

## Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Legislative Day 40 Sine Die Eve Report



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Lawmakers have till midnight tonight to pass legislation before the Georgia General Assembly adjourns for the year. The McDonald Firm will be at the Georgia State Capitol late into the night to ensure our members' interest is well represented. This report contains bills that have gone through the legislative process and what we are continuing to monitor.

### **Immigration:**

[HR 11](#) by Representative Wes Cantrell (R-Woodstock) would create the study committee on Innovative Ways to Maximize Global Talent. Specifically, this study committee will look at barriers preventing immigrants with different statuses thrive in Georgia and make legislative recommendations. Currently, this resolution is sitting in House Rules.

### **Economic Development:**

[HR 129](#) by Rep. Yasmin Neal (D-Jonesboro) proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to authorize the General Assembly to provide for the net proceeds of one or more lottery games to support economic development purposes and programs to provide for direct loans to small businesses located in Georgia. This resolution is still sitting in House Rules.

[SB 255](#) by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamuaga) would establish a grant program called the Border Region Retail Tourism Development Program under the One Georgia Authority. The program will serve the purpose of awarding grants to eligible applicants to induce businesses too, or assist companies that intend to, relocate, expand, or construct projects in Georgia rather than a bordering state. This bill passed on Monday now heads to the Governor Kemp's desk for his consideration.

[HB 586](#) by Rep Sam Watson (R-Moultrie) extends sales tax exemptions for Georgia's vital industries. The omnibus bill extends the sunset date for sales tax exemption on personal property in relation to regionally significant projects, adds a tax exemption towards museum tickets or tickets to fine arts events held in state-owned or nonprofit venues, extends a tax exemption for concrete mixing while in transit, and repeals the sunset date for the sales tax cap on certain boat purchases.

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HB 586 includes components from several other bills, including [HB 122](#) (tax exemption for concrete mixers) and [HB 503](#) (extend the sunset date for the exemption for projects of regional significance). On Thursday, March 25, HB 586 was added to SB 6 which was then voted out of the House of Representatives 152-14 and sent to the Senate which declined to agree to the changes. The bill is currently being considered and may come up for a vote before the end of Sine die.

**Business:**

[SB 27](#) by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R-White) would extend the time a military member can qualify for a certain professional license. This bill is expected to be vote on the House Floor

[SB 219](#) by Sen. Frank Gin (R-Danielsville) allows brewers at one location to sell their products at other locations provided the same entity owns the second location. This bill is expected to be voted on the House Floor.

[HB 306](#) by Rep. Stan Gunter (R-Blairsville) allows corporations, partnerships, and associations to hold shareholders meetings virtually. This bill is expected to be voted on the Senate floor.

[HB 317](#) by Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) would update an innkeeper's definition to include marketplace facilitators, like Airbnb and VRBO, and extend the \$5.00 hotel/motel fee in House Bill 170 (Transportation Funding Act of 2015) to these entities. This bill is scheduled to be voted on in the Senate.

**Taxes:**

[HB 587](#) by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe) provides several business tax credits to encourage job creation and attract strategic industries to Georgia. It includes a tax credit to incentivize manufacturers of medical equipment to locate in Georgia and create jobs. House Bill 587 contains an additional tax credit aimed to attract national defense projects to Georgia. This bill is expected to be voted on in the Senate.

[SB185](#) Sen. Bo Hatchett (R-Cornelia) allows the Tax Tribunal judge more flexibility in taxpayer dispute cases and frees them from an administrative rule requiring them to defer to Department interpretations of ambiguous laws. On Monday, March 22, SB 185 passed out of the House by a 162-4 vote. The bill is now before Governor Kemp for his consideration.