2020.

[SR 1024](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), creates the Senate COAM Study Committee. This study committee will be composed of five members of the State Senate, the CEO of the Georgia Lottery Corporation, and four citizens knowledgeable about the COAM industry. The study committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

[SR 1035](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), creates the Senate Educating Adult Students Study Committee. This study committee will be composed of four members of the State Senate and three nonlegislative members including the State School Superintendent, the Commissioner of Technical College System of Georgia, and the executive director of the State Charter Schools Commission. This study committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2020.

Taxes and Taxation

[HB 105](#), authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), amends O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27(a) and addresses some of the financial concerns around Hurricane Michael – specifically it exempts from state income tax certain “income received by taxpayers as payments from a federal disaster relief or assistance grant program administered by this state or its instrumentalities or the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with Hurricane Michael.” Among other provisions in this bill, it includes new Code sections beginning at O.C.G.A. § 48-13-140 et seq. to address taxing of Uber/Lift and entities such as those and adds that on and after April 1, 2020, an excise tax in the amount of 50¢ is to be levied upon any for-hire ground transport trip and 25¢ upon any shared for-hire ground transport trip. These tax amounts will be required to be annually adjusted based on the cost-of-living using the Consumer Price Index. This excise tax is to be collected and remitted by the for-hire ground transport service provider and not the vehicle driver. There are financial penalties for entities which violate the collection and remittance of this tax. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 606**. The Act took effect upon his signature. In a signing statement, Governor Kemp raised concerns that due to a clerical error made during the vote for this bill the legality of the Act could face scrutiny; therefore the Governor expressed his intention to call a *special session* to address this issue.

[HB 276](#), authored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville), amends Chapter 8 of Title 48 and enacts provisions for taxing a “marketplace facilitator” so as to capture tax on internet sales (or goods or services sold on a platform). The legislation defines a “marketplace facilitator” as:

a person that contracts with a seller in exchange for any form of consideration to make available or facilitate a retail sale that is taxable under this chapter on behalf of such seller by directly or through any agreement or arrangement with another person:

- (A) Providing a service that makes available or facilitates such retail sale in any manner, including, but not limited to, promoting, marketing, advertising, taking orders or reservations for, providing the physical or electronic infrastructure that brings purchasers and marketplace sellers together for, or otherwise similarly assisting the seller in making such retail sale, or transmitting or otherwise similarly communicating the offer and acceptance between the marketplace seller and the purchaser for, or otherwise similarly assisting the seller for such retail sale, but excluding merely processing the payments for such retail sale; and
- (B) Collecting, charging, processing, or otherwise similarly facilitating payment for such retail sale on behalf of the marketplace seller.

Governor Kemp signed this legislation on January 30, 2020 as **Act Number 322**. The Act took effect on April 1, 2020.

[HB 779](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), addresses alternative ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles at O.C.G.A. § 48-5C-1(c)(3)(C), revising the distribution proceeds percentages of these taxes with 23 percent going to the county governing authority and 28 percent going to the governing authority of the municipality and the remaining 49 percent to the board of education of the county school district (with certain parameters on how that funding is then distributed). Governor Kemp signed this bill on June 29, 2020 as **Act Number 373**. The Act took effect on June 29, 2020.

[HB 808](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), amends O.C.G.A. § 48-5C-1(a)(3), regarding alternative ad valorem taxes on motor vehicles. It adds a revised definition for the term ‘loaner vehicle’ which is now defined as a “motor vehicle owned by a dealer which is withdrawn temporarily from dealer inventory for exclusive use as a courtesy vehicle loaned at no charge for a period not to exceed 45 days within a 366 day period to any one customer whose motor vehicle is being serviced by such dealer.” Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 495**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 846](#), authored by Representative John Corbett (R-Lake Park), contains a number of revisions to Georgia’s Tax Code in Title 48. It updates Georgia law to be in compliance with the federal “Internal Revenue Code” including addressing consequences of the CARES Act. It also revises O.C.G.A. § 48-2-35(h)(2) to allow political subdivisions to elect to repay over a period of time certain final refund amounts for refunds of local significance due to overpayments of sales and use taxes by a taxpayer through a direct pay permit. It also adds in O.C.G.A. § 48-2-35.1(a) that for refunds of overpayments of state and local sales and use taxes made pursuant to a direct payment permit (as defined in O.C.G.A. § 48-8-49.1), interest is required to be paid on the overpaid amount of the taxes or fees pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-2-35(a), and subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-13A-19.1; provided, however, that interest is required to begin to accrue on the overpaid amount of taxes or fees from the date an amended return or refund claim claiming a refund is filed. It also creates a new job tax credit in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.1 for manufacturers of “personal protective equipment (“PPE”)”; this is an additional credit per job of \$1,250.00 for such manufacturer. It also amends O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40(m), regarding designation of counties as less developed areas and tax credits for certain business enterprises, so as to permit for the “taxable years beginning in 2020 and 2021, a taxpayer with a business enterprise that in the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 31, 2019, was claiming a tax credit under this Code section shall have the option to utilize the number of new full-time employee jobs that the taxpayer claimed in such taxable year or calculate the number of new full-time employee jobs based upon subsection (e) of this Code section.” The legislation also adds new subsection (k) to Code Section 48-7-40.1, relating to tax credits for business enterprises in less developed areas, to read as follows: “For the taxable years beginning in 2020 and 2021, a taxpayer with a business enterprise that in the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 31, 2019, was claiming a tax credit under this Code section shall have the option to utilize the number of new full-time employee jobs that the taxpayer claimed in such taxable year or calculate the number of new full-time employee jobs based upon subsection (e) of this Code section.” Also, it adds a new subsection (i) to Code

Section 48-7-40.17, relating to establishing or relocating quality jobs and tax credit, to read as follows: "(i) For the taxable years beginning in 2020 and 2021, a taxpayer that in the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and before December 31, 2019, was claiming a tax credit under this Code section shall have the option to utilize the number of new quality jobs that the taxpayer claimed in such taxable year, or calculate the number of new quality jobs based upon subsection (d) of this Code section." Governor Kemp signed this legislation on June 30, 2020 as **Act Number 411**. The portions of the Act addressing refunds and uses of permits take effect on September 1, 2020 and apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019; other portions of the legislation took effect upon Governor Kemp's signature.

[HB 1037](#), authored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta), addresses O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.26 relating to the "Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act." It moves certain sound recordings from qualified production activities to production expenditures; reinforces the disallowance of the additional 10 percent credit allowed for including a qualifying Georgia promotion for certain productions and hold the issuance of such credit until public distribution of the project; limits the recapture of certain tax credits; changes the timing when a tax credit can be claimed and its carry forward period; requires expenditures with vendors to include W-9 forms; provides for applications for certificates of final certification; requires an audit prior to issuance of a final certification by the Department of Revenue; phases in such requirement; provides for certification of accountants as eligible auditors for conducting such audits; and provides for recouping of certain audit costs and prescribe actions to be taken by the Department of Revenue. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 4, 2020 as **Act Number 559**. The Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 1102](#), authored by Representative Dale Rutledge (R-McDonough), addresses a new Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 8 in Title 48, regarding homestead option sales and use tax. It provides for a revised homestead option sales tax and provides for a revised distribution of the proceeds from the levy of an equalized homestead option sales and use tax. It further provides for the levy of a special purpose local option sales and use tax in certain counties. The local electorate is required to make the revisions to the homestead option sales and use tax. The bill will be known as the "Revised Homestead Option Sales and Use tax Act of 2020." Governor Kemp signed this legislation on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 570**. It took effect upon signature.

[HR 164](#), authored by the late Representative Jay Powell (R-Camilla), is a constitutional amendment for Article III, Section IX, at Paragraph VI. It authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for the creation or renewal and dedication of revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were intended and provides for procedures, conditions, and limitations. Governor Kemp signed this Resolution on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 597**. It will take effect upon ballot approval by the voters.

[SB 104](#), authored by Senator Chuck Payne (R-Dalton), incorporates a number of Title 48 amendments, including the sunset repeals offered by Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) in HB 1035. The legislation, however, began in a totally different form, relating to O.C.G.A. § 31-39-4, the changes are to sales and use tax exemptions:

- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(46), extends the sales tax exemption for sales to blood banks and organ procurement organizations;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(7.05), extends the sales tax exemption for sales of tangible personal property to a nonprofit health centers;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(7.3) extends the sales tax exemption for sales of tangible personal property and services to a nonprofit volunteer health clinics;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(57.1) extends the sales tax exemption for sales of food and food ingredients to a qualified food bank (non-profit);
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(57.2) extends the sales tax exemption the use of food and food ingredients donated to a qualified nonprofit agency used for hunger relief or disaster relief purposes;
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(57.3) extends the sales tax exemption on the use of food and food ingredients donated following a natural disaster and which is used for disaster relief purposes; and,
- O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(101) which extends until July 1, 2026 the sale or use of noncommercial written materials or mailings by an organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the organization is located in this state and provides such materials to charity supporters for educational, charitable, religious, or fundraising purposes.

Governor Kemp signed SB 104 on August 5, 2020 as **Act Number 585**. The Act took effect upon his signature.

[SB 410](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), amends Chapter 5 of Title 48 to authorize the conduct of ad valorem tax appeal hearings by virtual means (audio or video teleconference or other remote communication medium). It also addresses an award of attorney’s fees in instances where an appeal is made to superior court. The legislation also addresses returns of public utilities and defines the term, ‘electronic transmission,’ so as to mean “any form of communication that does not directly involve the physical transmission of paper that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by a recipient thereof and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient through an automated process.” The chief executive officer of each public utility is required to make, by electronic transmission, an annual tax return of all property located in Georgia to the commissioner on or before March 1 which is required to be current as of January 1 preceding. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 22, 2020 as **Act Number 482**. This Act took effect upon approval of the Governor and applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

Tobacco

[SB 144](#), authored by Senator Lee Anderson (R-Grovetown), provides for the issuance of special event tobacco permits to licensed dealers authorizing off-premise sales of cigars, cigarettes, or loose or smokeless tobacco for a special event at a temporary location offsite from the licensed location. This change is added in O.C.G.A. § 48-11-4(c)(5) and is intended to be beneficial to the

Masters Golf Tournament. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 509**. This Act took effect upon approval by the Governor.

[SB 375](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), is intended to address teen vaping. This bill was not used for an increase in the tobacco tax but did extend the tax to vaping products. Adding excise taxes on alternative nicotine products and vapor products is anticipated to bring as much as \$19 million annually into the state. The legislation has a number of provisions:

- Adds at O.C.G.A. § 16-12-171(a)(1) that it is unlawful to sell or barter, directly or indirectly, cigarettes, tobacco products, tobacco related objects, alternative nicotine products or vapor products to individual under the age of 21 (currently the law prohibits sales to minors (persons under 18)). It also prohibits the purchase of any of these products from an individual under the age of 21 years of age.
- Amends O.C.G.A. § 16-12-173 so as to make changes to vending machine sales and requiring appropriate signage so that such purchase is illegal from a machine by an individual under the age of 21 and also makes it a violation for any person to knowingly allow an individual under the age of 21 years of age to operate a vending machine which dispenses cigarettes, tobacco products, tobacco related objects, alternative nicotine products or vapor products.
- Changes O.C.G.A. § 16-12-174 so as to make it unlawful for distribution of tobacco product samples to individuals under the age of 21 years of age.
- Amends Chapter 11 in Title 48 so as to add a number of new definitions including ‘alternative nicotine product’ and ‘consumable vapor product’ and imposes an excise tax on these products in O.C.G.A. § 48-11-2 (consumable vapor products in a closed system is \$.05 per fluid milliliter; consumable vapor products in an open system: seven percent of the wholesale price, exclusive of any trade, cash, or other discounts or any promotion, advertising, display or similar allowances; and vapor devices that contain any consumable vapor product at the time of sale and which are not designed or intended to be reused or refilled: seven percent of the wholesale cost price, exclusive of any trade, cash, or other discounts or any promotion, advertising, display or similar allowances).
- Requires in O.C.G.A. § 48-11-4 that any person manufacturing, importing, brokering, purchasing, selling, consigning, vending, dealing in, shipping, receiving or distributing alternative nicotine products or vapor products is required to obtain a license from the Department of Revenue Commissioner before doing so. This Code section also outlines fees associated with such.
- Adds at O.C.G.A. § 48-11-4.1 that it is unlawful to sell vapor products to any person who is not a licensed manufacturer, importer, distributor, or dealer of vapor products by any means other than in-person, face-to-face sale and a seller of a vapor product is required to request proper identification from each person attempting to purchase a vapor product which shows that the person is at least 21 years of age. Each person attempting to purchase a vapor product is to provide proper identification to the seller at the time of such purchase.
- Addresses delivery of tobacco products, alternative nicotine or vapor products at O.C.G.A. § 48-11-4.2 so as to (1) require the person making the purchase to establish an account maintained by the licensed dealer which will be available for inspection by the

Department; (2) the licensed dealer or the employee is required to process all payments made by the individual making the purchase from the licensed dealer; (3) products are required to be fulfilled at the licensed premises of the licensed dealer – and that product is to remain in the possession of the licensed dealer, the employee or the third-party who is making the delivery and is not to be transferred to any person until the time of delivery; (4) requires that the delivery be made by the licensed dealer, employee, or third-party who is at least 21 years of age, has a valid Georgia’s driver’s license, has undergone a background check (local and national) and met certain requirements; (5) delivery is to be made by the licensed dealer, employee or third-party to an individual who is at least 21 years of age with proper identification; (6) requires that the identity and age of the individual accepting delivery is validated; (7) outlines when delivery is not to be made (e.g. no individual is at the address, etc.); (8) deliveries are to be inspected at the time of delivery by the individual accepting the delivery; and (9) outlines where deliveries are not permitted (e.g. a public or private elementary or secondary school, prison/reformatory/correctional facility, addiction or substance abuse facility, or locker, mailbox, package shipping location or similar service/storage facility/business).

Governor Kemp signed SB 375 on July 22, 2020 as **Act Number 483**. The Act took effect upon signature except for Section 2 of the legislation which takes effect on January 1, 2021 (regarding the changes to the taxation of tobacco products).

Transportation

[HB 1098](#), authored by Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton), is a series of changes in Title 32 to provide for a statewide strategic transportation plan, using that plan to make award determinations relating to public and private financing projects. It also includes changes to the Department of Transportation’s bid procedures, including appealing the rejection of a contract bid. Governor Kemp signed this legislation on July 29, 2020 as **Act Number 507**. This Act took effect upon signature.

Vetoed Legislation

[HB 991](#), authored by Representative Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), was **vetoed** by Governor Kemp on August 5, 2020. It proposed to provide transparency relating to state healthcare plans and their contractors in O.C.G.A. § 31-2-17 and would have been known as the “Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Act.” It sought to establish a nine-member oversight committee including one physician, one pharmacist, one consumer who receives benefits from the state’s plan and six members of the General Assembly. The legislation enumerated the Committee’s powers which included such things as requesting and reviewing records relating to the plan contractors and their subcontractors, preparing reports using aggregated data, submit questions to applicable departments, agencies, boards and state healthcare plan contractors and their subcontractors, make recommendations regarding contracting, transparency and oversight, and request an audit of the healthcare plan contractor and its contractors. The Act also proposed to require annual submissions by the contractor to be made by November 1 of each year to the Committee, including the amount it was paid by the state and the capitated per member per month rates, medical loss ratio and loss ratios associated with administration of dental benefits, all contractual obligations with the state, including performance benchmarks it failed to meet, all reports prepared pursuant to its contract with the state, all dividends paid to shareholders or affiliates, financial reports reflecting expenses, net underwriting gain, and net profit attributable to services performed for the state, most recent legal chart of corporate structure, all affiliate subcontractors and the amount paid to each subcontractor, a report delineating whether it participates in the healthcare exchange (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) and counties where its health plan/plans are made available through the exchange. It further contained requirements for the contractor or subcontractor to provide regarding its pharmacy benefits management. Should there be violations, the Commissioner of Insurance was given the authority to subject the contractor or subcontractor a monetary penalty for each violation. In his veto statement, Governor Kemp cited concerns that the bill violated separation of powers principles. Specifically, he raised issue with the composition and actionable duties of the Committee as outlined in the bill. Governor Kemp stated that because the majority of the members on the Committee were required to be members of the General Assembly and his interpretation that the bill’s statement that the Committee would not have the power to affect executive functions was largely pretextual, he **vetoed** the bill.

[SB 306](#), authored by Senator Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale), was **vetoed** by Governor Kemp on August 5, 2020. It proposed to permit Georgia the ability to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact" Chapter 44 of Title 43. It also provided the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology the power to administer such compact in this state and to conduct national background checks for applicants for licensure, who are required to submit fingerprints. The compact contains a requirement that it must be passed in 10 states to become operational and requirements for licensee to adhere to the state’s licensure requirements. In his veto statement Governor Kemp cited a need for the legislation to receive review and approval through the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council. No other interstate compact for a profession has been required to engage in that process and approval.

Failed Legislation

Note that failed legislation from 2020 will be required to be re-introduced to move forward in 2021 as 2020 was the second year of the legislative cycle.

Alcohol

[HB 674](#), authored by Representative Alan Powell (R-Hartwell), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Title 3 to provide for streamlined and uniform statewide licensing procedures for alcoholic beverage sales.

[HB 738](#), authored by Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Title 3 to update provisions related to the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of malt beverages.

[HB 836](#), authored by Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Chapters 2 and 4 of Title 3 to allow the state revenue commissioner to issue annual alcohol licenses throughout the year instead of a specific date.

[HB 887](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 3-4-24.2 to increase the allowable amount of off premises consumption of distilled spirits from 2,250 milliliters to 4,500 milliliters.

[SB 478](#), authored by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 3-4-21 to increase the number of retail dealer licenses for distilled spirit sales from two to six.

Child Welfare

[HB 913](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. addresses Chapter 8 of Title 19 to outline requirements for notice to be given to foster care parents of upcoming court hearings.

[HB 958](#), authored by Representative Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed changes in Chapter 5 of Title 49 to provide for the registration of maternity supportive housing residences which provide housing for pregnant women. These residences were to be residential homes that house on behalf of a church, religious organization, or nonprofit organization, up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older and their children, at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to

months after childbirth. These residences were proposed to be purely residential; they were not proposed to offer other services.

