

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Friday, February 18, 2022

The legislature convened on Monday, February 14, 2022, for legislative day 16, and also convened on Tuesday and Thursday with Wednesday, February 16 being a committee workday.

Next week, the general assembly will convene on Tuesday and Thursday with Wednesday, February 23 as a committee workday.

To view Senate Resolution 382, the current adjournment resolution dictating the legislative calendar, [click here](#).

There are a variety of ways to stay tuned into the political process. If you would like to watch the House and Senate proceedings in real-time, click [here](#). This website will also allow you to stream committee hearings throughout the 2022 legislative session.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

KEY LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Bill 331: "Protecting Georgia Businesses and Workers Act"; enact

Senate Sponsor: [John Albers \(Roswell\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 331 is a local preemption bill designed to prevent local governments from enacting ordinances dictating employee hours, scheduling, or regulating employee output during work hours. The committee took up SB 331 on Wednesday, February 9 and passed it out with a unanimous vote. The bill passed the full Georgia State Senate on Thursday, February 17 by a vote of [31-21](#).

Senate Bill 361: "Law Enforcement Strategic Support Act" or "LESS Crime Act"; enact

Senate Sponsor: [Larry Walker \(Perry\)](#)

Senate Bill 361 uses a proven tax incentive structure to encourage investment in local law enforcement. A priority of Lieutenant Governor Duncan, SB 361 creates a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for private and corporate taxpayers choosing to invest in law enforcement organizations. SB 361 passed out of the full Georgia State Senate on Thursday, February 10 by a vote of [52-0](#). The Business community is supportive.

House Bill 1044: Local government; creation of regional development authorities; provide

House Sponsor: [Clay Pirkle \(Ashburn\)](#)

House Bill 1044 allows counties to bind together to form regional development authorities. The business community has long supported such an initiative as integral to the success of our rural communities. HB 1044 passed the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 15 by a vote of [165-0](#). The business community is supportive of this legislation.

House Bill 1134: Crimes and offenses; prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity; provide for concurrent authority

House Sponsor: [Chuck Efstrotation \(Dacula\)](#)

House Bill 1134 allows for the office of the Attorney General to concurrently investigate and prosecute gang-related crimes with local district attorneys. HB 1134 passed the full House of Representatives on Monday, February 14 by a vote of [101-56](#). The business community is supportive of HB 1134.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

House Bill 1058: Income tax; affiliated corporations file separate or consolidated returns; provisions

House Sponsor: [Bruce Williamson \(Monroe\)](#)

House Bill 1058 allows for elective consolidated corporate tax returns. Currently, the law allows for the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner to give permission for consolidated reporting, this bill removes the DOR discretion and allows taxpayers to make their own filing determinations. HB 1058 had its first of two House Ways and Means Subcommittee meetings on Wednesday, February 16. The business community is supportive of this legislation.

House Bill 1064: Income tax; certain retirement income for military service; provide exemption

House Sponsor: [Jesse Petrea \(Savannah\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

House Bill 1064 allows for Georgians receiving military retirement income to have most, or all income exempt from state tax. HB 1064 passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously on Thursday, February 17.

House Bill 1187: Sales and use tax; exemption for certain high-technology data center equipment; extend sunset

House Sponsor: [Noel Williams Jr. \(Cordele\)](#)

House Bill 1187 is a 10-year extension of the high-tech data center tax credit. This credit has been successful in recruiting data centers, and the businesses they support, to Georgia. HB 1187 had its second House Ways and Means Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, February 15, but there was no vote. The business community is supportive of HB 1187.

