

## Legislative Report Days 5-9

### **Immigration:**

There has not been any recent movement or update on these immigration related bills, but we are continuing to monitor them.

[HB 202](#) by Rep. Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah) requires the Commissioner of Corrections to, on the official website used by the department, publish a report of aggregate data on the immigration status, offenses, and home countries of inmates who are not United States citizens and who are confined under the authority of the department. Additionally, the commissioner must report, in a similar manner, the percentage of inmates, in relation to the population in confinement, that are not citizens of the United States.

[HB 270](#) by Rep. Jeff Jones (R-Brunswick) mandates the Department of Motor Vehicles to participate in the E-Verify (RIDE) program and prohibits anyone from using their foreign I.D. as a form of identification when going to vote.

[HB 360](#) by Rep. Pedro Marin (D-Duluth) allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver safety cards noncitizen residents who are ineligible for a driver's license, temporary permit, or identification card.

[HB 400](#) by Rep. Jeff Jones (R-Brunswick) mandates the Department of Motor vehicles to participate in the E-Verify (RIDE) program. The bill would also replace the licenses of those with DACA with one that has the words "NOT U.S. CITIZEN" AND "NOT FOR FEDERAL USE".

[HB 670](#) by Representative Bee Nguyen (D-Atlanta) by Representative Bee Nguyen (D-Atlanta) allows the department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants.

### **Taxes:**

This past week Governor Kemp signed [HB 276](#) into law. Under this bill, sales taxes are collected on all purchases made online. This legislation is projected to produce around \$80 million per year in additional local sales tax revenue.

*The following pieces of legislation were introduced this past week:*

[HB 844](#) by Rep. Joseph Gullet (R-Dallas) provides that property tax bills are to include amounts of assessments levied for each of the three immediately preceding tax years – this also includes each credit in a new code section. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

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[HB 846](#) by Rep. John Corbett (R-Lake Park) provides that interest paid on refunds of overpayments of taxes and past due taxes are to equal the bank prime loan rate – now that rate is the bank prime loan rate as posted by the Federal Reserve plus three (3) percent.

[HB 810](#) by Rep. Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) allows a tax credit for the employment of qualified parolees by licensees of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

## **Business/Labor:**

[HB 839](#) by Rep. Todd Jones (R-South Forsyth) was introduced and referred to the House Industrial and Labor Committee. The bill changes the definition of employment to include services performed by an individual for wages unless the Department of Labor makes a contrary determination based upon evidence that such individual has been, and will continue to be, free from control or direction over the performance of such services.

## **Public Safety:**

This past week the Senate Government Oversight Committee passed [SB 317](#) by Senator William Ligon (R-Brunswick). This bill would create a process for the dissolution of a county police department by either local legislation or local resolution by the county governing authority.

[HB 784](#) by Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R- Armuchee) passed out of the committee this week. Under this bill, local boards of education would be allowed to discuss school safety plans in executive session rather than require such discussions to take place in an open meeting.

## **Local Government:**

*The following legislation was introduced this past week:*

[HR 1023](#) by Rep. Andy Welch (R-McDonough) proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to provide that individuals may petition the judiciary for declaratory relief from certain acts of the state or certain local governments or officers or employees thereof that violate the laws or Constitution of this state or the Constitution of the United States. Such petitions must be brought in the name of the State or local government entity that is being petitioned. The resolution was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

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[HB 850](#) by Rep. Jason Ridley (R-Chatsworth) provides for a uniform November referendum and elections for local option sales taxes. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

[HB 867](#) by Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) mandates that a city with more than 125 square miles within its boundaries could not annex any portion of property that has a county operated public airport unless the county adopts a resolution approving the proposed annexation 90 days prior to the city voting on the annexation.

[HB 837](#) by Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) prescribes county development authorities for counties in which at least 95% of the land area is incorporated into one or more municipalities from purchasing property titles, undertaking projects, or granting tax abatements without approval from the Board of Education and governing authority of any county or municipality the project is located in. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

[SB 309](#) by Sen. Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro) is the “Georgia Municipal and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority Act”. The bill provides for comprehensive regulation of local government infrastructure financing and to include broadband network projects as undertakings for which revenue bonds may be issued. The bill also creates the Georgia Municipal and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority and the Georgia County and Local Government Infrastructure Finance Authority

## **Healthcare**

[HB 789](#) by Rep. Mark Newton (R-Evans), seeks to create a “surprise bill rating system” which is based upon the number of certain physician specialty groups contracted with a hospital within a health insurer’s network and that insurers would be required to include a hospital’s surprise bill ratings online. The bill was assigned to the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care.

[SB 303](#) by Sen. Ben Watson (R-Savannah) provides greater transparency of prices for non-emergency health care services and require that insurers make available on their publicly accessible websites an interactive mechanism and a toll-free number so that the public may access. The bill was assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. This bill was referred to the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

[SB 313](#) by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge) creates new provisions to regulate pharmacy benefits managers. The bill increases the filing fee for pharmacy benefits managers to \$2,000 and \$1,000 for new applications and renewals, respectively. The bill proscribes PBMs from contracting with physicians for step therapy or prior authorizations unless the physician is licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board, actively sees patients,

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and engages with the medical practice that focuses on the condition for which they are providing advisement.