[HB 994](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. The legislation sought to amend Titles 15, 16 and 49 to define the term “criminal gang activity” and provide for provisions relating to addressing criminal gang activities.

[HB 1034](#), authored by Representative Bill Werkheiser (R-Glenncville), remained in the House Industry and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes to O.C.G.A. § 39-2-20, regarding the regulation of employment of minors. It would have added at (b) that while violations would be misdemeanor crimes, any person, firm or corporation or agent violating or aiding or abetting the violation could be penalized with a sum of not to exceed \$1,000.00 per violation to be determined by the Commissioner of Labor or his her designee. It also established that such violations could be appealed before an adjudicator appointed by the Commissioner.

[HB 1060](#), authored by Representative Ginny Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Vulnerable Child Protection Act” in Title 31.

[HB 1074](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstation (R-Dacula), reported out by Substitute of the House Juvenile Justice Committee but remained in the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the legislation failed. It proposed enactment of “Georgia Loves Our Adolescents Act of 2020” in Title 49. It would have required that the Division of Family and Children’s Services report quarterly statistics on the number of foster families approved, licensed or certified with each child placing agency reporting this information to the Division which would be posted on the Division’s website and updated every six months.

[HB 1108](#), authored by Representative James Burchett (R-Waycross), reported out by Substitute from the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System but remained in the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 29-3-1(b) to address the value of the amount of property a minor which could be held by a natural guardian before he or she was the legally qualified conservator of the minor. The present value is \$15,000.00; this legislation proposed to increase the amount of that property to \$25,000.00. It also sought to clarify language around settlement involving minors’ claims.

[SB 331](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add at O.C.G.A. § 16-12-100(b)(9), concerning sexual exploitation of children, that it would be “unlawful for any person to knowingly possess or control or produce any material or medium which contains images that depict a naked or nearly naked, suggestively posed, and inappropriately sexualized child or children with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desire of such person or the person viewing such images.”

[SB 335](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), was on the House Rules Calendar, but the legislation failed to pass. Action was postponed in the House on this legislation on June 25, 2020. The proposal sought amendments in Titles 12, 15 and 49 as follows:

- Addition at O.C.G.A. § 12-3-9.2 so that any fee for admission to a state park, historic site, or recreational area operated by or pursuant to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources be waived for any foster parent, relative or fictive kin serving as the primary placement for a child in the temporary or permanent custody of DFCS.
- Addition of the Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority’s expiration so that it shall exist for an additional 40 years.
- Addition of language in O.C.G.A. 15-11-54(d) that each juvenile court clerk be required to collect data on all cases in which a child alleged or adjudicated to be a child in need of services or a delinquent child is placed in foster care and has also been alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent child and transmit such data. This language is included [HB 912](#) which passed.
- Addition of language at O.C.G.A. § 15-11-110(c) addressing continuances of a hearing in a dependency proceeding. This language is added in [HB 912](#).
- Addition of language in O.C.G.A. § 49-5-8(a) which addresses the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services so that it is authorized to contract with, certify, or partner with licensed child-placing agencies to assist with or provide casework services. It also sought to address initial and annual trainings based on the experience of foster parents, the age and needs of the foster child/children, and whether the foster parents were providing respite care. This language is included in [HB 912](#).

[SB 307](#), authored by Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add at O.C.G.A. § 49-5-25 that supportive housing maternity residences were to “register” with the Department. It defined these residences as a “residential home that houses up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to 18 months after childbirth; provided, however, that no other services besides housing shall be provided.” This legislation mirrored the effort put forth by Representative Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), [HB 958](#) which also failed.

Civil Practice Act and Liability

[HB 167](#), authored by Representative Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville), passed the Senate in the form of a new Substitute and was transmitted back to the House for action. The House never took action on the proposal and therefore, the bill failed. It originally sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-23-29(b) to allow employees of licensed property and casualty insurers to adjust residential property insurance claims of \$1,000.00 or less without obtaining an adjuster license. This bill was gutted in the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor in an effort to provide for limited immunity from liability for the transmission of, contraction of, or exposure to COVID-19 in O.C.G.A. § 51-1-29.7. If passed, it would have been known as the “Georgia Pandemic Business Protection Act.” This bill passed in the form of [SB 359](#).

[HB 479](#), authored by Representative Heath Clark (R-Warner Robins), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Child Victim Protection

Act of 2020” by extending the statute of limitations within which to bring an action amending O.C.G.A. § 9-3-33.1.

[HB 968](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 9-3-51, relating to limitations on recovery for deficiency in planning, supervising, or constructing improvement to realty or for resulting injuries to property or person, so that this Code section would “not apply to actions for breach of contract, including, but not limited to, actions for breach of express contractual warranties.”

[HB 982](#), authored by Representative Jeff Jones (R-Brunswick), remained in the House Rules Committee where it was assigned, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact “Hailie’s Amendment” in O.C.G.A. § 9-10-150 and O.C.G.A. § 17-8-26, addressing the granting of continuances and stays in civil and criminal cases for members and certain staff of the General Assembly for purposes of fulfilling their responsibilities to the General Assembly.

[HB 1036](#), authored by Representative Steve Tarvin (R-Chickamauga), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore failed. It sought changes to the “Georgia Uniform Civil Forfeiture Procedure Act” in O.C.G.A. § 9-16-19. In part, these revisions would have the real property be sold, eliminating such permissions in current law of turning over the real property to a political subdivision or placing the property title in the name of the state. The proposal also sought that the proceeds of the property could be placed in the Indigent Care Trust Fund and The Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund.

[HB 1089](#), authored by Representative Tom McCall (R-Elberton), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System, and therefore failed. It sought tort reform changes in Titles 9, 15, 36, 40 and 51 to streamline the process of litigation and reduce litigation costs to businesses.

[HB 1101](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), remained in the House Rules Committee after receiving a do pass recommendation in the form of a new Substitute from the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System. Thus, the legislation failed. It proposed to repeal O.C.G.A. § 33-6-37, relating to private cause of action not created or implied and to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-3-28. Specifically, the legislation proposed to address notice requirements by requiring every insurer providing liability or casualty insurance coverage “prior to making a settlement offer or contemporaneous with making a settlement offer, a claimant or claimant's agent” send the following information or within 30 days of receiving, by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, a written request from the claimant or claimant's agent for information” which would have required to include a statement under oath setting forth the specific nature of the claim or claims asserted. It also sought to create a private cause of action for unfair trade practices.

[HB 1121](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in Chapter 16 of Title 51 for a right of action for sexual harassment against a co-worker, supervisor, or employer to be filed within one year of the incident and it further outlined the elements of such cause of action to be proved.

[HB 1127](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed to amend Chapter 66 of Title 36 to provide for suits against counties and municipalities regarding certain zoning procedures; a waiver of sovereign immunity for certain zoning decisions; and an exception of certain state liability regarding zoning powers of counties and municipalities. See [HR 1023](#).

[HB 1139](#), authored by Representative Carolyn Hugley (D-Columbus), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 9-13-142 for the publication requirements of a “legal organ” to allow the designation of a bi-weekly publication as a legal organ.

[HB 1188](#), authored by Representative Matthew Gambill (R-Cartersville), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 51-1-56 to provide for “immunity from civil damages for the transmission of, or for injury or injuries resulting from, COVID-19 that arise out of activity with the object of direct or indirect profit or gain, benefit, advantage, or nonprofit activity unless actions during such activity were willful and wanton for such transmission or injury or injuries.” See [SB 359](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), which provides for immunity from liability claims from COVID-19.

[HB 1208](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to enact the “Due Process in Civil Forfeiture Act” in Titles 9 and 17.

[HB 1253](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Titles 16 and 51. It sought to revise the “offense of unlawful conduct during 9-1-1 call to include bias motivations in calling or otherwise contacting 9-1-1” and proposed criminal penalties for such violations. Further, it proposed to amend the tort provisions to “provide for a cause of action against persons who knowingly cause a peace officer to arrive at a location, owing to false reporting or bias purposes.”

[SB 374](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes to O.C.G.A. § 9-11-67.1, relating to settlement offers and agreements for personal injury, bodily injury, and death from motor vehicle and payment methods, to require additional information with the written offer of settlement (e.g. including an accompanying affidavit, signed by the insurer and the insured, affirming the full policy amount and that no other insurance policies disclosed to the parties are applicable to the subject claim being released).

[SB 415](#), authored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), was tabled on the Senate Floor on crossover day on March 12, 2020. Therefore, the legislation failed. It was another attempt to adopt major tort reform revisions in Titles 9, 15, 36, 40, 44 and 51 by streamlining the process of litigation and reduce costs for Georgia's industries, small businesses, and citizens.

[SB 419](#), authored by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 51-1-56 so as to allow the “owner or operator of any business open to the general public having, owning, or exercising control over the use of the premises or the business has a duty of care to prohibit third-party criminal acts on such premises, and there shall be a rebuttable presumption of liability against such owner or operator if, by a preponderance of the evidence, there is a finding that a claimant was injured by a third-party criminal act on the premises, that such criminal act was reasonably foreseeable, and that the owner or operator failed to maintain the premises in specified manner.”

[SB 452](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend Chapter 6 of Title 5 regarding appellate practice and arraignment and pleas. The legislation proposed to “withdraw the right of appeal on judgments of conviction entered upon a plea of guilty; to provide for the direct appeal of all judgments or orders granting or refusing motions to recuse or disqualify a judge from presiding in a particular case or proceeding; and to provide limitations on when a trial court shall consider motions to withdraw the plea of "guilty.””

Courts

[HB 440](#), authored by Representative Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton), reported out of the House Juvenile Justice Committee by Substitute but remained in the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the bill failed. It sought changes in Chapter 11 of Title 15 to change the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age and to establish a Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee. There were numerous meetings and presentations on this proposed change in jurisdiction beginning in 2019.

[HB 729](#), authored by Representative Debra Bazemore (D-Riverdale), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation proposed amendments to O.C.G.A. § 44-5-50 et seq. so as to address land installment contracts and require such to be filed with the superior court clerks.

[HB 754](#), authored by Representative Roger Bruce (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 16-13-32.6 (f), relating to manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to distribute controlled substances or marijuana in, on, or within drug-free commercial zones, so that it would read:

The General Assembly hereby adopts and incorporates into this Code section all drug-free commercial zones which have been adopted by municipal or county ordinance and entered in the register of the Department of Community Affairs as provided for in subsection (d) of this Code section on or before July 1, 2020. [Rather than on or before July 1, 2015 as in current law.]

[HB 765](#), by Representative Mitchell Scoggins (R-Cartersville), had a late arriving substitute made on the Senate Floor which the Senate passed. The House, however, did not take up final action on this legislation, and therefore, it failed. It sought to address salaries for chief judges in magistrate courts in O.C.G.A. § 15-10-23. This salary was proposed to be based on a county's population with the legislation seeking to make these salary adjustments in 2022.

[HB 785](#), authored by Representative Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 15-6-94(d)(9) to provide for electronic notarizations and remote online notarization (using two-way audio and video).

[HB 814](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to address the authority of the Statewide Business Court so that it would not have the authority over any action or petition for the appointment of a receiver in O.C.G.A. § 15-5A-3(b). It also sought to remove the Statewide Business Court from its administrative assignment to the Court of Appeals and proposed that it be a separate unit for budgeting purposes in O.C.G.A. § 15-5A-16.

[HB 916](#), authored by Representative Sharon Beasley-Teague (D-Red Oak), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 17-10-1.5 so as to prohibit capital punishment in Georgia and to clarify that any person under sentence of death on the effective date of the new Code section would be required to have their sentence commuted to life without parole.

[HB 971](#), authored by Representative Micah Gravley (R-Douglasville), remained in the House Juvenile Justice Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought amendments in Chapter 11 of Title 15 to require annual training for juvenile court intake officers and to provide for the consideration of evidence, including hearsay evidence, in certain juvenile proceedings. It also sought to revise a time frame relating to extended care youth services. See [HB 912](#) which incorporated these changes and became **Act Number 466** on June 30, 2020.

[HB 994](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to address changes in Titles 15, 16, 42 and 49 to address the definition of "criminal gang activity" and prohibited criminal gang activities in regard to street gang terrorism and prevention.

[HB 1003](#), authored by Representative Jon Burns (R-Newington), passed the House and Senate, with the Senate passing a Substitute to the proposal. The House, however, did not take action to approve this Substitute, and therefore, the bill failed. The Senate's version of the legislation stripped out the original intent of the bill, creating new judgeships. In its place, the Senate proposed that the Statewide Business Court would become a separate budget unit rather than be administratively attached to the Court of Appeals in O.C.G.A. § 15-5A-16.

[HB 1006](#), authored by Representative Derrick Jackson (D-Tyrone), remained in the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to provide that the chief judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit would be selected by an election of the majority of the judges of the circuit, and if no agreement is reached on the selection of the chief judge, the judge

most senior in time of service who has not previously served as chief judge would be the chief judge.

[HB 1076](#), authored by Representative Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2020” in Titles 15, 17, 35 and 43.

[HB 1078](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 15-10-88 to authorize the magistrate court to assess and collect a technology fee (not to exceed \$10.00).

[HB 1126](#), authored by Representative Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Second Amendment Protection Act” in Titles 12, 16, 27, 36 and 40.

[HB 1140](#), authored by Representative Jasmine Clark (D-Lilburn), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 19-9-3(a), relating to the establishment and review of child custody and visitation, by adding that:

In all cases in which the custody of any child is at issue between the parents, there shall be a presumption, rebuttable by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, that a child’s interests are best served by equal or approximately equal parenting time with each parent. Alternative forms of custody may be considered by the judge at either a temporary or permanent hearing in the event that there is a finding that clear and convincing evidence exists that either parent is not fit, willing, or able to participate in such an arrangement.

HB 1140 also proposed in determining what was in the child’s best interest, that the court enter facts, findings and conclusions of law regarding every factor considered.

[HB 1210](#), authored by Representative Bob Trammell (D-Luthersville), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Chapter 7 of Title 17, to repeal the procedure for indictment or special presentment of a peace officer for a crime committed in the performance of his or her duties and the right to testify before a grand jury.

[HB 1214](#), authored by Representative Bob Trammell (D-Luthersville), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee as it was introduced late in the Session, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create the District Attorneys Oversight Commission at O.C.G.A. § 15-18-32 to allow such Commission to discipline, remove or cause involuntary retirement of a district attorney.

[HB 1232](#), authored by Representative Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to expand in O.C.G.A. § 15-12-100 who could request that a grand jury be impaneled so that a state elected official could make such request.

[HB 1239](#), authored by Representative James Beverly (D-Macon), was a late arrival to the process and remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought an amendment to O.C.G.A. § 15-18-5(a) to require the district attorney, who is in the same circuit as a law enforcement officer being prosecuted for an alleged felony or an act of family violence, to notify the Attorney General of such prosecution.

[SB 110](#), authored by Senator Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro), was placed on the table after a Conference Committee Report on the legislation failed. Therefore, the bill failed after not being taken up again from the table. It sought to create a Statewide Business Court in Title 15. This issue was addressed in 2019 in [HB 239](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula), which became **Act Number 271** on May 17, 2019.

[SB 229](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create in O.C.G.A. § 15-1-17.1 parental accountability court divisions to provide alternative adjudication to the traditional judicial system.

[SB 390](#), authored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It contained several revisions to Titles 9, 24 and 33 regarding “Georgia’s Civil Practice Act.” In part, it would have allowed a party discovery of electronically stored information in O.C.G.A. § 9-11-34.1 regarding civil actions for evidence seized in criminal proceedings.

[SB 405](#), authored by Senator Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta), passed the House in a new Substitute, but the Senate did not take action on the Substitute. Therefore, the bill failed. The House had amended language in O.C.G.A. § 15-12-122 so that in all civil actions, where a jury is impaneled between the period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, a civil action may be tried by a jury of fewer than 12 persons but no fewer than six persons at the discretion of the trial judge or by consent of the parties, regardless of either party making a demand in writing prior to the commencement of the trial term that the case be tried by a jury of 12. Further, in all such cases the parties or their counsel would be permitted to strike alternately, with the plaintiff exercising the first strike, until a jury of fewer than 12 but no fewer than six persons is impaneled to try the case. This new language in the legislation was proposed to address COVID-19 issues and allow social distancing on juries. The original bill, as it passed the Senate, dealt with an additional judgeship for Cobb County Superior Court. The added judgeships were incorporated into HB 786 authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough). See [HB 786](#).

[SB 448](#), authored by Senator Freddie Powell Sims (D-Dawson), remained in the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in O.C.G.A. § 36-15-9(e) and O.C.G.A. § 15-10-86 to permit the charging of law library fees in magistrate courts be made by general law.

[SB 453](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. In part, it sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. 15-1-

8.1 so as to provide for a statutory procedure and process for the recusal or disqualification of judges in superior and state courts.

[SB 515](#), authored by Senator Nikema Williams (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to repeal the “stand your ground” law in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-23.1

Criminal Justice

[HB 247](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), remained in the Senate Special Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 16-5-23.1 by repealing an enhanced penalty for the offense of battery against a person who is 65 or older. The bill also proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 31-7-12.1 to authorize the Department of Human Services to use licensed investigators to inspect unlicensed personal care homes and a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 16-11-131.1 to prohibit persons convicted of domestic violence from possessing or receiving any firearm or ammunition.

[HB 488](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. The legislation sought amendments in Titles 10 and 16 in order to address organized retail crimes. In part, it proposed that records be kept by merchants on store value cards.

[HB 555](#), authored by Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton), was tabled in the Senate. Thus, the legislation failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 17-4-40(c), relating to persons who may issue warrants for arrest of offenders against penal laws, warrants requested by others, and persons who may issue warrants for arrest of law enforcement or peace officers or school teachers or administrators, by adding in subsection (c) that a judicial officer may not only issue a warrant for the arrest of a peace officer, law enforcement officer, teacher, or school administrator for any offense alleged to have been committed while in the performance of his or her duties but also added a Division of Families and Children’s Services case manager.

[HB 720](#), authored by Representative Steven Sainz (R-Woodbine), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend Titles 10, 16 and 35 concerning laws and punishments around sexual offenses. The legislation sought to impose probation following the mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense and proposed to provide that for certain felonies that such probation would be imposed for life and that probation for sexual offenses would require such persons to wear a device capable of tracking the location of the probationer by electronic means including global positioning satellite systems.