House Bill 1291: Sales and use tax; exemption for sale or lease of computer equipment of high-technology companies; revise spending threshold and extend sunset date

House Sponsor: [Vance Smith \(Pine Mountain\)](#)

House Bill 1291 contains a slight modification to the tax exemption for the sale or lease of the computer equipment of high-technology companies. HB 1291 extends the current exemptions' sunset and raises the required spend from \$15 million to \$18 million annually to qualify for the credit. HB 1291 had its first of two House Ways and Means Subcommittee meetings on Tuesday, February 15. The business community is supportive of HB 1291.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Senate Bill 379: State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state; provide

Senate Sponsor: [Brian Strickland \(McDonough\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 379 would create the Office of Workforce Development under the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia. This entity will establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state. SB 379 will incentivize small and medium-sized businesses that serve as sponsors of this program. The goal is to create more programs to support the demands of our growing economy and current workforce challenges. This apprenticeship expansion program will train Georgians in jobs that are in high demand which is critical to our workforce. Businesses that train up to five students will be eligible to receive compensation of up to \$10,000 per student upon completion of the apprenticeship course. On Wednesday, February 16, SB 379 was heard in the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

Senate Bill 452: Education; administration of a nationally recognized college entrance exam to public school students in grade 11 who choose to participate; require

Senate Sponsor: [Sheila McNeill \(Brunswick\)](#)

Senate Bill 452 seeks to ensure every 11th-grade student in Georgia has the opportunity to take a college entrance exam during the school day. Currently, students take college entrance exams off-site and during the weekend. If passed, this legislation will require appropriations to fund testing and be fully enacted in future years. Currently, SB 452 has been assigned to the Senate Education & Youth Committee. [House Bill 1184](#) is the companion bill and it has been assigned to the House Education Committee. The business community is in support of this legislation.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

House Bill 1083: The Georgia Cogeneration and Distributed Generation Act of 2001; change certain provisions

House Sponsor: [Ed Setzler \(Acworth\)](#)

House Bill 1083 is a bill that would set up a comprehensive set of mandates that would alter the course of consumer billing for energy. HB 1083 would require utility companies to financially compensate solar panel owners for more electricity over and above what they are generating. Unfortunately, this legislation would have a negative impact on non-solar consumers as they would ultimately bear the reimbursement cost of solar panel generators, both commercial and residential, which can be very costly. On Tuesday, February 15, HB 1083 was heard in the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee and the business community is in opposition to HB 1083.

Senate Resolution 463: Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation; create
Sponsor: [Steve Gooch \(Dahlgren\)](#)

Senate Resolution 463 would create a Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation. The electric vehicle market is expected to experience significant growth in the near future which will require the expansion of the public charging network. This joint study committee will explore the economic growth opportunities while engaging stakeholders, elected officials, and community leaders. The study committee will be operational until December 1, 2022. The business community is supportive of SR 463.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

House Bill 1013: Mental Health Parity Act; enact
House Sponsor: [David Ralston \(Blue Ridge\)](#)
GHCC Position: **Support**

House Bill 1013 seeks to expand access to much-needed behavioral mental health services in the state; address alternative outcomes for mental health individuals to alleviate overcrowding in our criminal justice system; enhance resources for frontline responders; address parity for providers and clients; and provide solutions for individuals dealing with substance abuse. HB 1013 was heard in the House Health & Human Services Committee on Wednesday, February 16. Representatives [Todd Jones \(South Forsyth\)](#) and [Mary Margaret Oliver \(Decatur\)](#) presented HB 1013 to the committee.

LAW & JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 393: 'Common Carrier Non-Discrimination Act'; enact
Senate Sponsor: [Greg Dolezal \(Cumming\)](#)

Senate Bill 393 defines large social media companies as "common carriers" and creates new rules around the moderation of content and management of user accounts. The bill additionally provides for the general public to enforce the statute by way of a lawsuit. SB 393 passed out of Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee on Tuesday, February 15 in a 6-5 vote. The Business community is in opposition to this legislation.

ENTERTAINMENT

House Bill 1034: Sales and use tax; exemption for sales of admissions to nonrecurring major sporting events; revise

House Sponsor: [Marcus Wiedower \(Watkinsville\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

House Bill 1034 extends the sunset provision for a sales tax exemption on certain sporting event tickets through 2031. The bill proposes a 9-year extension which is necessary to secure major events like the Super Bowl, World Cup, and other professional sports championships. HB 1034 passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee on Thursday, February 17.

GHCC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is hosting our annual legislative breakfast on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The event will begin promptly at 8:00 A.M. We are expecting several special guest speakers so please save the date. This breakfast will only be open to GHCC members.

For more information about our legislative breakfast, click [here](#).

