

## Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

### LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

#### Friday, February 4, 2022

The legislature convened on Tuesday, February 1 for legislative day 9 and worked through Thursday, February 3 completing legislative day 11 out of 40. Next week, the general assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 7, for legislative day 12, and will also convene Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday, February 9 being 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 SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**House Bill 961: Torts; authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits; provide for evidence of fault of nonparties**

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

House Bill 961 cleans up statutory language in Georgia's apportionment statute addressing damages in civil litigation originally passed in 2005. In a recent Georgia Supreme Court ruling, Hatcher v. Alston & Bird, inconsistencies in the statute were at issue. Under the guidance of the ruling in that case, HB 961 clarifies the legislative intent of the statute and reinstates the apportionment of damages aligned with the apportionment offault in single-defendant cases. HB 961 unanimously passed the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, January 25. It is scheduled for a vote by the full House of Representatives on Monday, February 7, 2022. This bill is supported by the business community.

**Senate Bill 257: Georgia Crime Information Center; criminal history record restrictions for certain persons cited with or convicted of certain criminal offenses; provide**

Senate Sponsor: [Tonya Anderson \(Lithonia\)](#)

Senate Bill 257 clarifies and prudently extends Georgians' access to criminal record restriction and sealing, commonly known as expungement. SB 257 includes provisions allowing for automatic

expungement upon receiving a pardon; clarification of certain misdemeanor crimes eligible for expungement; the sealing of citation records when charges are dismissed; and earlier access to expungement for human trafficking victims. The Chamber supports this legislation as a tool that could enhance job opportunities for certain non-violent offenders to help address current statewide labor shortages. SB 257 was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee during the 2021 special session and passed out of committee Wednesday, February 2, 2022. The bill will be voted on by the Senate on Monday, February 7, 2022 and it has gained the support of the business community.

## **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**

**House Resolution 627: House Study Committee on Bureaucratic Hindrances to Businesses; create**

Sponsor: Bill Yearta (Sylvester)

House Resolution 627 creates a legislative study committee which will identify current state laws and/or agency regulations that may be repealed to allow businesses across Georgia to continue to prosper. This measure has been assigned to the House Small Business Development Committee. The business community is supportive of HR 627.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION**

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

Sponsor: Clay Pirkle (Ashburn)

House Bill 1044 allows for counties to bind together to form regional development authorities. The Chamber has long supported such an initiative as integral to the success of our rural communities. HB 1044 was heard in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee this week and passed out with a unanimous vote. The business community is supportive of HB 1044 and it is now eligible for consideration by the full House of Representatives.

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

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 has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and the business community has

expressed support in HB 1058.

## LAW & JUDICIARY

### **Senate Bill 394: "Georgia Computer Data Privacy Act"; enact**

Sponsor: Greg Dolezal (Cumming)

Senate Bill 394 is a consumer data privacy bill with complex compliance provisions, new private rights of action against employers, which will have far-reaching implications Georgia's business community. The Chamber maintains the position in support of a federal law to address data privacy standards rather than forcing multi-jurisdictional businesses to navigate and comply with a patchwork of state laws. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Science and Technology Committee and the business community has been in opposition to SB 394.

## HEALTHCARE

### **House Bill 1013: Mental Health Parity Act; enact**

Bill Sponsor: David Ralston (Blue Ridge)

House Bill 1013 is a comprehensive mental health bill that seeks to reform Georgia's mental health care delivery system and improve patient outcomes. The bill aims to strengthen the health of our state, workforce development initiatives, and overall enhance resources for first responders as well as Georgia's communities. This bill provides a variety of recommendations from the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform & Innovation Commission. HB 1013 has received bipartisan support, and it has been assigned to the House Health & Human Services Committee where it awaits a hearing.

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sponsor: Marcus Wiedower (Watkinsville)

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 has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and the business community is supportive.

**House Bill 1053: Income tax; certain expenditures made by postproduction companies; extend taxcredit**

Sponsor: [Ron Stephens \(Savannah\)](#)

House Bill 1053 extends the film post-production tax credit set to expire on January 1, 2023, through 2027. The tax credit has been fully subscribed since its inception and has successfully supported an expanding post-production industry in Georgia. The House Creative Arts and Entertainment Committee unanimously voted to recommend the adoption of HB 1053 on Wednesday, February 2. The bill is now eligible to be heard in House Ways and Means Committee. The business community is supportive of 1053.

## **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE**

**House Bill 120: Georgia Resident In-State Tuition Act**

Bill Sponsor: [Kasey Carpenter \(Dalton\)](#)

House Bill 120 would grant in-state tuition to DACA students under 30 years of age in Georgia who have graduated from a Georgia high school or obtained a GED in the state. This bill was assigned to the House Higher Education Committee where it was favorably reported by a substitute. Although this bill has not seen movement this session, the business community remains supportive.

**House Bill 932: Education; noncitizen students with certain refugee, special immigrant, or humanitarian parole status under federal law are classified as in-state for tuition purposes; provide**

Bill Sponsor: [Wes Cantrell \(Woodstock\)](#)

House Bill 932 would allow noncitizen students with certain refugee, special immigrant, or humanitarian parole status under federal law to be classified as in-state students for tuition purposes. Noncitizen students will not be classified as in-state students unless they are legally in state with evidence to receive this classification by the board of regents. This would allow noncitizen students to immediately be considered for in-state tuition upon settlement in Georgia after being admitted to the U.S. as a refugee. Students who reside in the U.S. under nonimmigrant status shall not be eligible for in-state tuition. At this time HB 932 has not been scheduled for a committee hearing.

**Senate Bill 357: Military Student Transfers; military students with the discretion to select adjacent schooldistricts for attendance; provide**

Bill Sponsor: [Kay Kirkpatrick \(Marietta\)](#)

Senate Bill 357 is a military-friendly bill with a focus on K-12 education. SB 357 would allow students

of military families to attend school across district lines up to a 50-mile radius. Currently, Georgia law allows for students to attend the district closest to them, but fees are applied for out-of-state tuition. SB 357 bill was heard in the House Education & Youth Committee where it still resides as they continue to work on this legislation.

## IMMIGRATION

**Senate Bill 448: Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; peace officer in this state who lawfully arrests an individual with or without a warrant or as the result of a traffic stop shall check such individual's citizenship status; provide**

Bill Sponsor: **Butch Miller (Gainesville)**

Senate Bill 448 would allow law enforcement officers and agencies to check an individual's citizenship status if they are lawfully arrested or detained in a traffic stop with or without a warrant. This bill is currently assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and it has not received a hearing.

## GOVERNOR KEMP ARPA FUNDS ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday, February 1, 2022, Governor Brian P. Kemp, members of the general assembly, and the state's Broadband Infrastructure Committee announced approximately 408 million dollars in preliminary awards, which will provide communities, households, and businesses in rural areas of the state access to expand high-speed internet. The 49 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant projects represent an investment of more than \$738 million in Georgia when matching funds are contributed. The American Rescue Plan Act, the sixth COVID-19 relief bill, was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and provides almost \$1.9 trillion in assistance. To view Governor Kemp's full press release, click [here](#).

## 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](#).



OPPORTUNITY  
**REIMAGINE  
THE NEXT** ADVOCACY  
CONNECTION

**MARCH 1, 2022**  
8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

*Annual*  
**LEGISLATIVE  
BREAKFAST**  
MEMBERS ONLY

**REGISTER  
NOW**

James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Building  
200 Piedmont Ave. SE  
Atlanta, GA 30303