[HB 955](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 16-5-23.1 by repealing an enhanced penalty for the offense of battery against a person who is 65 or older. The bill also

makes it illegal under O.C.G.A. § 16-5-106 to knowingly or willfully fail to make a report of elder abuse or exploitation.

[HB 1146](#), authored by Representative Don Parsons (R-Marietta), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 16-6-5.1, revising the offenses of improper sexual conduct by employee or agent in the first and second degree, and proposed to include actions taken against a youth enrolled in any youth activity at a recreational or scholastic facility where that employee or agent is employed.

[HB 1190](#), authored by Representative Bee Nguyen (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee after a late introduction, and therefore, failed. It sought comprehensive revisions to the “use of force” and investigations and reports of such use in Title 16.

[HB 1203](#), authored by Representative Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to repeal Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 17, relating to arrest by private persons. It made other conforming changes to references of private persons’ arrest powers in other portions of the Code.

[HB 1210](#), authored by Representative Bob Trammell (D-Luthersville), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 17-7-70.1 and O.C.G.A. § 15-12-83 to repeal the procedure for indictment or special presentment of a peace officer for a crime committed in the performance of their duties.

[HB 1226](#), authored by Representative Renitta Shannon (D-Decatur), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to repeal Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 17, relating to arrest powers of private persons.

[SB 320](#), by Senator Chuck Payne (R-Dalton), remained in the House Rules Committee after clearing by Substitute the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. Therefore, the legislation failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 42-1-12(n), relating to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board, to impose a penalty for persons who are classified as sexually dangerous predators who fail to verify or update registration information as required by law.

[SB 485](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed amendments in Titles 40 and 42 relating to motor vehicles and traffic and ignition interlock devices, respectively, in order to require the installation of ignition interlock devices in motor vehicles as a condition of probation for individuals convicted of a first offense of driving under the influence. The legislation also addressed changes to issuances of limited driving permits and their revocation as well as conditions for the suspension of a driving license.

[SB 520](#), authored by Senator Michael “Doc” Rhett (D-Marietta), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed to repeal Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 17, relating to arrest powers of private persons.

Education

[HB 1](#), authored by Representative Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought revisions in Chapter 2 of Title 20 to rename “Georgia’s Special Needs Scholarship Act” the “Senator Eric Johnson Scholarship Act.”

[HB 16](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Rules Committee after reporting out in a new Substitute form from the House Higher Education Committee. However, the legislation failed. It sought to enact the “Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act” in Chapter 3 of Title 20. It would have classified these Georgia youth as “in-state” students for tuition purposes and would have prohibited the counting of any foster care financial assistance received as “income” for the purposes of determining financial aid or grants, scholarships or loans.

[HB 476](#), authored by Representative Valencia Stovall (D-Forest Park), remained the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Education on Set Act” to assist children who are in the entertainment industry get education instruction and to require that instruction aligns with content and curriculum standards in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.3. The students were also proposed to be required to get an appropriate performance certificate from the Department of Labor.

[HB 701](#), authored by Representative Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), was originally assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee but was recommitted to the House Appropriations Committee where it remained. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-164, relating to local five mill share funds, so as to exclude freeport property from the equalized adjusted school property tax digest for purposes of calculating local five mill share.

[HB 736](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a teacher recruitment and retention program for a refundable income tax credit for teachers who agree to teach in certain rural schools or turnaround eligible schools within Titles 20 and 48.

[HB 741](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-14-48.1 so that each school that is under a contract amendment or intervention contract pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-14-45 would be required to retain or designate a “master teacher.” This master teacher would provide support and mentoring of teachers in a turnaround school to sustain teacher development and ensure that teachers improve. The master teacher was to be compensated for his or her duties with an added stipend.

[HB 743](#), authored by Representative Billy Mitchell (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-680 et seq. to provide that student athletes which are participating in intercollegiate athletics at postsecondary educational institutions may receive compensation for the use of the student athlete's name, image, or likeness.

[HB 764](#), authored by Representative Todd Jones (R-Cumming), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068.2(h), which relates to facilities' grants for charter schools and the purposes for which those grants may be used. The bill would require unused facilities owned by the state and under the control and management of the State Properties Commission to be made available for use by local charter schools and state charter schools.

[HB 766](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-680 et seq. that postsecondary educational institutions be required to deposit a portion of all revenue derived from its athletic teams' involvement with intercollegiate postseason athletic contests into an escrow account so that such funds could be distributed to eligible student athletes on a pro rata basis upon their graduation.

[HB 771](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-66(e) that students in the regular, reserve, or National Guard component of the United States armed forces and the United States Coast Guard, would be required to be classified as in-state students for tuition purposes while such member of the armed forces is living in the state. incident to active military duty in this state. If the active duty member was reassigned outside of Georgia or retires, the member would continue to be eligible for in-state tuition for as long as that member was continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which he or she was enrolled at the time of reassignment or retirement. The in-state tuition would have also applied to any spouse and dependent of this active military member residing in Georgia.

[HB 783](#), authored by Representative Erica Thomas (D-Austell), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1(a) to require mandatory education of children between their sixth and seventeenth birthdays (currently, such education is required through the child's sixteenth birthday). It also sought to amend adult literacy programs' eligibility in O.C.G.A. § 20-4-15(d) so that such programs would be eligible to individuals who are at least seventeen years of age (rather than sixteen).

[HB 784](#), authored by Representative Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amending Georgia's open meetings laws at O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 to provide that discussions of school safety plans may be conducted in executive sessions.

[HB 840](#), authored by Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Chapter 3 of Title 20 to impose a biennial review of institutions rather than programs.

[HB 843](#), authored by Representative Demetrius Douglas (D-Stockbridge), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-323(a) that children in kindergarten and in grades one through five be required to have recess daily under certain conditions.

[HB 845](#), authored by Representative Mike Glanton (D-Jonesboro), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212.5(c) that on and after July 1, 2020 that special education would no longer be an area in which there is an insufficient supply of teachers and that any elementary or secondary school teacher who is or would become certified in any special education category by the Professional Standards Commission and who was employed in a special education-related position would be moved to the salary step on the state salary schedule that is applicable to six years of creditable service, unless that teacher was already on or above such salary step.

[HB 880](#), authored by Representative Mike Glanton (D-Jonesboro), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to enact the “Unlocking the Promise Community Schools Act” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-640 et seq. and specifically require that the State’s school superintendent establish a program to provide “whole child model school certification to schools that develop for implementation a whole child model school plan which is developed in consultation with community partners to promote and implement effective coordination of wraparound services and supports for the school and provide for processes to actively engage community partners in meaningful ways.”

[HB 892](#), authored by Representative Beth Moore (D-Peachtree Corners), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4, regarding school bullying policies, to direct the Department of Education to revise its policies on bullying and include whether such incidents are to be reported to law enforcement.

[HB 896](#), authored by Representative Robert Trammell (D-Luthersville), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-366(d) to provide that students, other than non-immigrant aliens as defined by federal law, would be required to be classified as in-state students for tuition purposes subject to certain conditions.

[HB 898](#), authored by Representative Mike Wilensky (D-Dunwoody), reported out of the House Governmental Affairs Committee with a do pass recommendation. The bill remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 36-66-5(b) regarding hearing processes and procedures and standards for exercise of zoning powers so that such standards might include the effect of the proposed zoning decision on local school systems and the potential overcrowding of schools within such local school systems.

[HB 908](#), authored by Representative Michael Smith (D-Marietta), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131(c) to require local school systems to notify parents annually on the system’s website about information on the enrollment process for children who are not assigned to that district.

[HB 920](#), authored by Representative David Clark (R-Buford), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Title 20 to provide that students, including but not limited to students who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes, would be eligible for waivers of out-of-state tuition and fees under specified

conditions: “(A) Attended a secondary school in this state for three consecutive years immediately before graduating from a high school in this state; (B) Applied for enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution in this state within 24 months after high school graduation; and (C) Submitted to the postsecondary educational institution an official transcript verifying such student's attendance record and graduation from a high school in this state.”

[HB 940](#), authored by Representative Gregg Kennard (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought amendments in O.C.G.A. § 202-2-150(c), § 20-2-151(b) and § 20-2-690.1 to lower mandatory age for school attendance for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten prior to children entering the first grade by lowering the compulsory school age attendance from six years to four years. These changes would have been subject to appropriations.

[HB 995](#), authored by Representative Josh Bonner (R-Fayetteville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-48 the “Forming Open and Robust University Minds (“FORUM”) Act.” It proposed to prohibit the creation of “free speech zones” at public education institutions within the Board of Regents system and Technical College System of Georgia.

[HB 997](#), authored by Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to enact the “Georgia Resident In-State Tuition Act” by amending O.C.G.A. § 20-3-66(d) and O.C.G.A. § 20-4-21(d) so that a student other than a non-immigrant alien would be classified for in-state tuition under specified conditions.

[HB 1001](#), authored by Representative Valencia Stovall (D-Forest Park), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Dunson, Hatcher and Wells Act” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.2 to require that video monitoring cameras be utilized in classrooms providing special education services to students who qualify for such services.

[HB 1010](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), was originally assigned to the House Judiciary Committee but was recommitted to the House Industry and Labor Committee where it remained. Therefore, the legislation failed. It sought protections in Titles 20, 34 and 45 to prohibit discrimination based upon an individual’s hairstyle or hair texture and hair type.

[HB 1023](#), authored by Representative David Dreyer (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed creating a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-3-680 to direct that the board of regents waive mandatory special institutional fees for graduate assistants (those who work 20 hours or more per week as a graduate teaching or research assistant).

[HB 1026](#), authored by Representative Robert Dickey (R-Musella), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation sought to address the REACH Scholars program in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-499(b) by limiting the numbers of scholars to eight (for larger school systems) and five (for smaller school systems). Currently, the numbers allowed are twelve and seven, respectively.

[HB 1031](#), authored by Representative Becky Evans (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to change O.C.G.A. § 46-2-25(c.1) to prohibit the recovery of certain financing costs of the construction of nuclear generation plants from public schools.

[HB 1041](#), authored by Representative Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add, in part, at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1018 that the each “local board of education shall establish a review committee, which shall include volunteer community representatives appointed by board members; provided, however, that such volunteer community representatives shall not include persons who are employees of the local board of education. The committee shall review all instructional materials, library materials, and media center materials, to include books and data bases, to determine whether they contain materials deemed harmful to minors as provided for in Code Section 16-12-103 or provide access to such materials through digital portals.” It further sought criminal penalties for violations in Title 16.

[HB 1055](#), authored by Representative Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Chapter 2 of Title 20 to authorize home study students in grades six through 12 to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities in the student's resident public school system and provide that home study students shall complete one qualifying online course in a core academic subject facilitated by the resident school system for each semester of the regular school year during any part of which the home study student participates in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity.

[HB 1059](#), authored by Representative Ginny Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to revise Article 33 of Chapter 2 of Title 20, relating to the “Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act,” to expand eligibility and revise the prior school year requirement for participation and to change eligibility requirements and basis for calculating scholarship amounts. It further proposed to require annual parent surveys and a complaint procedure for scholarship calculations.

[HB 1065](#), authored by Representative Michael Smith (D-Marietta), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-210, relating to annual performance evaluation of teachers, so as to provide that a teacher who has accepted a certain number of consecutive school year contracts and who receives certain annual performance ratings would be required to be offered the opportunity to request a new evaluator for the following school year.

[HB 1084](#), authored by Representative Mike Cheokas (R-Americus), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to create at O.C.G.A. 50-12-110 et seq. the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals to “foster a public-private partnership for support of postsecondary teaching professionals in high demand courses, subjects, and disciplines.”

[HB 1085](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-3-411(2)(B) to expand what is considered an “approved school” for tuition equalization grants.

[HB 1091](#), authored by Representative David Clark (R-Buford), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-145 to require students in secondary schools receiving state funds to pass a separate course focused on economics, personal finance and financial literacy.

[HB 1095](#), authored by Representative Chris Erwin (R-Homer), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 regarding teacher evaluations so that if a teacher received two consecutive school years unsatisfactory, ineffective, or needs development annual summative performance evaluations, then such teacher would not be eligible for a renewable certificate from the Professional Standards Commission. If such teacher received an unsatisfactory evaluation, then he or she could request a new evaluator.

[HB 1106](#), authored by Representative Mike Glanton (D-Jonesboro), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Unlocking the Promise Whole Child Model Schools Act” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-640 et seq. It would have required the State Board of Education to establish a program for the whole child model school certification which schools would implement in consultation with their community partners to “promote and ensure effective coordination of wraparound services and supports for the school and provide for processes to actively engage community partners in meaningful ways.”

[HB 1168](#), authored by Representative Dewayne Hill (R-Ringgold), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142.1(c), regarding a local board of education’s requirement of a student’s passage of separate course on the founding principles and philosophy of the United States of America to clarify that the Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution.

[HB 1237](#), authored by Representative Dewayne Hill (R-Ringgold), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142.1 to provide that the Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution and had origins in rationalism, empiricism, and religious texts, including, but not limited to, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible. This legislation was like an earlier version he offered on this subject, HB 1168. See [HB 1168](#).

[HR 791](#), authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to encourage the Georgia High School Association to perform a thorough assessment of its operations and practices.

[HR 893](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought a Constitutional Amendment at Article II, Section I, Paragraph II to provide that persons who are at least 16 years of age would be permitted to vote in school district elections and elections affecting school funding.

[HR 962](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. This Constitutional Amendment proposal to Article VII sought to authorize the General Assembly to provide by “general law for local boards of education to call for local referenda to authorize assessment of residential homesteaded property owned by individuals of certain ages at 20 percent of such property's fair market value regarding local school district taxes for educational purposes.” Once authorized, no such assessment would be permitted to be repealed except by local law.

[HR 1095](#), authored by Representative Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed that the Georgia Department of Education and the Department of Public Health encourage all schools to participate in a school-located influenza vaccination program.

[HR 1367](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed to urge local boards of education to ensure that each of its schools have an operational wheelchair onsite.

[HR 1410](#), authored by Representative Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a Constitutional Amendment to Article VIII, Section IV to waive the state's defense of sovereign immunity regarding actions of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and provide that such board would be subject to an oversight panel. See [HR 1023](#).

[HR 1475](#), authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution sought to encourage the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to perform a “thorough assessment of its operations and practices pertaining to the inclusion of GHSA member officials on the GHSA Executive Committee.”

[SB 102](#), authored by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation sought to enact in Article 14 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 the “Unlocking the Promise Whole Child Model Schools Act.” This Act would have required that the State Board of Education establish a program to provide for the “whole child model school certification to each school that successfully implements a sustainable whole child model school plan which is developed in consultation with community partners to promote and ensure effective coordination of wraparound services and supports for the school and provide for processes to actively engage community partners in meaningful ways.”

[SB 165](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to specifically add at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-621 that the State Board of Education would be required to designate a “nonprofit organization to govern high school athletics for public schools in this state that meets the requirements in this article.”

[SB 209](#), authored by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee after being recommitted in 2020, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend

O.C.G.A. § 20-14-33(c), addressing indicators of quality learning in schools, to eliminate the star rating for financial efficiency.

[SB 210](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), reported out of the Senate Education and Youth Committee by Substitute in 2019. This year, the legislation was recommitted to the Education and Youth Committee where it remained. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed to add at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-323 that recess was to be provided to children in kindergarten through grades five every day.

[SB 278](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-3-66 so that an institution of the university system could award out-of-state tuition differential waivers and assess in-state tuition to persons who are unable to be classified as in-state for tuition purposes. These 10 percent waiver differentials would have been permitted to be granted by Albany State University, Fort Valley State University, and Savannah State University.

[SB 282](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), remained in the Senate Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-3-66.1 so as to require that research universities in Georgia, supported by public funds, “ensure that at least 90 percent of early action admissions are offered to Georgia resident students.”

[SB 318](#), authored by Senator William Ligon, Jr. (R-Brunswick), was postponed in the House a number of times, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed amendments to Title 20 so as to provide for public forums at public institutions of higher education within the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia for the campus community and prevent the creation of “free speech zones” at such public institutions of higher education.

[SB 343](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1(a) so as to increase the mandatory education age from sixteen to seventeen years of age.

[SB 349](#), authored by Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-779.2 so as to require local boards of education to provide feminine hygiene products to students in grades six through twelve at no charge to the students and authorize the Department of Education to promulgate model policies and guidance for local boards of education to follow.

[SB 354](#), authored by Senator Elena Parent (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-19 so as to include a new “activity” to be considered for eligibility in the CAPS (Childcare and Parent Services) program, adding that an individual’s attendance in a four-year bachelor of arts or bachelor of science program would be counted.

[SB 386](#), authored by Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford), passed the Senate, but it remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore failed. It would have expanded Georgia’s Special

Needs Scholarship in Chapter 2 of Title 20 to allow any student with a Section 504 Plan or a diagnosis for one of several conditions to be eligible to receive funds. The bill would have also removed the prior year attendance requirement for children of military families and children adopted from foster care.

[SB 387](#), authored by Senator Jennifer Jordan (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to authorize, in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-187(b), the State Board of Education to promulgate rules and regulations for a course of instruction in nutrition, hygiene, etiquette, and social graces relating to the preparation of food.

[SB 398](#), authored by Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to enact a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-323.1 to create the “After School Recess Act,” prohibiting the assignment of graded homework for students in grades kindergarten through second grade with certain exceptions by local school systems.

[SB 400](#), authored by Senator Elena Parent (D-Atlanta), reported out of the Senate Higher Education Committee as a new Substitute and made it to the Senate Floor where it was tabled on March 12. Thus, the legislation failed. It sought to address the “Move on When Ready” to require the Georgia Student Finance Commission to establish participation targets for the program. See [HB 444](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), which addressed dual enrollment and was passed.

[SB 421](#), authored by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Unlocking the Promise While Child Models School Act” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-640 et seq. The State Board of Education would have been required to establish a program to provide whole child model school certification to schools that successfully implement a sustainable whole child model school plan which would have been “developed in consultation with community partners to promote and ensure effective coordination of wraparound services and supports for the school and provide for processes to actively engage community partners in meaningful ways.”

[SB 423](#), authored by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Max Gruver Act” so as to address the crime of “hazing” in Title 16 and Title 20.

