

The 2020 legislative session is quickly approaching “Cross-Over Day.” Cross-over Day is the last day that a piece of legislation can pass one chamber of the Georgia General Assembly and still have time to pass the other chamber before the end of the legislative session. This is particularly important this year because it is the second year of the 2019-2020 biennial and all bills that do not pass the legislative process before the last day of this session die and will have to start the process over next year.

Below is an overview of the bills that the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been following this session and the position that the Chamber has taken on them. We encourage our members and partners to review them and reach out to us with any comments or questions you may have. If there is an issue that is important to you that we have missed, please bring it to our attention and we will do all we can to help you.

Pro-Business

[HB 90](#) by Rep. Bruce Roger (D-Atlanta) focuses on Georgia’s current disparities regarding government contracting, with participants exploring and discussing possible solutions to the problems being experienced by minority small business owners and others who seek to do business with Georgia’s State Agencies. This bill has been assigned to the House Government Affairs committee. **Position: Support**

[HB 110](#) by Rep. Tom Kirby (R-Loganville) Current law requires employers to pay employees by cash, check, credit transfer (with the consent of the employee) or by credit into payroll card account. This law allows the payment by check (upon the discretion of the employer). This bill is currently in the House Industry and Labor committee. **Position: Support**

[SB 92](#) by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) prohibits professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking a license of a person that is a borrower in default of an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency. This bill is currently in Appropriations. **Position: Support**

[HB 230](#) by Rep. Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta) provides for the creation of “Benefit Corporations” as an option for corporate structure in Georgia. Currently, 34 states have similar corporate structures, all geared towards accommodating businesses that welcome the dual role of creating shareholder profit and creating a positive social impact. Bill is currently sitting in Senate Rules. **Position: Support**

Economic Development

[SB 20](#) by Senator Michael Rnett (D-Marietta) authorizes the creation of banking improvement zones, with the stated goal of encouraging new banks in areas underserved by banks. Local

governments can apply to the Department of Community Affairs for a banking improvement zone designation. If the designation is granted, the local government will designate a bank within the zone to be the depository for local government funds, and subject to agreement with the bank, designate a fixed interest rate that is at or below the posted two-year certificate of deposit rate at the bank. The bill is currently in the House after the Senate disagreed to House's version as amended.. **Position: Support**

Education (Tuition Equity generally should be added to our priorities and these bills should be monitored and endorsed at the appropriate time)

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber believes that Georgia residents that qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) federal program should be entitled to in-state tuition to the post-secondary institutions in Georgia. The GHCC is prepared to endorse and support any legislation that the general assembly takes up that achieves those policy ends.

Healthcare

HB 888 Rep. Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) provides a process to ensure that Georgia patients do not receive balance bills from providers, insurance companies, or hospitals. Legislation would provide transparency in non-emergency situations to make sure patients are notified what providers are conducting their medical procedures and it provides for arbitration in certain scenarios where providers, insurance plans, and hospitals do not have controlling agreements. This bill has passed the House and is now in Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Positions: Support

Transportation

[HB 511](#) by Kevin Tanner (R-) streamlines state-wide transit planning by creating a division at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) responsible for transit. Eight mobility zones are designated around the state with each overseen by a Mobility Manager and a council comprised of membership from the area's Regional Commission. A pilot program would be created to provide tax credits for employers who invest in transit and a pilot program (subject to appropriations) would be created to provide transit vouchers to individuals in unemployed and underemployed areas of the state. New funding mechanisms include allowing counties to implement a Single County Transit SPLOST. Lastly, a new excise tax on taxi, ride-hailing and limousine trips would be applied with the intent of the funds to be used for transit projects. Bill is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. **Position: Support**

[HR 935](#) by Kevin Tanner (R) renews the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics. Commission was created to develop a comprehensive, strategic business plan to promote state-wide freight and logistics infrastructure to maintain Georgia's economic competitiveness. This Bill is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee **Position: Support**

Taxes

[HB 925](#) by Terry Rogers (R-) would expand the list of industries for which purchases of computer equipment would be exempt from sales taxes. This bill is currently in the House Rules Committee. **Position: Support**

[HB 934](#) by Rep. Bert Reeves (R-Marietta) increases the state income tax credit for foster parents from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per qualified foster child. This tax credit would last for the first five taxable years after the adoption becomes final and then return to \$2,000 until the child turns 18. This bill is currently in the House Rules Committee. **Position: Support..**

[HB 132](#) by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe) permits affiliated entities to apply certain transferable tax credits against payroll withholding in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-42(c). **Position: Support.**

Local Government

[HB 879](#) by Rep. Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) changes the state's three-tier alcohol distribution system to authorize the sale and delivery of packaged alcohol, under specific terms and conditions, to persons who establish accounts with the retailer. Delivery drivers must undergo training, background checks and meet certain conditions and delivery addresses must be located within the local alcohol licensing jurisdiction of the retailer. Local governments could prohibit this delivery within their jurisdiction. This bill is on the House Floor March 10, 2020. **Position: Support**

Immigration

[HR 1060](#) by Rep. Wes Cantrell (R-Woodstock) seeks to create the House Study Committee on Business and Legal Immigration. The resolution has been assigned to the Special Rules committee. **Position: Support**

[HB 915](#) by Rep. Phillip Singleton (R-Newnan) known as the ‘Georgia Anti-Sanctuary Act’. Under this bill, local governments or law enforcement cannot adopt or have in effect a sanctuary policy. This bill also makes local law enforcement support the enforcement of federal immigration law. This bill also forces each county correctional, department of corrections, and municipal correctional facility to enter an agreement with the federal immigration agency for temporary housing to individuals who have an immigration detainer. There are also county fines ranging from \$1,500-25,000 to counties, law enforcement agencies or entities who fail to comply with this law. Finally, this bill would allow individuals who have been hurt by criminal actions from an undocumented individual to sue the local government, state entity, or law enforcement if they feel that they violated of this law. **Position: Against**

[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. **Position: Against**

[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. **Position: Against**

[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. **Position: Support**

[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.” **Position: Against.**

[HB 1083](#) by Rep. Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah) this bill has been substituted in committee on March 9, 2020. The new version creates a cause of action against a local government for the victim of a crime committed by an undocumented resident when such local government is not participating in the ICE 287(g)program. This legislation is currently in House Rules. **Position: Against**

Rideshare

A significant percentage of the Hispanic workforce in Georgia utilize taxis and ride share a method to commute to and from work. Application of certain local sales taxes in Georgia to the ride share industry would make Atlanta one of the most expensive ride share markets in the United States. The GHCC supports language providing either a sales tax exemption to rideshare services or a reasonable per ride fee alternative.