[SB 440](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought amendments in Chapter 2 of Title 20 to permit certain individuals ages 21-35 to enroll in a charter school which would provide instruction solely to over-age students. It also proposed that the State Board of Education establish rules and regulations for such program.

[SB 447](#), authored by Senator P.K. Martin, IV (R-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to address “work-based learning” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161.2, adding a number of definitions such as ‘career technical student organization’ and ‘cooperative education.’”

[SB 456](#), authored by Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to create a new Article 13 in Chapter 3 of Title 20 to permit the calculation of fees for part-time students in the University System of Georgia or Technical College System of Georgia so that such would be calculated based on the per-credit hour rate.

[SB 457](#), authored by Senator Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Higher Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 20-3-680 to direct that the board of regents waive special institutional fees for graduate assistants. This legislation mirrored the House version of the concept, [HB 1023](#), authored by Representative David Dreyer (D-Atlanta) which also failed to pass.

[SB 465](#), authored by Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161 to require that the State Board of Education establish requirements for “temporary classrooms.”

[SB 466](#), authored by Senator P.K. Martin, IV (R-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 20-200(c) regarding regulation of certificated professional personnel by the Professional Standards Commission by removing the “needs development rating” from the group of performance evaluation ratings which may impact an educator’s ability to obtain a renewable certificate and remove that rating from the group of performance evaluation ratings which are to be reported by the local school systems to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. It further proposed a pilot program for an alternative personnel evaluation system.

[SB 486](#), authored by Senator P. K. Martin, IV (R-Lawrenceville), reported out of the Senate Education and Youth Committee and made it to the Senate Floor where it was tabled in the Senate on March 12, 2020. Therefore, the bill failed. It sought to require at O.C.G.A. § 20-2-281.2 that each local school system, each state charter school, with students in grade 11; and the Department of Juvenile Justice select and administer, with state funding, a nationally recognized college entrance exam to public school students enrolled in grade 11 who choose to participate. The exam would have been provided for during normal school hours.

[SB 505](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), remained in the Senate Education and Youth Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142.1 that the Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the Constitution and a part of the philosophy and principles of the United States of America. This legislation mirrors proposals offered by Representative Dewayne Hill (R-Ringgold), [HB 1168](#) and [HB 1237](#), which also failed.

Employment

[HB 1094](#), authored by Representative Houston Gaines (R-Athens), failed as the House disagreed to the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor Committee's Substitute which was passed by the Senate. As the legislation left the House, it amended O.C.G.A. § 45-20-17 to provide for paid parental leave for state employees and local board of education employees who were employed for six months and following "qualifying life events." The Senate's version stripped out this language and inserted in its place salary reductions for the Lieutenant Governor and members of the General Assembly until for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. See [SB 416](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) which imposed salary reductions for the Lieutenant Governor and members of the General Assembly and became **Act Number 469**.

[SB 327](#), authored by Senator Zahra Karinshak (D-Duluth), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 34-1-6 to require employers to the extent reasonably possible to provide reasonable break time to an employee who needs to express breast milk for her nursing child. This legislation is similar to that passed by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs). See [HB 1090](#).

Health

[HB 264](#), authored by Representative Bill Werkheiser (R-Glenngville), initially had conferees appointed by both the House and Senate for a Conference Committee in 2019; no resolution was reached, and the House appointed conferees again on June 25, 2020 but the Senate made no appointments. Therefore, the bill failed as no Conference Committee Report was issued and adopted. The proposal sought in Title 31 to establish that bylaws and conflicts of self-interest policies be established by local coordinating entities regarding emergency medical services.

[HB 542](#), authored by Representative Todd Jones (R-Cumming), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a pilot program in Chapter 8 of Title 31 to conduct a simulated exchange for health care facilities to purchase and sell charity care credits to meet their charity care requirements. This "floor and trade" concept was added into [SB 71](#), authored by Senator Ben Watson (R-Savannah), but that bill failed on the House Floor with a vote of 83-79 after a heated discussion on the issue.

[HB 544](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstoration (R-Dacula), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought revisions in Chapter 7 of Title 37 regarding emergency involuntary treatment and ensuring records from the physician are made a part of a court order.

[HB 719](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to address who may perform HIV tests and to update Georgia's HIV-related laws in Titles 15, 16 and 31. It also sought to provide that hypodermic needles and syringes are not considered drug-related objects.

[HB 745](#), authored by Representative “Able” Mable Thomas (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Georgia Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act” in O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-60 et seq. to address biases in pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal care.

[HB 746](#), authored by Representative Dar’shun Kendrick (D-Lithonia), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add at O.C.G.A. § 31-9A-3.1, relating to the “Woman’s Right to Know Act,” to authorize any female upon whom an abortion is to be performed to decide not to receive or review informational materials regarding an unborn child, certify that she received or reviewed such informational materials, view the fetal image, or hear the fetal heartbeat prior to obtaining an abortion.

[HB 748](#), authored by Representative Roger Bruce (D-Atlanta), was prefiled and never formally introduced; therefore, no action was taken. It sought changes in Chapter 8 of Title 31 to provide added protections to the elderly.

[HB 767](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to require that the Department of Public Health capture data on veterans’ suicide and report that information annually in O.C.G.A. § 31-10-34 and to create the Commission on Veteran Suicide Prevention within the Department of Veterans Services in O.C.G.A. § 38-4-15.

[HB 800](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought an addition to the Code at O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159, regarding Medicaid, so that any licensed out-of-state health care provider providing obstetrical/gynecological services, within 50 miles of the Georgia borders, would be considered an in-state provider as long as the provider was licensed in good standing in the bordering state. Rates paid to these providers would be the same rate as provided to providers located within Georgia pursuant to an agreement or compact entered into between the Department of Community Health and the bordering state.

[HB 801](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (R-Rex), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Safe Patient Limits Act” by providing hospital staffing requirements for nurses and numbers of patients assigned to such nurses in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-23.

[HB 842](#), authored by Representative Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact “Gracie’s Law” in Titles 31 and 33 to prohibit providers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient and to prohibit health insurers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient.

[HB 849](#), authored by Representative Demetrius Douglas (D-Stockbridge), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact in O.C.G.A. §

31-8-140 et seq. the “Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act” to provide greater protections to the elderly.

[HB 881](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. This legislation proposed revisions to Georgia’s “Safe Place for Newborns Act of 2002” in O.C.G.A. § 19-10A-1 et seq. Under current law, a new mother may leave a newborn (no more than 30 days old) with an employee, agent, or member of the staff of a medical facility, fire station, or police station when that person is on duty, whether there in a paid or volunteer position. This legislation proposed that a newborn could also be left in the care of an ambulance service provider.

[HB 910](#), authored by Representative Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to regulate and license midwives in Title 43.

[HB 955](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstrotation (R-Dacula), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, the legislation failed. It sought changes in Titles 16, 30 and 31, so as to repeal the current law regarding enhanced penalties relating to simple battery and battery against a person who is 65 years of age or older or by an employee, agent, or volunteer in a long-term care facility and provide for criminal offenses for failure to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of disabled adults or elder persons. See [HB 987](#) authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) which became **Act Number 403** on June 30, 2020 and became effective on that date.

[HB 1007](#), authored by Representative Demetrius Douglas (D-Stockbridge), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a new Chapter 54 in Title 31 to enact the “Coach Safely Act,” requiring volunteer coaches with youth athletic associations to undergo training to reduce the likelihood of injuries to youth.

[HB 1024](#), authored by Representative Mark Newton (R-Augusta), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to add two exemptions to Georgia’s Certificate of Need laws in O.C.G.A. § 31-6-47 so as to provide an exemption for increases in capacity or unused beds of a private or public hospital in rural county used exclusively for the treatment of behavioral health or developmental disabilities services and for a “freestanding emergency department.”

[HB 1032](#), authored by Representative Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Public Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Title 31 so as to permit a behavioral rehabilitation joint venture (an agreement between a public or private general acute care hospital which has vacant beds and an institution for mental diseases to authorize the institution for mental diseases to manage up to 16 of the hospital's vacant beds as behavioral rehabilitation swing beds for the treatment of its patients). The legislation also attempted to address that certain facilities that perform medical procedures only in non-sterile procedure rooms that are exempt from certificate of need (“CON”) requirements or are not required to obtain a certificate of need are not subject to certain requirements relating to their physical plant under certificate of need laws. The contents of this bill were added into other

moving bills, including [SB 483](#). Those bills also failed. The hospitals in the state were in favor of the portion of the bill addressing the behavioral rehabilitation joint venture; they did not favor a wide opening Georgia's CON laws.

[HB 1054](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought, in part, to amend O.C.G.A. § 31-12-6 to authorize the Department of Public Health to consider the recommendations from the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee and include disorders which are added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel. It further directed that the Department of Public Health provide for newborn screening for Krabbe disease, which was proposed to be conducted separately at the option of the parent or parents.

[HB 1105](#), authored by Representative Mark Newton (R-Augusta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the "Patient Protection Through Health Information Exchange Act." The bill proposed to set forth parameters for health care data protection that must be followed by health care facilities in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-286 et seq.

[HB 1134](#), authored by Representative Beth Moore (D-Peachtree Corners), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to repeal the provisions passed and signed into law in [HB 481](#), the Living Infants Fairness and Equality Act" (relating to the performance of abortions) in 2019. The changes offered were in Titles 16, 19, 31 and 48.

[HR 1478](#), authored by Representative Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution sought parity for breast pump collection and storage supplies.

[HR 1549](#), authored by Representative Karen Bennett (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. This Resolution sought to support, and outline, the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus Legislative Advisory Group's COVID-19 policy recommendations.

[HR 1599](#), authored by Representative Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution sought to urge all Georgia law enforcement agencies to implement pre-employment psychological testing and mental health wellness reviews and improve current training practices for peace officers.

[SB 71](#), authored by Senator Ben Watson (R-Savannah), failed on the House Floor on June 25, 2020. Originally, this legislation addressed sales or leases of a hospital owned by a hospital authority. However, it was reported out of the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care in a new substitute which had all new language, addressing Representative Todd Jones' (R-Cumming) idea of "floor and trade" to address indigent and charity care through the selling of charity care credits in a pilot program in O.C.G.A. § 31-8-320 et seq. It was this version of the bill which was voted down on the House Floor. See also [HB 542](#) which also failed to move.

[SB 101](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), was tabled on the Senate Floor on March 12, 2020; therefore, the bill failed as it did not survive crossover day. It sought to create a new Chapter 54 in Title 31 to enact the “Coach Safely Act,” requiring volunteer coaches to undergo training to reduce student athlete injuries. See also [HB 1007](#) authored by Representative Demetrius Douglas (D-Stockbridge) which also failed as it remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 279](#), authored by Senator Jennifer Jordan (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to prohibit in O.C.G.A. § 31-9-6.1 pelvic examinations on an anesthetized or unconscious female patient without consent or a court order except in emergency instances.

[SB 291](#), authored by Senator Steve Henson (D-Tucker), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Georgia Death with Dignity Act” (physician-assisted end-of-life options for individuals who are terminally ill) in O.C.G.A. § 31-54-1 et seq.

[SB 347](#), authored by Senator Gloria Butler (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 31-7-23 so as require that each hospital and ambulatory surgical center adopt and implement a policy that prevents human exposure to surgical smoke through the use of a surgical smoke evacuation system during any surgical or invasive procedure that is likely to generate surgical smoke. A Senate Study Committee has been formed to look further at this issue. See [SR 981](#), authored by Senator Butler.

[SB 361](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact “Jay’s Law” to require that hospitals establish protocols for the early recognition and treatment of sepsis. Hospitals were also proposed to train staff to recognize and treat patients with sepsis in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-23.

[SB 424](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Public Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Accessible Health Care for Rural Georgia Act” by amending Georgia’s Certificate of Need laws in Chapter 6 of Title 31 which included requiring general cancer hospitals to provide at least three (3) percent uncompensated and indigent or charity care and publishing of a detailed accounting of all unpaid fines and other amounts owed by a general cancer hospital.

[SB 483](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), remained in the House Rules Committee. The bill, after receiving a DO PASS recommendation from the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care and moving forward to the House Rules Calendar, was later withdrawn and recommitted to the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the bill failed. The legislation began with the proposed creation of the “Behavioral Rehabilitation and Stability Services Act” in Chapter 2 of Title 31 to allow for certain Medicaid reimbursement for patients treated pursuant to a behavioral rehabilitation joint venture. The bill was amended in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care in order to make changes in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-3 so as to provide that certain facilities that perform medical procedures in non-sterile

procedure rooms, that are exempt from certificate of need (“CON”) requirements or are not required to obtain a certificate of need, are not subject to specific requirements relating to their physical plant under CON.

[SB 484](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact a new Chapter 54 in Title 31 to adopt the “Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases.” This idea was promoted during November 2019 in the Lieutenant Governor’s Task Force on Health Care Access and Cost. The proposal has been implemented in the State of Ohio and was the brainchild of that state’s Speaker Pro Tem Jim Butler.

[SB 500](#), authored by Senator Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to add at O.C.G.A. § 31-7-175(b) that the Department of Community Health would be prohibited from requiring that a hospice administrator be a healthcare professional or an individual with education, training and experience in healthcare services administration.

Insurance

[HB 61](#), authored by Representative Mike Glanton (D-Jonesboro), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Chapter 9 of Title 33 to allow motor vehicle insurance companies to offer reduced rates to active duty military members.

[HB 167](#), authored by Representative Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville), passed the Senate but did not receive a special action vote due to the Senate’s changes imposed, and therefore, the legislation failed. The legislation originally related to residential property insurance claims but was substituted to become a COVID-related tort reform bill. Specifically, the bill amended Chapter 1 of Title 51 to provide protections for health care facilities and providers from lawsuits arising out of the transmission of COVID to patients unless the transmission was caused by a willful act of misconduct or omission. See [SB 359](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) which passed and addresses liability protections for businesses.

[HB 540](#), authored by Representative Trey Rhodes (R-Greensboro), passed the Senate but failed with the lack of the House agreeing to the Senate’s Substitute language. The original legislation amended O.C.G.A. § 33-1-18(b) so as to allow a housing tax credit to be used against taxes imposed under O.C.G.A. § 33-3-26 with respect to each qualified Georgia project placed in service after January 1, 2020. The Senate Committee on Finance added in a new Chapter 20E in Title 33, a new version on “balance billing” for health costs, to establish standards for insurers and health care providers with regard to payment under a health benefit plan in the provision of emergency medical services. See [HB 888](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) which became **Act Number 470** on July 16, 2020.

[HB 583](#), authored by Representative Noel Williams (R-Cordele), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Chapter 7 of Title 33 to provide for updates to the state's regulation of travel insurance.

[HB 606](#), authored by Representative Patty Bentley (D-Butler), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It originally proposed to amend Title 1 of Chapter 33 to require life insurers to provide information to funeral homes within 24 hours of the funeral home's notification of the insured's death but was substituted to become the "Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act." This new language sought to update how the state accepts applications of credits for capital investments.

[HB 798](#), authored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 40-9-102 to require that any person who rents a motor vehicle with a total length of 14 feet or more, not including recreational vehicles, must obtain "spot" insurance four times the minimum requirements.

[HB 863](#), authored by Representative Scot Tuner (R-Holly Springs), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. 33-3-21.1 to require insurers that write property and casualty insurance to annually report certain information to the Insurance Commissioner.

[HB 930](#), authored by Representative John Corbett (R-Lake Park), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-1-25 to create the "Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act" by altering the process for capital investments in rural counties. The bill's language was also substituted into [HB 606](#), authored by Representative Patty Bentley (D-Butler), which also failed to receive final passage.

[HB 1045](#), authored by Representative Don Hogan (R-St. Simon's Island), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-8-8.3 to include flood risk reduction on the list of purposes that ad valorem taxes on insurance must be used.

[HB 1079](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 49-4-142.3 and § 33-1-26 to authorize the Governor to file Medicaid 1115 and 1332 waivers that would include individuals up to 138% of the poverty line.

[HB 1101](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-3-28 to require insurers providing liability and casualty insurance provide a statement regarding each applicable insurance policy in any case upon request of a claimant or claimant's agent.

[HB 1116](#), authored by Representative Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-7-11 to adjust the penalty for an insurer of motor liability insurance that fails to pay for a claims request in bad faith.

[HB 1153](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Title 33 to provide consumer protections for short-term health insurance coverage, providing for a 181-day coverage limit in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.27.

[SB 124](#), authored by Senator P.K. Martin (R-Lawrenceville), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Chapter 24 of Title 33 to clarify that a notice of a reduction in coverage in auto insurance must use 12-point type and all capital letters.

[SB 192](#), authored by Senator Burt Jones (R-Jackson), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to revise Chapter 41 of Title 33 to rework the state's regulations of captive insurance companies. See [HB 99](#), authored by Representative Richard Smith (R-Columbus), which passed in 2019 and became **Act Number 186** on May 6, 2019.

[SB 311](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to require hospitals to report the annual number of debt collection activities that involve a legal or judicial process on their websites in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-22.

[SB 348](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create the “Consumer Right to Access Act” by adding language in new Chapters 20C and 20E of Title 33 to require insurers to cover any provider's services for at least 90 days after the provider leaves the insurance network for individuals that enrolled in the plan while the provider was in-network. The bill also sets requirements for insurers to regularly update online directories.

[SB 352](#), authored by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 33-20C-2 by adding a new subsection (g) so that when an insurer's provider directory includes a provider as a participating provider for a network plan at such time as a prospective covered person selects his or her health benefit plan, such insurer would be required to cover the provider charges at in-network rates for the duration of the contract year for such covered person, regardless of whether such provider remains a participating provider in the insurer's network plan, and would have been required to ensure that the covered person not be responsible for more than the amount for which he or she would have been responsible had the services been delivered by an in-network provider under the network plan.

[SB 360](#), authored by Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to require in Chapter 24 of Title 33 that diagnostic exams for breast cancer are treated no differently than screening examinations for breast cancer for cost-sharing purposes.

[SB 376](#), authored by Senator Jennifer Jordan (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to limit the total cost-sharing cost of insulin to \$100 per 30-day supply in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.27.

[SB 412](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 33-7-6 certain types of damage to vehicles to the list of covered repairs for property insurance claims (e.g. such as damage due to potholes in roads, lost or stolen key fobs, etc.).

[SB 432](#), authored by Senator Marty Harbin (R-Tyrone), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to require all issuers of life insurance to provide annual disclosure of the existence of the policy to the policy owner in O.C.G.A. § 33-25-14.1.

[SB 433](#), authored by Senator Burt Jones (R-Jackson), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed in a new Chapter 20E of Title 33 to require disclosure of diabetes drug pricing and reporting from insurers about pricing and claims for diabetes drugs.

[SB 523](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to require all health benefit plans that provide maternity benefits to provide coverage for the costs associated with home childbirth in O.C.G.A. § 33-24-59.27.

Motor Vehicles

[HB 900](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), remained in the Senate Public Safety Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 40-2-86(m)(9), specialty license plates for nonprofits, to redesign the plate for breast cancer by permitting a new design of a pink ribbon.

[HB 1020](#), authored by Representative Micah Gravley (R-Douglasville), failed on the final days of the Session after Conference Committee appointees were appointed on both the House and Senate sides. No Conference Committee Report, however, was agreed upon. The legislation had several changes in the process, seeking amendments in Title 40. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed amendments in Title 40, in part, to allow licensed driver training schools to conduct on-the-road testing and reduce the number of required hours in the intervention component of DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs (from 20 to 16 hours).

[HB 1080](#), authored by Representative Debra Bazemore (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Motor Vehicles Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill sought to create a special license plate with the proceeds of the sales of such tags to benefit the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education, Inc. in O.C.G.A. § 40-2-86(m).

[HB 1082](#), authored by Representative Alan Powell (R-Hartwell), remained in the Senate Public Safety Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact changes in Chapter 11 of Title 40 to

provide for notification letter for retrieving a motor vehicle held by a towing and storage firm, repair facility, or salvage dealer and for fees relating to filing of a petition of foreclosure for an abandoned motor vehicle.

[HB 1100](#), authored by Representative Jason Ridley (R-Chatsworth), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought several changes on licenses plates' issuances for distributors, dealers, and brokers in Titles 32, 40 and 43.

[SB 329](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed enactment of a new Chapter 3A in Title 7 to create the "Motor Vehicle Title Loan Act," requiring persons engaged in the practice of making motor vehicle loans to be licensed.

Natural Resources

[HB 929](#), authored by Representative Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain), remained in the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to make changes to Georgia's laws on solid waste management to provide for post-closure groundwater monitoring at closed coal combustion residual impoundments in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-24.

[HB 1015](#), authored by Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in Article 5 of Chapter 6 of Title 12, relating to Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry, for the inclusion of building products in construction on that registry.

[HR 930](#), authored by Representative Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City), remained in the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed that the State endorse the Stand4Forests Platform.

Pharmacy

[HB 947](#), authored by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159 to require that the Department of Community Health "engage an actuary to conduct an actuarial study, to be completed no later than December 1, 2020, of the fiscal impact of carving out the pharmacy benefits from the state's current Medicaid care management organizations and providing pharmacy benefits to care management organization members exclusively through the department's Medicaid fee-for-service program." The Department of Community Health has already undertaken an effort to address this issue; thus, no legislation was needed.

[HB 961](#), authored by Representative Sam Park (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to create a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 31-2-17 in order to require that the Department of Community Health, with collaboration from the State Board of Pharmacy, annually identify up to 15 prescription drugs on which the state expends significant health care funds for which the wholesale acquisition cost has increased by 50 percent or more over the past five years or by 15 percent or more over the past 12 months, creating a substantial public interest in understanding the development of the drugs' pricing. The Department of Community Health was also proposed to report this information to the Attorney General and make the information available to the public on the Department's website.

[HB 1027](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought revisions regarding regulations of pharmacy benefit managers and disclosure of rebates of drugs in Chapter 64 of Title 33. See [HB 946](#), authored by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), which includes language regarding rebates on pharmaceuticals and [SB 313](#), authored by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), which mirrors HB 946.

[HB 1128](#), authored by Representative Sam Park (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Title 33 to address pharmacy benefit manager ("PBM") practices and provide more transparency requirements. See [HB 946](#), authored by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), and [SB 313](#), authored by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge).

[HB 1151](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Insurance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Title 33 to provide for protections from balanced billing for health insurance consumers. See [HB 888](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) which became **Act Number 470** on July 16, 2020.

[SB 293](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), remained in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Chapter 20E in Title 33 to provide protections for patients from balanced billing. See [HB 888](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) which became **Act Number 470** on July 16, 2020.

Professions

[HB 717](#), authored by Representative Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a new chapter in Title 43 to provide for the "Georgia Licensed Midwife Act" to license these individuals. There were other bills seeking licensure of midwives; each of those failed to pass.

[HB 727](#), authored by Representative Teri Anulewicz (D-Smyrna), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed changes in O.C.G.A. § 43-10-10 to enact the "Domestic Violence Helping Hands Act." It sought to require that a

portion of the continuing education hours required for licensure as a cosmetologist, esthetician, nail technician, hair designer, or barber be on domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness.

[HB 739](#), authored by Representative Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 43-34-13 which sought to outline the requirements to work as a “surgical technologist (defined as an individual who is employed or contracted by a health care facility to perform surgical technology tasks and functions under the direct supervision of a surgeon).

[HB 773](#), authored by Representative Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-35 to provide for reciprocal licensing of professions, occupations, and trades for individuals licensed outside of the State of Georgia (aimed at military spouses in particular).

[HB 790](#), authored by Representative Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments in Title 43 to change certain provisions relating to certain boxing, wrestling, and martial art associations and federations and provide for the profession of a “professional structural engineer.”

[HB 886](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes to laws regarding veterinary medicine and specifically added at O.C.G.A. § 43-50-4 that the Board of Veterinary Medicine, or its designee, “establish and maintain an online data base that enables pet owners who reside in this state to register pets with microchips with the board so that ownership information of such pets may be searched.”

[HB 956](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed for the state to enter into the “Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact” in Chapter 44 of Title 43. See SB 306, authored by Senator Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale) which passed.

[HB 996](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 43-34-242 the definition for the term, ‘cosmetic laser services’ to include “energy based medical procedures using an ultrasound, cryolipolysis, microwave, or radio frequency device that is not expected or intended to remove, burn, or vaporize the live epidermal surface of the skin, but may damage underlying tissue, if used inappropriately.”

[HB 1092](#), authored by Representative Alan Powell (R-Hartwell), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 43-34-25 so as to authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations and increase the number of advanced practice registered nurses with whom a delegating physician can enter into a nurse protocol agreement and supervise at one time (moving that number from four to six). See SB 321 authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) which became **Act Number 563**.

[HB 1222](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a new Chapter 24B in Title 43 to provide for the licensure and regulation of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals and to create the Georgia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board.

[HB 1241](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Chapter 7A in Title 43 to provide for the licensure of individuals in the practice of applied behavior analysis and create the Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board.

[HB 1251](#), authored by Representative Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a new Chapter 24B in Title 43 to enact the “Georgia Licensed Midwife Act” so as to license certified professional midwives. There were other bills regarding licensing of midwives; each failed. See [HB 717](#), [HB 910](#), [SB 267](#), [SB 334](#)

[SB 76](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), remained in the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to change in O.C.G.A. § 4-11-17 and re-designate the term ‘veterinary technician’ with ‘registered veterinary nurse’. It further proposed clarifying changes in Chapter 26 of Title 43 so that these “registered veterinary nurses” could use the title ‘nurse’.

[SB 109](#), authored by Senator Larry Walker, III (R-Perry), was recommitted this year to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee after making it to the Senate Floor in 2019 but tabled at the end of the Session. However, the legislation did not move in 2020 and failed. The bill sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 43-34-25 so as to allow advanced practice registered nurses to order radiographic imaging tests for patients in non-life-threatening situations. See [SB 321](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), which grants this permission to advanced practice nurses that passed.

[SB 316](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), had action postponed by the House and was not taken up, and therefore the bill failed. This legislation proposed to provide for military spouses licensed in other states to practice certain professions and occupations to obtain a license by endorsement to practice in this state in Title 43, and it mirrors the bill, HB 914, authored by Representative Heath Clark (R-Warner Robins) which passed. See [HB 914](#).

[SB 334](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to enact the “Certified Community Midwife Act” to provide for the regulation of midwives in Chapter 24B of Title 43.

[SB 355](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Chapter 4B of Title 43 to change certain provisions relating to certain boxing, wrestling, and martial art associations and federations. See [SB 310](#), authored by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), which dealt with this issue. SB 310 passed.

[SB 379](#), authored by Senator Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed changes in Chapter 10 of Title 43 which in part would have added new definitions for terms such as ‘cosmetology apprentice,’ ‘school of barber II,’ and ‘school of master barber.’

[SB 401](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), remained in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed changes to O.C.G.A. § 43-27-2 relating to the State Board of Nursing Home Administrators. Specifically, it proposed to reduce the numbers of members on the Board from 13 to 7 and that the Board be composed of the following members:

- (1) Five members who are licensed nursing home administrators in this state, at least one of whom shall represent nonproprietary nursing homes, and at least one of whom shall be a licensed registered professional nurse in this state;
- (2) One member from the Healthcare Facility Regulation Division of the Department of Community Health; and
- (3) One member of the public at large who is not a nursing home administrator or financially interested in any nursing home or has any connection with the nursing home industry whatsoever.

[SB 417](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a change in O.C.G.A. § 43-34-13(a) to address criminal background checks for an “expedited physician licensee.” See [HB 752](#), authored by Representative Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), which passed and incorporated the changes for expedited physician licensure.

Public Safety

[HB 760](#), authored by Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed amendments in Chapter 3 of Title 37 to permit peace officers the ability to take a person within a county or adjoining county for emergency examination.

[HB 772](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to enact the “Green Call Act” at O.C.G.A. § 35-3-220 et seq. so as to require that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, with the cooperation of the Office of the Governor, Georgia Lottery Corporation, and other law enforcement agencies, develop and implement a statewide alert system for missing at-risk military veterans or military service members.

[HB 1021](#), authored by Representative Bill Hitchens (R-Rincon), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It sought to increase the additional penalty

(from 1.5 to 3 percent) for violation of traffic laws or ordinances under "Joshua's Law" in O.C.G.A. § 15-21-79.

[HB 1256](#), authored by Representative Debbie Buckner (D-Junction City), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 52-7-8.3 and 52-7-22 to require operators of watercraft to complete a boating safety course prior to operating the watercraft.

[SB 272](#), authored by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed creating a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 16-13-30.7. which, in part, would have made it unlawful for any person to knowingly or willfully sell or trade a finished drug product containing any quantity of dextromethorphan to a minor. It further proposed to make it unlawful for any minor to purchase a finished drug product containing any quantity of dextromethorphan.

[SB 281](#), authored by Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create in Title 16 the “Georgia Firearms and Weapons Act,” which proposed that individuals were prohibited from possession of automatic and semiautomatic firearms.

[SB 323](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in O.C.G.A. § 43-11-21(h) that any person who administers conscious sedation in a dental facility or during the practice of dentistry in a medspa is required to be licensed (“medspa” is defined as “a facility that offers a range of services for the purpose of improving an individual’s well-being or appearance, including medical and surgical procedures such as liposuction, laser procedures, intense pulsed light, and injection of cosmetic filling agents and neurotoxins in a nontraditional setting”). The bill also sought to add language in O.C.G.A. § 43-34-47 for regulation of administration of sedation and rescue in office-based surgeries.

[SB 464](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the House Rules Committee after reporting out with a do pass recommendation from the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee with a new Substitute. Therefore, the legislation failed. It sought to address cybersecurity issues by amending O.C.G.A. § 38-3-22.3 and Title 50, including the sharing of information relating to cybersecurity attacks and requiring state agencies and utilities to report such cybersecurity attacks to the Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Public Utilities

[HB 465](#), authored by Representative Don Parsons (R-Marietta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed enact in Chapter 10 of Title 46 the “Georgia Water Customer Bill of Rights Act.” It sought to add protections and requirements to be followed for

“community water systems,” including providing publicly transparent information on how rates are determined; billing intervals; etc.

[HB 556](#), authored by Representative Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed changes to O.C.G.A. § 46-5-1, regarding the exercise of power of eminent domain by telephone companies, placement of posts and other fixtures, regulation of construction of fixtures, posts, and wires near railroad tracks, liability of telephone companies for damages, required information, and due compensation. It proposed to establish a one-time right of way permit fee and reduce annual right of way use fees as due compensation paid to municipal authorities by telephone companies that do not have retail, end user customers located within the boundaries of the municipal authority.

[HB 761](#), authored by Representative John Carson (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed amending O.C.G.A. § 46-4-164(b) to increase the percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make and maintain in a gas affiliate from 15 percent to 60 percent. This initiative was similar to the one proposed by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) which also failed, [SB 364](#).

[HB 899](#), authored by Representative Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 46-5-27(b) to increase the civil penalty from \$2,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for individuals making prohibited telephone solicitations.

[HB 1071](#), authored by Representative Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add in subsection (b) of O.C.G.A. § 46-5-27, relating to telephone solicitations to residential, mobile, or wireless subscribers, that the Public Service Commission establish and maintain a list of certain subscribers, authorization for imposition of administrative fees, confidential nature of data base, and required identification, so as to “prohibit text messages as a method of making unwanted telephone solicitations.”

[HB 1220](#), authored by Representative Michael Smith (D-Marietta), remained in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 46-1-6 to make it unlawful for a natural gas marketer or retail supplier of electricity, natural gas, or water to shut down, suspend, or disconnect service of a retail customer for nonpayment or for having a delinquent account on a Friday or on any day immediately preceding a public and legal holiday as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 1-4-1.

[SB 364](#), authored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amending at O.C.G.A. § 46-4-164(b) to eliminate the percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make and maintain in a gas affiliate. Presently, that percentage is capped at 15 percent. This proposal was similar to that offered by Representative John Carson (R-Marietta), HB 761, which also failed.

[SB 496](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 46-1-6 to “prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel.”

Retirement and Pensions

[HB 67](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-6-60 to increase the monthly salary contribution of members of the legislative retirement system from 7.5 percent to 9.5 percent.

[HB 336](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-3-127.1 to allow school systems to rehire certified teachers that are current beneficiaries of the Teachers’ Retirement System to full time instruction for high need areas. These individuals would still receive their retirement benefits, but any new service will not be considered creditable service. Additionally, these teachers may not be rehired until at least one year after their initial retirement. The bill contains a sunset provision and the language lapses on Jun 30, 2025.

[HB 390](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-3-89.1 to allow international teaching to count towards creditable service for the Teachers’ Retirement System. The individual member is responsible for funding the actuarial study to determine the exact amount of creditable service to be awarded.

[HB 593](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), lost on the House Floor by a vote of 72-83; therefore, it failed. The legislation proposed to amend Title 47 by creating a new Chapter 26 and the Tax Commissioners’ Retirement Fund of Georgia. The bill also sets a limit of 20 years of creditable service for members. The benefits of the fund were proposed not to exceed \$34,560.00 annually.

[HB 652](#), authored by Representative Noel Williams (R-Cordele), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-16-61 to increase the fees collected in civil actions for delinquent accounts in the Sheriffs’ Retirement Fund of Georgia from \$1.00 to \$2.00. Additionally, the bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-16-102 to increase the amount owed to a member that dies before reaching the age of retirement, or is otherwise qualified to receive a retirement benefit, from \$15,000 to \$35,000.

[HB 659](#), authored by Representative Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-244 to change the retirement age for appellate court judges from 65 to 60.

[HB 721](#), authored by Representative Tom Kirby (R-Loganville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-361 to allow a member of the Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan who was a member of the Georgia Legislative Retirement System to transfer their contributions to the State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan.

[HB 733](#), authored by Representative Steven Sainz (R-Woodbine), remained in the House Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-23-21 to remove a clause stating that a person who becomes a member of the Judicial Retirement System after July 1, 2009 is not eligible to receive a postretirement benefit adjustment.

[HB 821](#), authored by Representative Stephen Sainz (R-Woodbine), remained in the Senate Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-29; § 47-6-80; and § 47-23-21 to allow members of the Employees' Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System, and Judicial Retirement System to receive postretirement benefit adjustments after July 1, 2020.

[HB 830](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), amends O.C.G.A. § 47-20-87 to increase the amount of alternative investments large retirement systems already eligible to make alternative investments may make. The bill increases the allowable aggregate amount from 5 percent to 10 percent. This bill passed the House but remained in the Senate Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed.

[SB 47](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-95 to allow retirement plan members to receive up to 60 months of creditable service for active military service after January 1, 1990.

[SB 117](#), authored by Senator Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), failed to pass. The Senate agreed to the House substitute to the bill but tacked on an added amendment which was never agreed to by both chambers. The bill sought to amend the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law to add two new Code sections in Chapter 20 of Title 47 to prohibit the passage of any law, rule, regulation, resolution or ordinance that allows creditable service in a retirement system that does not require an individual to pay the full actuarial cost of obtaining that creditable service. It also proposed granting authority to any retirement system administrator for accepting payments for this creditable service within specified time frames. The House substitute had proposed to exclude any local retirement system that is not legislatively controlled and the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System from such requirements and restrictions and proposed to amend provisions under the Employees' Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, Legislative Retirement System and Sheriffs' Retirement Fund relating to the purchase of creditable service and proposed that person who became members of these retirement systems on July 1, 2019 would be required to pay full actuarial cost for creditable service that is already authorized by members. That House language was stripped from the more current Senate version.

[SB 248](#), authored by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), remained in the House Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-7-60 to increase the monthly payment for members of the Firefighters' Pension Fund from \$25 to \$30. Additionally, the bill proposed changes in O.C.G.A. § 47-7-100 by adding that the maximum monthly retirement benefit be increased by \$60 per month for members that retire after July 1, 2020. Any member who retired prior to July 1, 2020 was proposed to have their benefit increased by a percentage of \$60 that is equal to the percentage of the maximum monthly benefit otherwise payable prior to July 1, 2020.

[SB 262](#), authored by Senator Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), remained in the House Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-121 to address situations when a member of the Employees' Retirement System who elected a payout option in which they received a reduced retirement allowance, and upon their death, their beneficiaries receive the same rate is predeceased by their beneficiary. In this situation the retired member will receive the maximum payment for which they are eligible.

[SB 271](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), was reported out of the House Retirement Committee but remained in the House Rules Committee. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed changes in Title 15 and in O.C.G.A. § 47-2-263 to rename "law assistants" to "law clerks and staff attorneys."

[SB 522](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Retirement Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-2-181(c)(1) by adding that any person with at least nine years, seven months, and 30 days of membership service in the Teachers' Retirement System who becomes an employee of an employer may elect to remain a member of the Teachers' Retirement System.

Social Services

[HB 43](#), authored by Representative Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), was offered originally in 2019 and was recommitted again this year to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee which reported out the legislation by Substitute. However, the legislation remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend Chapter 5 of Title 49 in order to enact the "The Maternity Supportive Housing Act." This legislation proposed that the Department issue a registration certificate for these homes which were to house (on behalf of a church, religious organization, or nonprofit organization) up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older and their children, at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to 18 months after childbirth; provided, however, that no other services would be permitted at these homes other than housing. Two other bills with this language were also offered and also failed: [HB 958](#), also by Representative Setzler, and [SB 307](#), authored by Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford).

[HB 725](#), authored by Representative Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159 to address many dentists' concerns regarding the current third-party

administrator for the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs. The legislation would have required that the Department of Community Health contract with two or more dental service organization administrators for dental services provided to those programs' enrollees/participants and that the Department competitively bid out and contract with such dental service organization administrators.

[HB 800](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 49-4-159 to allow a licensed out-of-state healthcare provider who is providing obstetrical/gynecological services within 50 miles of Georgia's borders to be considered as "in-state" providers under the State's Medicaid program. Such providers would have been paid the same rate as providers who are providing the same services within Georgia's borders.

[HB 813](#), authored by Representative Donna McLeod (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add a Medicaid expansion program in O.C.G.A. § 49-4-200 et seq. with these attributes:

- (1) Coverage for eligible persons with incomes up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level;
- (2) Subsidies to pay for coverage under the program or through the exchange for uninsured eligible persons with incomes between 151 percent and 500 percent of the federal poverty level, in an amount up to 5 percent of such person's income;
- (3) A fee-for-service Medicare plan option, available for eligible persons in counties where there are less than three exchange plan options from which to choose;
- (4) Coverage for eligible persons who are eligible to buy coverage on the exchange;
- (5) Reimbursement to health care providers at 105 percent of the prevailing Medicare allowable rate for office visit codes 99201-99205 and 99211-99215;
- (6) An option for small businesses to allow eligible persons employed by the small business to buy coverage under the program. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'small business' means an entity that (i) is owned or operated by a person employing 100 or fewer individuals; and (ii) is a small business under the federal Small Business Act; and
- (7) An option for eligible persons between and including the ages of 45 through 64 to buy into fee-for-service Medicare at premium rates consistent with such rates in his or geographic area.

[HB 963](#), authored by Representative Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed a new Chapter 11 in Title 30 so as to create the "Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Act" so as to "serve as the principal entity of the state to advocate on behalf of people who are blind or visually impaired so that they have access from cradle to grave to quality services throughout the State of Georgia for purposes of attaining independent living skills, maximizing successful career opportunities, increasing independence and self-sufficiency, promoting the upward mobility of the consumer as a viable member of the community, and addressing other needs necessary to achieve the most positive outcome for the consumer."

State Government

[HB 517](#), authored by Representative Marc Morris (R-Cumming), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-9-81 to replace the term “National Guard” with “organized militia.”

[HB 538](#), authored by Representative Todd Jones (R-Cumming), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed amendments in Titles 48 and 50 so as to require that all questions of law decided by a court or the Georgia Tax Tribunal on matters arising from the state board of equalization be decided without deference to the rules, determinations, or interpretations of the Department of Revenue.

[HB 570](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill initially proposed to allow sports betting in the state. As it cleared the Regulated Industries Committee, the bill sought in Chapter 41 of Title 50 to provide for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, casino gaming, and sports betting under certain conditions and proposed the creation of Georgia Gaming Commission and Georgia Gaming Control Board. Numerous hearings were held on this issue in 2019.

[HB 630](#), authored by Representative Wes Cantrell (R-Woodstock), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to provide that the state observe daylight savings time year round in O.C.G.A. § 50-1-10.

[HB 734](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore failed. It proposed to create the “Ethics in Journalism Act” at O.C.G.A. § 10-16-1 which would have included a Journalism Ethics Board.

[HB 740](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create in O.C.G.A. § 50-7-90 et seq. a “Sports Marketing Fund” with oversight from the Georgia Department of Economic Development. This fund would have been an effort to attract large sporting events to the state.

[HB 785](#), authored by Representative Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-17-6 to allow for electronic notarization. The bill also creates a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 45-17-8.3 to require the Georgia Superior Court Clerk’s Cooperative Authority to develop and maintain standards for electronic notarization.

[HB 818](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in O.C.G.A. § 50-38-1 regarding enactment of the Compact for a Balanced Budget.

[HB 915](#), authored by Representative Phillip Singleton (R-Sharpsburg), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed enactment of the “Georgia Anti-Sanctuary Act” in O.C.G.A. § 50-36A-1, repealing the sanctuary policy for immigrants in place as of September 1, 2020.

[HB 926](#), authored by Representative Terry Rogers (R-Clarksville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 12-8-39 to extend the sunset provision on landfill surcharge provisions until 2025.

[HB 941](#), authored by Representative Chuck Efstration (R-Dacula), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 35-8-2 to authorize the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute crimes related to false imprisonment and kidnapping.

[HB 948](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 50-12-131(a) to reassign the Georgia Holocaust Commission from the Department of Community Affairs to the Board of Regents. See [SB 134](#), authored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), which was passed and reassigns the Commission to the Board of Regents.

[HB 960](#), authored by Representative Shelly Hutchinson (D-Snellville), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments to Titles 16, 17, 35 and 42, regarding offenses involving illegal aliens, searches and seizures, to address terminology referring to persons who are non-citizens and present in the United States without official documentation (referring to such individual as an “undocumented person” rather than an illegal or illegal alien).

[HB 962](#), authored by Representative Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments in O.C.G.A. § 50-5-51 to allow the Department of Administrative Services to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements. See [HB 953](#), authored by Representative Bonnie Rich (R-Sugar Hill), which gives the Department this authority.

[HB 1049](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Titles 38 and 50 to create the sharing of information, as well as reporting, of cybersecurity attacks.

[HB 1058](#), authored by Representative Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 50-5-85 to revise the applicability of the state contracting certification that a boycott of Israel is not to be conducted by the other party (current limits would not apply on contracts of \$1,000.00; this proposed that it would not apply on contracts of \$100,000.00).

[HB 1077](#), authored by Representative Tom Kirby (R-Loganville), remained in the House Industry and Labor Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 50-13-2, relating to the “Georgia Administrative Procedures Act,” to revise the definition of the

term, ‘agency.’ It would have removed the exemption for the State Board of Workers’ Compensation.

[HB 1083](#), authored by Representative Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments to O.C.G.A. § 36-80-23(a), regarding the prohibition on immigration sanctuary policies by local governmental entities and certification of compliance, to redefine the term, ‘sanctuary policy.’ It further proposed to add that “an individual injured by the tortious acts or omissions of a person unlawfully present in the United States, or the personal representative of an individual killed by the tortious acts or omissions of a person unlawfully present in the United States, shall have a cause of action for damages against a local governing entity or law enforcement agency of a local governing entity upon proof by the preponderance of the evidence.”

[HB 1099](#), authored by Representative Danny Mathis (R-Cochran), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-16-7 et seq. to stipulate that coroners are full-time county employees, to set the salary rate based on county population, and to allow coroners to choose a compensation formula for deputy coroners.

[HB 1107](#), authored by Representative Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-1-4 to update whistleblower statutes to increase the umbrella of entities protected from retaliation.

[HB 1111](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-12-86 to authorize the Governor to require agencies to reserve appropriations of state general funds when the state’s revenues in a fiscal year quarter are one (1) percent less than the revenues received during the same quarter of the prior fiscal year. The Governor was further proposed to be authorized to direct agencies to reserve an amount not to exceed to revenue shortfall percentage and report these directions to the General Assembly.

[HB 1112](#), authored by Representative Clay Pirkle (R-Ashburn), remained in the Senate Rules Committee where it was assigned, and therefore, failed. In part, it sought to create a State Council of Economic Advisors, composed of essentially five economists, in O.C.G.A. § 45-12-75.2 and proposed in O.C.G.A. § 45-12-78(a) that each state agency be required to submit simultaneously electronically to not only the Office of Planning and Budget but also to the House Budget and Research Office and Senate Budget and Evaluation Office their budget proposals no later than September 1 of each year.

[HB 1122](#), authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Chapter 8 of Title 50 regarding the councils of the regional commissions, requiring an executive committee of those councils to be composed of at least five but no more than nine members and proposed the duties of these councils (examples were to create and develop budgets and oversee expenditures). The bill also contained added reporting requirements to be made.

[HB 1133](#), authored by Representative Don Parsons (R-Marietta), remained in the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 50-1-10 to prohibit state agencies from paying ransoms in response to cyberattacks.

[HB 1159](#), authored by Representative Dominic LaRiccia (R-Douglas), remained in the House Rules Committee where the legislation was assigned. Therefore, the bill failed. The proposal sought to amend O.C.G.A. §50-18-70(b) to make the “Open Records Act” and provisions for the inspection of public records applicable to the General Assembly, including its individual members, committees, commissions, and offices.

[HB 1185](#), authored by Representative Erick Allen (D-Smyrna), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. In part, it sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 35-1-23 to require that the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center develop guidelines for the use of body cameras by peace officers. It also proposed amending O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(4) on when such audio and video recordings of body cameras would be available for release.

[HB 1206](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to enact the “Police Accountability Act” which sought amendments in Titles 17, 35 and 50 to address the use of body cameras by peace officers and procedures on their use and guidelines regarding the release to the public of those recordings.

[HB 1207](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought to enact the “End Racial Profiling Act” in Titles 35 and 50.

[HB 1211](#), authored by Representative Shelly Hutchinson (D-Snellville), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 50-3-1(b) which in part sought to make it “unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or other entity to mutilate, deface, defile, or abuse contemptuously any publicly owned monument, plaque, marker, or memorial which is dedicated to, honors, or recounts the military service of any past or present military personnel of this state, the United States of America or the several states thereof, or the Confederate States of America or the several states thereof; and no officer, body, or representative of state or local government or any department, agency, authority, or instrumentality thereof.”

[HB 1212](#), authored by Representative Shelly Hutchinson (D-Snellville), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. This legislation sought changes in Titles 1, 12 and 50 – part of the bill proposed to prohibit the display of monuments, memorials, plaques, markers, or memorabilia related to the Confederate States of America, slave owners, or persons advocating for slavery on public property except for museums and Civil War battlefields. It also sought to remove reference to the preservation and protection of the memorial carving upon the face of Stone Mountain and remove reference to display of the flag of the Confederate States of America from public buildings or schools.

[HB 1230](#), authored by Representative Dar' shun Kendrick (D-Lithonia), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amending O.C.G.A. § 50-21-24 to address exceptions to state liability. It also proposed to address instances where a state officer or employee is alleged to have acted grossly negligent or committed a violation of the law while acting within their scope of duties or employment.

[HB 1236](#), authored by Representative Carolyn Hugley (D-Columbus) remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(f) to permit local workforce development boards, formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, and their associated committees and local officials to conduct meetings via teleconference.

[HB 1244](#), authored by Representative Sam Park (R-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create the Georgia State Law Enforcement Citizen Review Council at O.C.G.A. § 35-1-23 to receive complaints from the public regarding alleged misconduct relating to sworn officers.

[HB 1252](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-16-12 to provide a right of action to the heir of a person killed by a police officer if a coroner falsifies or mischaracterizes the cause of death.

[HR 874](#), authored by Representative Bob Trammell (D-Luthersville), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed a constitutional amendment to provide for the suspension or removal of public officials upon felony indictment.

[HR 929](#), authored by Representative Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed to encourage the State to create a Georgia Gullah Geechee Heritage Society.

[HR 1162](#), authored by Representative Erick Allen (D-Smyrna), remained in the House Special Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution urged “commercial public facilities to have at least one gender neutral adult changing station with an adult changing table and appropriate signage: facilities with an occupant load greater than 1,000 people (if obtaining a permit for construction or renovation on or after January 1, 2021), facilities under the jurisdiction of the Safety Fire Commissioner, and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

[HR 1550](#), authored by Representative J. Craig Gordon (D-Savannah), was introduced late in the Session and assigned to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee where the Resolution remained. Therefore, the proposal failed. The Resolution proposed that all governing authorities in Georgia to “adopt solutions to address systemic racial inequalities in police use of force and in economic empowerment.”

[SB 45](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), was originally introduced in 2019 and recommitted in 2020 to the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee where it remained, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create the “Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act,” providing for pari-mutuel horse racing in the State in Title 50 utilizing a limited number of licenses.

[SB 107](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), was introduced in 2019 and recommitted to the Senate Institutions and Property Committee where it remained, and therefore, failed. It sought to add a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 50-3-120 to provide for placement of a monument in honor of the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller upon the capitol grounds.

[SB 162](#), authored by Senator Matt Brass (R-Newnan), was on the House Rules Calendar but recommitted to the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee. Therefore, the bill failed. It sought to add a new Chapter 77 in Title 36 so that a local government could regulate the occupancy or rental of residences when any such occupancy or rental would be for a fee and for less than 30 consecutive days.

[SB 300](#), authored by Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur), remained in the Senate Government Oversight Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 50-8-8.1 to authorize, subject to appropriations, that the Department of Community Affairs make grants to local governments for voting rights awareness and education programs.

[SB 309](#), authored by Senator Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro), remained in the Senate Rules Committee and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Chapter 93 in Title 36 to provide for comprehensive regulation of local government infrastructure financing and create the Georgia Municipal and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority and the Georgia County and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority.

[SB 312](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore failed. As the bill passed the Senate, it proposed in O.C.G.A. § 50-41-1 creating the Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture (GCAAHC). Once in the House, that language was stripped by the House Committee on Governmental Affairs and in its place were amendments in Chapter 4 of Title 1 so as to designate June 19 of each year as "Juneteenth" and September 1 of each year to be Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia. See [SB 340](#) authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) which designates September 1 of each year as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia.

[SB 350](#), authored by Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 50-16-21 to require that all female-designated restrooms owned or leased by the State provide feminine hygiene products.

[SB 396](#), authored by Senator Larry Walker, III (R-Perry), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to designate, in O.C.G.A. § 50-3-89, the pecan as Georgia’s official state nut.

[SB 397](#), authored by Senator Larry Walker, III (R-Perry), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in Chapter 27 of Title 50, regarding the regulation of coin operated amusement machines. Specifically, it proposed that such machines could be prohibited by local ordinance; they could further be limited to three (rather than six Class B machines) and that the Georgia Lottery Corporation retain 20 percent (rather than 5 percent of net receipts).

[SB 418](#), authored by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), remained in the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-9-85, regarding when the Indemnification Fund was to pay, to include heart attacks, strokes, or vascular ruptures of a person serving as a public safety official as a covered condition for the state's indemnification fund.

[SB 459](#), authored by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Titles 46 and 50 to expand broadband services. In part, it sought to require that the commission determine distributions from the Rural Broadband Portion of the Universal Access Fund to expand broadband services to unserved areas of the state based on funding award recommendations received from the Department of Community Affairs.

[SB 467](#), authored by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes to the regulation of coin operated amusement machines in Chapter 27 of Title 50, including an increase in fines to be imposed for violations by location owners and location operators.

[SB 503](#), authored by Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought an amendment to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b) so that the "Open Records Act" would also apply to the General Assembly and its members, committees, commissions, and offices.

[SB 513](#), authored by Senator Harold Jones, II (D-Augusta), remained in the Senate Judiciary Committee after a late introduction. Therefore, the bill failed. It proposed the "Georgia Justice Act" in Titles 17, 35 and 50. In part, it contained changes to laws governing "no-knock warrants" and also sought to require that certain peace officers be equipped with audio and video recording devices for recording all activities while on duty.

[SB 514](#), authored by Senator Nikema Williams (D-Atlanta), was introduced late in the Session and assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it remained. Therefore, it failed. The legislation sought to address state tort claims in Chapter 21 of Title 50 so as to provide that law enforcement officers alleged to have committed misconduct or a violation of law while acting within their scope of duties shall be subject to lawsuit or liability.

[SB 525](#), authored by Senator Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), remained in the Senate Public Safety Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 45-2-5 to allow cities to pass ordinances to require that law enforcement officers reside within the boundary of the county or

municipality. Only cities with a population of 50,000 or counties with a population of 150,000 or more were authorized to pass these ordinances.

[SB 532](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), remained in the Senate Government Oversight Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to enact the “Georgia Safe Business Act” in a new Article 11 of Chapter 7 of Title 50. It would have required that the Department of Economic Development work with the Department of Public Health to create and implement a ‘Georgia Safe’ program to address sanitation, customer safety, and operation guidelines. This legislation was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[SR 841](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed a constitutional amendment to Article I, Section II at Paragraph VIII so as to provide for pari-mutuel betting, casino gambling, and sports betting in this state under certain circumstances.

Study Committees

[HR 894](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a Joint Study Committee on Veteran’s Suicide.

[HR 1168](#), authored by Representative Sam Park (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Special Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the House Study Committee on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to Improve the Health of Women and Children.

[HR 1248](#), authored by Representative Jasmine Clark (D-Lilburn), remained in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the House Study Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans.

[HR 1249](#), authored by Representative Angelika Kausche (D-Johns Creek), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution sought to create a House Study Committee on Increasing Access to Pre-K and After-School Programs.

[HR 1280](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a Joint Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure.

[HR 1282](#), authored by Representative Shelly Hutchinson (D-Snellville), remained in the House Special Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers.

[HR 1302](#), authored by Representative Katie Dempsey (R-Rome), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a Joint Study Committee on Chronic Weight Management and Type 2 Diabetes.

[HR 1327](#), by Representative Ed Setzler (R-Acworth), creates a House Study Committee on Claims of Wrongfully Convicted Persons. This Resolution remained in the House Appropriations Committee, and therefore, failed. This Study Committee is to be conducted by five members of the House of Representatives and stands to be abolished on December 1, 2020.

[HR 1525](#), authored by Representative Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas), creates the House Study Committee on Remote Online Notarization. This resolution remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed.

[HR 1590](#), authored by Representative Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta), remained in the House Judiciary Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to establish a House Study Committee on Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, looking at the longstanding history and problematic practice of racial discrimination.

[SR 263](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the Senate Emergency Medical Services Study Committee.

[SR 521](#), authored by Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution sought to create a Senate Study Committee on Creating an Agricultural and Mechanical University System.

[SR 722](#), authored by Senator Jennifer Jordan (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore failed. It sought to create a Senate Comprehensive Approach to Family Leave Policies within State Government Study Committee.

[SR 769](#), authored by Senator Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a Senate Domestic Violence Courts Study Committee.

[SR 833](#), authored by Senator P.K. Martin, IV (R-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Education Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a Joint Study Committee on Preparing Our Future Workforce. It would have focused on looking more closely at work-based learning opportunities.

[SR 990](#), authored by Senator Tonya Anderson (D-Lithonia), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The Resolution proposed to establish a Senate Study Committee on Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, looking at longstanding history and problematic practice of racial discrimination.

[SR 991](#), authored by Senator Sally Harrell (D-Atlanta), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create the Senate PeachCare Public Option Study Committee.

Taxes and Taxation

[HB 153](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments in O.C.G.A. § 48-13-9(a) and (e) so as to require a local government, which collects a fee from a business or practitioner of a profession or occupation, to use such fees' proceeds to fund that regulatory activity.

[HB 365](#), authored by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), failed. The House agreed to the Senate Substitute to the legislation but tacked on an amendment which caused the Senate to disagree. However, no action was taken further by the House to recede from its position or insist. The main portion of the legislation was to address ride share taxation at O.C.G.A. § 48-13-140 et seq. See [HB 105](#) authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie) which passed.

[HB 378](#), authored by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in Chapter 13 of Title 48 to revise the definition of 'rental motor vehicle concern.' It further proposed to require the collection and remittance of taxes by certain persons that facilitate certain rentals of motor vehicles through lease agreements.

[HB 447](#), authored by Representative Dominic LaRiccia (R-Douglas), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Chapter 6 in Title 6 to create the "Georgia Major Airport Authority Act." It also sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3.5(a) so as to exempt the sale or use of aviation fuel pumped into an aircraft in this state and to exempt the use of aviation fuel that is pumped into an aircraft in another state from all state sales and use taxes with certain exceptions.

[HB 448](#), authored by Representative Matt Dollar (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments to Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 48 regarding the definition of 'innkeeper' so as to create a 'marketplace innkeeper.' It further proposed that on and after July 1, 2020, an excise tax of \$5.00 per night would be required to be levied upon the rental or lease of any room, lodging, or accommodation by an innkeeper; however, no such tax would be collected from extended stay rentals.

[HB 452](#), authored by Representative Steven Sainz (R-Woodbine), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add at O.C.G.A. § 48-2-63 that the Department of Revenue could request not more than four times per year from a financial institution information which identifies a "delinquent taxpayer" for whom the Department has filed an execution. The financial institutions were proposed to be required within 30 days after receiving a request for information submit a report in an electronic format to the Department identifying the taxpayer. The Department was further to be authorized to enter into agreements with financial institutions to develop and operate an automated exchange to facilitate this information sharing.

[HB 593](#), authored by Representative Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), failed on crossover day, March 12, 2020, by a vote of 72 to 83. It sought to create the Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia and proposed to add this Fund beginning at O.C.G.A. § 47-26-20 et seq. and create a Board of Commissioners for the Tax Commissioners Retirement Fund of Georgia. The legislation proposed to add a \$3.00 fee on any delinquent tax bill (excluding motor vehicles).

[HB 715](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), was on the House Rules Calendar but was recommitted to the House Ways and Means Committee where it remained. Therefore, the legislation failed. It proposed several changes in Chapter 13 of Title 48 in order to address business and occupation taxes to eliminate gross receipts as a criterion for classifying businesses and practitioners for purposes of calculating the occupation tax levied by local governments.

[HB 732](#), authored by Representative Todd Jones (R-Cumming), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.16 to provide an income tax credit (20 percent of the cost of the vehicle or \$2,500.00 whichever is less) on the purchase or lease of a new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (with at least four kilowatt hours of capacity) and electric vehicles.

[HB 735](#), authored by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27(a)(5)(D) so as to address an exemption for military income from income taxation.

[HB 807](#), authored by Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend Chapter 13 of Title 48 to require that the proceeds of local government regulatory fees be used to pay for regulatory activity and not general operations. It also proposed to allow businesses and practitioners to provide affidavits of certified public accountants in lieu of tax returns.

[HB 815](#), authored by Representative Houston Gaines (R-Athens), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amendments to O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(1) to exempt from taxation local authorities providing public water or sewer service.

[HB 829](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed amending O.C.G.A. § 48-5-7(c.7) to provide for local referenda to authorize assessment of residential homesteaded property owned by individuals who are 65 years of age or older at 20 percent of its fair market value regarding local school district taxes for educational purposes.

[HB 853](#), authored by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to create a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 48-2-63.2 to require that the commissioner mail to the local tag agents special and distinctive license plates for the elected tax commissioners in the counties of this state on or before the owner's registration period of each tax commissioner. Further, such special and distinctive license plates would be required to be issued only upon proper applications made to the local tag agent and

payment of a \$25.00 manufacturing fee. The \$25.00 fee would also have been required upon renewal of the decal.

[HB 864](#), authored by Representative Bonnie Rich (R-Sugar Hill), failed on the House Floor after being tabled on March 12, 2020. The bill contained several revisions in Title 48 to address the taxation of “alternative nicotine products, vapor devices and consumable vapor products.” See [SB 375](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), which passed.

[HB 882](#), authored by Representative Penny Houston (R-Nashville), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3 to eliminate the sunset period for the exemption from state and certain local sales and use taxes for the sale of food and food ingredients to qualified food banks and for the use of food and food ingredients donated to qualified nonprofit agencies; and to expand the exemption for the use of food and food ingredients donated to qualified nonprofit agencies to include disaster relief. The Senate Finance Committee stripped out the original language from Representative Houston’s bill and inserted new language in Title 48 to address imposing regulation of and excise taxes on alternative nicotine products and vapor products as well as increasing the taxes on cigarettes from \$.35 per pack of twenty cigarettes to \$1.37 per pack of twenty cigarettes. See [HB 1035](#), authored by Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta), which originally contained these exemption extensions but it too failed after being altered and tabled in the Senate.

[HB 925](#), authored by Representative Terry Rogers (R-Clarkesville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought changes in O.C.G.A. 48-8-3(68)(A) to revise the categories of companies that are eligible for an exemption on the sale or lease of certain computer equipment (based upon the North American Industrial Classification System).

[HB 934](#), authored by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-29.15(b) so as to increase the amount of the tax credit permitted to a foster parent for each adoption. Currently, that credit is \$2,000.00 per qualified foster care child per tax year; this proposal sought to increase that credit to \$5,000.00 per qualified foster care child per tax year commencing with the year that the adoption becomes final for five taxable years and \$2,000.00 for each taxable year thereafter until the child attains the age of 18.

[HB 939](#), authored by Representative John Carson (R-Marietta), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend the aggregate tax limit cap allowed for education so that it would be \$100 million (and would not be lowered in 2029) in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-29.16(f).

[HB 949](#), authored by Representative John Carson (R-Marietta), remained in the Senate Finance Committee, and therefore, failed. This bill sought to incorporate the federal provisions of the Internal Revenue Code update into Georgia law in Title 48, an annual update to Georgia’s tax code. This bill’s language was incorporated into HB 846, authored by Representative John Corbett (R-Lake Park). See [HB 846](#).

[HB 979](#), authored by Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-5-359.1, regarding ad valorem taxation of property, to modify provisions for contracting with or between a county, municipality, or the county tax commissioner for services by the county tax commissioner to assess and collect municipal and special district taxes and prepare the tax digest.

[HB 992](#), authored by Representative Sandra Scott (D-Rex), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to add at O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.37 an income tax credit for investors in women owned businesses that are headquartered in Georgia (e.g. manufacturing, processing, on-line and digital warehousing, logistics, online and digital wholesaling, software development and information technology services).

[HB 1002](#), authored by Representative Brett Harrell (R-Snellville), remained in the House Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27(b)(3), relating to imposition, rate, computation of, and exemptions from income taxes, so as to “add Georgia income tax paid by an individual to Georgia taxable net income to the extent such tax was deducted in determining federal taxable income.”

[HB 1004](#), authored by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-43 et seq. income tax credits for higher education for the Fort Gordon Cyber Security and Information Technology Innovation Corridor and the Savannah Logistics Technology Innovation Corridor.

[HB 1035](#), authored by Representative Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta), was tabled in the Senate on June 25, 2020 after it was engrossed. The bill remained on the table, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(7.05), (7.3), (57.1) and (57.3) so as to repeal the sunset provisions to the existing sales and use tax exemptions on sales (respectively) of tangible property to nonprofit health centers, sales of tangible property and services to nonprofit volunteer health clinics, sales of food and food ingredients to qualified food banks, and use of food and food ingredients which is donated following a natural disaster and used for disaster relief purposes. A similar proposal, [HB 882](#), was authored by Representative Penny Houston (R-Nashville) and it also failed to pass.

[HB 1073](#), authored by Representative Sam Watson (R-Moultrie), remained in the Senate Committee on Assignments, and therefore, failed. The bill, regarding development authorities, proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 36-62-5.2 to allow local governing authorities to, by joint resolution, create a regional development authority by any group of three to five contiguous counties under certain conditions. A county would not be permitted to join more than one regional development authority under this proposal. Further, a business enterprise located on the property would be eligible for a tax credit for each new full-time position in the amount allowed in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40 for the lowest tier participating county within the regional development authority. It also proposed that the One Georgia Authority be required to establish a grant program, subject to available funding, for primary care medical facilities and that the regional development authorities could make application to the Authority for and obtain grants for primary care medical facilities located within the regional development authority’s jurisdiction.

[HB 1111](#), authored by Representative Andy Welch (R-McDonough), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The legislation proposed amendments to Chapter 12 of Title 45, relating to management of budgetary and financial affairs, to remove certain provisions related to homeowner tax relief grants; to revise a definitions; to limit the reservation of appropriations and the withholding of allotments to specified conditions; and to prohibit interference with access to lawful appropriations unless expressly allowed.

[HB 1113](#), authored by Representative Matt Barton (R-Calhoun), remained in the House Committee on Ways and Means, and therefore, failed. It proposed changes in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-29 to expand the tax credit for rural physicians to dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants (increasing the allowed credit of \$10,000 (rather than \$5,000) for a period of ten years (rather than five years).

[HB 1150](#), authored by Representative Donna McLeod (D-Lawrenceville), remained in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to create a new Chapter 17 of Title 48 to provide for the cultivation, processing, testing, sale, legalization, regulation and taxation of cannabis and cannabis products in certain circumstances.

[SB 289](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), did not receive a final agreement from the Senate on the House Substitute to this legislation, and therefore, the bill failed. The House version of the legislation sought revisions in Title 48 to require that all questions of law decided by a court or the Georgia Tax Tribunal on matters arising from the state board of equalization or arising from refunds and appeals of state administration of Title 48 be decided with due deference to any rule which has been properly promulgated pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 and without deference to any determination or interpretation, whether written or unwritten, that may have been made on the matter by the Department of Revenue. As the bill left the Senate, it dealt with the removal of the requirement in Chapter 5 of Title 48 that mobile homes procure permits and procure and display decals.

[SB 388](#), authored by Senator John Kennedy (R-Macon), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-3, relating to unlawful assisting, procuring, counseling, or advising in filing income tax returns. It proposed to increase penalties for knowingly and willfully assisting, procuring, counseling, advising the preparation of tax returns – if convicted of such activities, penalties were proposed to be \$10,000.00 or imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five years or both.

[SB 441](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. The bill proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.33, relating to tax credits for theatrical and musical performances. It proposed to lower the spending threshold requirements from \$500,000 to \$100,000 in aggregate in a taxable year. It further proposed to provide that all expenditures of a production company's state certified productions may be combined to meet spending thresholds.

[SB 468](#), authored by Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford), remained in the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed a new Code section at O.C.G.A. § 4-8-8 so permit any disabled veteran (as defined in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-48(a)(1))

register his or her service dog with an animal shelter located in the county of such disabled veteran's residence or, in the absence of any such animal shelter, with the animal shelter located nearest to such residence, and required that Georgia animal shelters accept such registrations.

[SB 480](#), authored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), remained in the House Ways and Means Committee, and therefore, failed. It proposed to add in O.C.G.A. § 48-2-15(e)(1)(B) the authorization of compensation for data analytics services may be based on collections and may be deducted from such collections to cover the expense of the data analytics services prior to depositing such funds into the general fund.

Tobacco

[HB 981](#), authored by Representative Billy Mitchell (D-Stone Mountain), remained in the House Governmental Affairs Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought to amend Titles 16, 20 and 31 to authorize cities and counties to exercise local control over specific activities related to smoking and vaping and permit regulations governing sales of tobacco products and vapor products to minors. It also sought to amend the "Georgia Smoke-free Air Act of 2005 so as to include electronic smoking devices. See [SB 375](#) authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) which addresses vape products and prohibits sales of such products to minors and became **Act Number 483**.

[HB 1064](#), authored by Representative Derrick Jackson (D-Tyrone), remained in the House Regulated Industries Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought revisions to Titles 16, 20 and 31 to prevent vapor products which contain nicotine from being sold to minors and increased the age of sales or distribution of such products. It further sought to amend the "Georgia Smoke-free Air Act of 2005" to include electronic smoking devices in that law. See [SB 375](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) which became **Act Number 483**.

[SB 298](#), authored by Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford), remained in the Senate Rules Committee, and therefore, failed. It sought protections and education of minors regarding smoking and vaping in Titles 16, 17, 20 and 48. See [SB 375](#), authored by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga).

Budget Appendix

Below, we have provided a snapshot of various portions of the [FY 2021 Budget, HB 793](#). This summary does not include every state department or agency. Thus, this selection consists of notable budget line items organized by department*:

**all amounts reflect state funds and do not include any relevant federal matching funds.*

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities received a total of \$1,139,381,422 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$91,429,169 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Adult Addictive Disease Services

- \$4,939,920 reduction to maintain prior year funding levels for residential treatment of addictive diseases.
- \$102,595 reduction to eliminate funds for 12 semi-independent beds associated with Douglas County Community Service Board.
- \$65,835 reduction to eliminate funds for a peer support contract with Kennesaw State University.
- \$174,510 reduction through a combination of attrition and a reduction in force.
- \$2,000,000 utilization of federal funds for the Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorder as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Adult Developmental Disabilities Services

- \$2,749,798 increase to annualize the cost of 125 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for the intellectually and developmentally disabled
- \$100,000 reduction to eliminate one-time funds for Georgia Options
- \$2,127,829 increase to reflect a reduction in federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) from 67.30% to 67.03%
- \$1,000,000 reduction and instructions for the Department to review existing contracts and evaluate options to best serve clients for intensive family support services.
- \$2,381,744 reduction through a conversation of attrition and a reduction in force.
- \$5,599,600 increase for 100 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for the intellectually and developmentally disabled.
- \$518,000 reduction to eliminate funds for the Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.
- \$2,000,000 reduction for waiver supplemental contractual services.
- \$4,676,804 reduction for non-waiver program in community access group.

- \$4,656,799 reduction for non-waiver service in family support.
- \$1,547,317 reduction for non-waiver service in prevocational services.
- \$10,925,195 reduction to recognize one quarter of enhanced FMAP rate.
- \$1,503,841 reduction for 15 hospital positions.

Adult Forensic Services

- \$5,162,413 increase for the 40-bed forensic unit at West Central Regional Hospital in Columbus to begin December 2020.
- \$2,978,542 reduction for hospital positions.

Adult Mental Health Services

- \$955,337 reduction through a combination of attrition and a reduction in force.
- \$1,530,903 reduction for provider support and training.
- \$2,550,421 reduction for behavioral health services.
- \$2,553,087 increase to annualize funds for statewide crisis bed infrastructure and capacity to maintain 95 beds.
- \$6,689,854 reduction for housing voucher program for mental health consumers in community settings.
- \$13,000,000 increase to reflect increase in expenses for state-contracted private psychiatric beds.
- \$2,093,067 reduction for independent residential beds.

Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities

- \$303,196 reduction for the Marcus Autism Center.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

- \$542,255 reduction to reflect savings from a shift to fee-for-service reimbursements of high fidelity wraparound services.
- \$1,974,566 reduction for enhanced staffing at crisis stabilization units to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$3,542,709 reduction for supported employment and education services.
- \$4,442,466 reduction to maintain funds for one previously identified crisis respite home.
- \$3,655,446 reduction to reflect a 40% productivity minimum for Apex contractual services.

Direct Care Support Services

- \$8,329,023 reduction through a combination of attrition and a reduction in force.

Substance Abuse Prevention

- \$611,068 reduction to replace state funds with federal funds for Council on Children's Mental Health technical schools and expansion.

Department of Community Health

The Department of Community Health received a total of \$3,571,102,927 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$1,499,715 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Departmental Administration

- \$3,730,520 transfer from the Medicaid-Low-Income Medicaid program to the Departmental Administration Program to reflect an increase in contract expenses for the Medicaid Management Information System.
- \$3,711,633 reduction to reflect a transfer of the Right from the Start Medical Assistance Group to the Department of Human Services effective November 1, 2019.
- \$3,354,747 increase to reflect a reduction in the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Program (e-FMAP) from 88.61% to 76.92%.
- \$750,000 increase to provide funds to plan and implement an All-Payer Claims Database to enable analysis and public reporting of health care costs and utilization for medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services.
- \$1,500,000 increase to provide funds for a pilot to reduce Medicaid fraud.

Health Care Access and Improvement

- \$250,000 elimination of one-time funds for a grant program for hospitals in counties with population less than 35,000 for CMS-required upgrades to emergency rooms.
- \$12,000,000 increase to Rural Hospital Stabilization Grants.

Healthcare Facility Regulation

- \$147,575 increase for two surveyor positions and operation expenses to support the annual onsite inspection of nursing homes, personal care homes, and other living arrangements monitored by the department.

Medicaid- Aged, Blind, and Disabled

- \$235,110,446 increase for growth in Medicaid based on projected need.
- \$18,898,667 increase for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums.
- \$5,229,225 increase for Medicare Part D Clawback program.

- \$14,535,625 increase to reflect a reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) from 67.30% to 67.03%.
- \$1,585,316 increase for additional residents in the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) to support hospitals with graduate medical education programs.

Medicaid- Low-Income Medicaid

- \$27,228,941 increase for growth in Medicaid based on projected need.
- \$1,900,000 increase to reflect a reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) from 67.30% to 67.03%.
- \$1,350,454 increase for additional residents in the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) to support hospitals with graduate medical education programs
- \$19,684,703 increase to provide postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers in accordance with HB 1114. Effective upon approval from CMS.
- \$78,944,842 reduction to reflect savings from a temporary 6.2% FMAP increase through September 30, 2020.
- \$102,194,683 reduction for the Retro Rate Amendment and Risk Corridors for Care Management Organization Rates.
- \$50,000,000 replacement of state general funds with tobacco settlement funds.

PeachCare for Kids

- \$6,346,519 increase to reflect projected need.
- \$38,328,463 increase to reflect a reduction in e-FMAP from 88.61% to 76.92%
- \$4,671,721 reduction to reflect savings from a temporary 6.2% FMAP increase through September 30, 2020.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education

- \$40,000 reduction for the statewide residency recruitment fair to reflect utilization rates.
- \$250,000 increase to match federal funds for the start-up of a rural psychiatry residency program at Colquitt Regional Medical Center.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Mercer School of Medicine Grant

- \$841,192 increase for operations at Mercer University Medical School of Medicine's four-year medical school campus in Columbus.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas

- \$500,000 reduction for loan repayments for rural advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, assistants, and physicians.
- \$130,000 reduction to eliminate malpractice insurance premium assistance for physicians with a practice in counties that currently have one or less physicians.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education

- \$318,150 reduction for one-time marketing and outreach in the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia campus.

Department of Early Care and Learning

The Early Care and Learning received a total of \$432,877,549 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$7,667,620 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Child Care Services

- \$72,839 reduction to reflect Governor's intent to eliminate one vacant communications specialist position.
- \$146,145 to provide for a State Infant and early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator as recommended by the House Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Health.
- \$7,276,142 reduction for the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant program.

Pre-Kindergarten Program

- \$268,851 reduction for the longitudinal study of the impact of the Pre-Kindergarten program.
- \$81,149 reduction for personal services to eliminate one vacant position.
- \$1,626,480 increase for the teacher supplement.
- \$160,000 for two behavioral and classroom support specialists to assist lead teachers and assistant teachers in Ga Pre-K classrooms.

Department of Education

The Department of Education received a total of \$9,632,727,015 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$1,012,100,609 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Agricultural Education

- \$842,878 reduction for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps.
- \$150,000 increase to provide funds for program specialists at each youth camp.

Business and Finance Administration

- \$257,355 reduction to reflect the governor’s intent to eliminate one vacant assistant human resources director position, one vacant accountant position, and one vacant budget analyst position.
- \$117,824 reduction for one-time system platform upgrade and computer purchases.
- \$286,204 reduction for personal services and operating expenses.

Central Office

- \$268,458 reduction to reflect the governor’s intent to eliminate one vacant administrative assistant position, one vacant communications specialist position, and one vacant education program support specialist position.
- \$54,732 reduction for dues and subscriptions, registration fees, and board operations.
- \$10,000 reduction for an assessment task force.

Charter Schools

- \$204,000 reduction for facilitates grants.
- \$48,920 reduction for consultants.
- \$200,000 increase for charter school facilities grants pursuant to HB 430 (2017 session)

Chief Turnaround Officer

- \$203,056 reduction to reflect the governor’s intent to eliminate two vacant school turnaround specialist positions.
- \$420,760 reduction in operating expenses.
- \$700,000 reduction in funds.
- \$860,442 reduction of remaining funds to reflect program elimination.

Communities in Schools

- \$142,810 reduction for local affiliates

Curriculum Development

- \$350,000 reduction for two vacant positions and replace state funds for one position with federal funds.
- \$93,500 reduction for computer science professional development grants.

Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)

- \$3,755,973 reduction for enrollment and training and experience decline.
- \$6,115,272 reduction for GNETS grants.

Georgia Virtual School

- \$100,000 reduction for personal services.
- \$323,116 reduction for contractual services and use a more cost-effective vendor solution, reduce computer purchases, and reduce travel.
- \$2,000,000 in federal funds as authorized by the CARES Act.

Grants for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, and Technology.

- \$2,000,000 reduction from elimination of funds for Grants for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, and Technology program.

Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants

- \$1,019,060 increase for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment decline.
- \$324,091 reduction in funds.
- \$126,908 reduction for one vacant grant manager position and reflect oversight of the residential treatment facilities funding formula in the Business and Finance Administration program.
- \$700,000 reduction for feminine hygiene grants and prioritize remaining funds for school systems with a high percentage of free and reduced price lunch eligible students.
- \$324,091 addition in federal funds from the CARES Act.

Preschool Disabilities Services

- \$207,898 reduction for enrollment and training and experience decline.
- \$4,205,510 reduction for grants.

Pupil Transportation

- \$927,142 increase for enrollment growth.

Quality Basic Education Equalization

- \$32,090,818 increase for Equalization grants
- Transfer funds from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement to the Department of Education for student support and fully fund equalization.

Quality Basic Education Local Five Mill Share

- \$71,258,470 reduction for the Local Five Mill Share.

Quality Basic Education Program

- \$141,714,801 increase for enrollment growth and training and experience.
- \$32,040,622 increase for the State Commission Charter School supplement.
- \$229,109 increase for the charter system grant.

- \$904,191 reduction for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers.
- \$950,243,063 reduction for QBE and grants to reflect a temporary projected decline in state revenue.

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)

- \$160,000 reduction in funds.
- \$1,322,514 reduction in funds.
- \$220,949 increase based on enrollment growth.

School Improvement

- \$352,297 reduction to reflect the governor’s intent to eliminate three vacant school improvement specialist positions.
- \$122,806 reduction for dues and subscriptions, registration fees, and meeting spaces.
- \$139,500 reduction for contracts for teacher and district training.
- \$700,000 increase from returning of chief turnaround officer funds to reflect the initial transfer in HB 684 (2019 Session) and to exclusively serve those schools previously identified as “turnaround schools”

State Schools

- \$727,746 increase for training and experience.
- \$500,000 reduction in funds.
- \$1,092,193 increase in federal funds from the CARES Act

Technology/Career Education

- \$1,123,384 reduction for Extended Day/Year, Vocational Supervisors, Industry Certification, and Youth Apprenticeship Programs.
- \$131,000 reduction for two vacant positions.

Testing

- \$405,334 reduction to reflect the governor’s intent to eliminate two vacant testing assessment specialist positions and one vacant education program specialist position.
- \$400,000 reduction for training and outreach on formative assessment practices.
- \$303,780 increase for one AP exam for free and reduced price lunch eligible students and one science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) exam per student.
- \$1,305,012 reduction to recognize renegotiated contracts.
- \$5,000,000 reduction to recognize credits for administered Milestones testing.

Tuition for Multiple Disability Students

- \$155,195 reduction for grants to local school systems.

Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services received a total of \$796,003,346 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$33,561,488 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Adoptions Services

- \$151,443 increase to reflect a reduction in FMAP from 67.30% to 67.03%

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

- \$50,408 reduction for administrative support contract using temporary help.

Child Support Services

- \$380,119 reduction for travel expenses and projected expenditures.
- \$3,099,354 reduction for contractual services to reflect projected expenditures.

Child Welfare Services

- \$76,500 reduction for contracted legal assistance costs to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$250,000 reduction for foster parent recruitment marketing and outreach.
- \$3,719,535 reduction for personal services for 49 vacant positions.
- \$2,400,000 reduction to transfer funds from the Departmental Administration program to the Child Welfare Services program to reflect eliminated participation in centralized transportation services.
- \$287,136 reduction for travel expenses to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$470,000 reduction for contracts with Educational Programming, Assessment and Consultation (EPAC) for education services.
- \$940,000 reduction to reflect the non-implementation of a pilot program for closed foster care cases.
- \$510,000 reduction for field services for education, training, and mentors.
- \$975,000 reduction to eliminate funds to reflect statutory change to the Child Abuse Registry.
- \$19,000 reduction for contracts for Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- \$766,350 reduction for SHINES maintained and development.
- \$438,600 reduction by utilizing existing federal funds for personal services for the Family First Project Management Team.
- \$320,344 reduction for hourly safety services positions.
- \$255,000 reduction for contracts for Technical College System of Georgia for staff training.
- \$850,263 reduction for the Georgia State University Professional Excellence contract.

- \$6,048,360 reduction for TANF funds to DBHDD for substance abuse services and replace funding with state funds.

Departmental Administration

- \$3,087,620 reduction for personnel for realized cost-savings and to eliminate 46 vacant positions.
- \$113,499 reduction for travel and conference expenses.
- \$213,036 reduction for a transfer to the Residential Child Care Licensing program for two positions.
- \$1,44,067 increase to reflect a reduction in the e-FMAP percentage from 88.61% to 76.92%.
- \$287,169 reduction to reflect the utilization of existing Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds for contractual services.
- \$110,841 reduction for rent to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$71,391 transfer to the Council on Aging for one position.
- \$564,096 reduction for computers charges to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$75,688 reduction for telecommunications to reflect projected expenditures.

Elder Abuse and Prevention

- \$92,480 reduction for Long-Term Care Ombudsman contracts to reflect projected expenditures.

Elder Community Living Services

- \$75,000 reduction to reflect the utilization of existing Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds for contractual services.

Elder Support Services

- \$195,000 reduction to reflect the utilization of existing Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds for contractual services.
- \$184,655 reduction to marketing for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC).
- \$208,102 reduction to personal services to eliminate two vacant positions.
- \$157,000 reduction for assistive technology to assist older Georgians so that they may continue to live their lives in their homes and communities.
- \$1,700,000 increase from federal funds from the CARES Act.

Out-of-Home Care

- \$6,695,134 reduction by realizing savings from a decrease in Out-of-Home utilization due to a decline in average monthly placements.
- \$520,280 reduction for Child Care Institution provider rates by 0.58%.

Residential Child Care Licensing

- \$213,036 increase to reflect a transfer from Departmental Administration for two positions.
- \$201,652 reduction for personal services to eliminate three vacant positions.

Support for Needy Families – Basic Assistance

- \$30,000 reduction to reflect projected expenditures.

Council on Aging

- \$11,000 reduction to eliminate a media contract.
- \$71,391 increase to reflect a transfer of funds from Departmental Administration for one position.

Family Connection

- \$318,000 reduction to maintain county allocation at \$48,000 each.
- \$84,000 reduction to reduce funds for Georgia Family Connection Partnership technical assistance to the counties.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Business Enterprise Program

- \$27,348 reduction for training consultant, equipment repairs from outside sources, and annual blind vendor conference to reflect projected expenditures.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Departmental Administration

- \$224,395 reduction to realize savings from program reorganization and personnel restructuring initiatives.
- \$39,795 reduction for contractual services.
- \$121,997 reduction for printing, sponsorship, registration, events, advertising, and video production to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$50,223 reduction to realign budget to reflect PeopleSoft billing redirected to VR services.
- \$13,424 reduction for lease payments to reflect lease renegotiations and terminations.
- \$27,952 reduction for temp services contract to reflect projected expenditures.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation Program

- \$504,949 reduction for contractual services for consulting, state, and service contracts to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$41,542 reduction to reflect savings associated with a relocation.
- \$240,487 reduction to reflect savings from fleet reorganization and reductions in travel.

- \$866,194 reduction to reflect the elimination of 127 positions resulting from realignment across the program.
- \$48,269 reduction for repair and maintenance, supplies and materials, and reserves set aside for unforeseen critical repairs to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$1,688,241 reduction for planned reductions through provider management internal controls and providing in house Pre-ETS services.

Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice received a total of \$313,167,897 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$37,523,604 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Community Service

- \$6,317,294 reduction by eliminating 145 vacant non-security positions.
- \$100,682 increase to annualize operations for a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Victims' Facility in Paulding County.
- \$268,416 reflect 20% reduction in operating costs.
- \$91,200 reduction for eliminating temporary staffing contractual services.
- \$419,019 reduction to reflect CGL one-time expenses for Paulding CSEC.
- \$3,899,319 reduction for Community contractual services by replacing funds with other fund sources.
- \$272,855 reduction to dislocate emergency CSO relocations.
- \$390,054 reduction to consolidate CSO locations.
- \$58,699 reduction for assessment and classification.

Departmental Administration

- \$350,712 reduction by eliminating six vacant non-security positions.
- \$150,306 reduction reflect 20% reduction in operating costs.
- \$175,499 reduction to eliminate temporary staffing contractual services.
- \$210,983 reduction for administrative services.
- \$610,896 reduction for the Office of Technology and Information Services.
- \$55,605 reduction to eliminate a training contract.

Secure Commitment (YDCs)

- \$10,776,360 reduction to reflect the closure of the Sumpter Youth Development Campus as a result of declining population due to criminal justice reform.
- \$3,800,638 reduction to reflect vacancies and reflect staggered start dates for security positions.
- \$184,811 reduction to reflect the governor's intent to eliminate one deputy commissioner position.

- \$154,826 reduction to eliminate landline telephones for employees with cellular phones.
- \$129,474 reduction to reflect the governor's intent to eliminate one vacant program coordinator.
- \$429,101 reduction to reflect 20% reduction in operating costs.
- \$276,030 reduction to eliminate temporary staffing contractual services.
- \$451,778 reduction to reflect a restructure of five education positions.
- \$24,394 reduction for nutrition.

Secure Detention (RYDCs)

- \$4,139,098 reduction to reflect vacancies and reflect staggered start dates for security positions.
- \$395,760 reduction for facility maintenance worker positions by shifting maintenance work at 25 facilities to a contract.
- \$616,326 reduction to reflect 20% reduction in operating costs
- \$35,289 reduction for nutrition.

Department of Public Health

The Department of Human Services received a total of \$284,031,024 in state funds for FY 2021. This is \$8,218,646 less than the funds received in the initial FY 2020 budget.

Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion

- \$275,000 reduction for five Coverdell-Murphy remote stroke readiness grants.
- \$320,625 reduction for contractual services.
- \$115,000 reduction for the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia.
- \$300,000 reduction for the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (CORE) and hold harmless the five regional cancer coalitions.
- \$27,362 reduction for travel and training.
- \$199,678 reduction to reflect two vacant positions.
- \$500,000 reduction for feminine hygiene products.
- \$32,500 reduction for Emory Transition contract.
- \$74,350 reduction for family planning operations.
- \$57,938 reduction for temporary contracts.

Departmental Administration

- \$40,000 reduction for contractual services.
- \$323,768 reduction to reflect consolidation of two district health director positions.
- \$1,519,360 increase to reflect transfer of full earnings from the Public Health Formula Grants to Counties program for the Fulton County Board of Health.

Emergency Preparedness/Trauma System Improvement

- \$170,000 reduction for the Georgia Hospital Association.
- \$1,200,000 increase to support Grady Memorial Hospital's efforts to continue the coordination of emergency room use in the 13-county metro Atlanta area.

Epidemiology

- \$104,590 reduction for the Office of Health Information and Planning consultant contract.

Immunization

- \$33,600 reduction for travel and supplies.
- \$109,445 reduction to reflect utilization of federal funds for a database administrator position.

Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services

- \$275,000 reduction for legal services to reflect projected expenditures.
- \$43,196 increase to reflect a reduction in FMAP from 67.30% to 67.03%.
- \$381,583 reduction to utilize Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funds for Children's Medical Services.
- \$49,901 reduction for the Emory Autism Center.
- \$600,000 reduction for three satellite perinatal support sites in Jenkins, Randolph, and Wilcox counties.
- \$143,000 reduction for oral health.
- \$72,000 reduction to reflect utilization of Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds for the Georgia Rural Water Association.
- \$69,056 reduction for one vacant position.

Infant and Child Health Promotion

- \$40,000 reduction for contractual services.
- \$199,056 reduction for personal services to reflect savings from two vacant positions.
- \$15,000 increase to establish a working group to evaluate and make recommendation for addition of Krabbe Disease as approved on February 21, 2020 by Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.
- \$461,317 reduction to reflect utilization of existing Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds for early hearing detection and intervention.
- \$24,000 reduction for the Marcus Autism Center.
- \$227,362 reduction Children 1st.
- \$200,000 reduction for the Emory University short term-follow-up contract.
- \$197,047 reduction to reflect utilization of existing Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds for two epidemiology positions.

- \$84,348 reduction to reflect utilization of existing Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds for Georgia State University.
- \$44,000 reduction for the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Infectious Disease Control

- \$275,000 reduction to reflect utilization of federal funds for supplies for sexually transmitted diseases.
- \$269,938 reduction to reflect the governor's intent to eliminate four vacant positions including one lab aide, one budget analyst supervisor, one health educator, and one congenital syphilis position.
- \$57,351 increase for the first of a three-year pilot for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals at risk of HIV pursuant to passage of HB 290 (2019 Session).
- \$55,000 reduction for Saint Joseph's Mercy Care.
- \$15,000 reduction for the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- \$9,400 reduction for the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians.
- \$8,500 reduction for the Georgia OB/GYN Society.
- \$10,425,273 increase in federal funds from the CARES Act.

Inspections and Environmental Hazard Control

- \$25,589 reduction for programmatic grant-in-aid.

Office for Children and Families

- \$428,423 reduction to eliminate funds for the Office for Children and Families program and recognize efficiencies through the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program to continue providing early childhood brain development services.

Public Health Formula Grants to Counties

- \$1,519,360 reduction to represent a transfer of full earnings from the Public health Formula Grants to Counties program.
- reflect 20% reduction in operating costs.

Vital Records

\$129,598 reduction to reflect the governor's intent to eliminate one vacant senior manager – business operations position.

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund

- \$22,196 increase to reflect FY 2019 collections.

Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

- \$2,345.182 reduction for trauma center readiness, uncompensated care trauma system development, and emergency medical services.