

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Friday, March 11, 2022

The legislature convened on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday this week with Thursday, March 10 being a committee workday.

Next week, the general assembly will reconvene for legislative day 28 on Tuesday, March 15 which will be "Crossover Day". Tuesday is the last day for a bill to pass out of its chamber of origin to be considered by the other body during the 2022 legislative session.

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

2022 ELECTION CYCLE

This week, the Georgia State Capitol served host to the qualifying process for all candidates running for elected office in 2022. The 2022 election cycle candidate qualifying for both partisan and nonpartisan races began on Monday, March 7 at 9:00am and ended on Friday, March 11 at 12:00pm. To view qualified candidate information, please visit the Secretary of State's website [here](#).

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

KEY LEGISLATIVE ACTION THIS WEEK

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. This entity will establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state, with the goal of creating more programs to support the demands of our growing economy and current workforce challenges. 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. SB 379 passed out of the full Senate on Tuesday, March 8 by a vote of [42-4](#).

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 the full Senate on Tuesday, March 8 by a vote of [33-21](#). The business community is in opposition to this measure.

Senate Bill 441: Courts; reestablishment of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board as an advisory board to The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia; provide

Senate Sponsor: [Bo Hatchett \(Cornelia\)](#)

Senate Bill 441 is a comprehensive bill tackling issues with Georgia's "GCIC" criminal record database. The bill creates a new advisory board with the aim of improving the speed and accuracy of data transmission to the state database, ensuring all criminal records in Georgia are complete and accessible. SB 441 passed out of the full Senate on Tuesday, March 8 by a vote of [53-0](#). The business community is supportive of this measure.

House Bill 934: Sales and use tax; special district mass transportation; local government; provisions

House Sponsor: [Rob Leverett \(Elberton\)](#)

Current law prohibits (in the case of single county TSPLOST) a county from collecting past the projected revenue number cited after the adoption of the resolution, even if that number is reached before the full term of the program. House Bill 934 would allow the county to continue that revenue collection until the conclusion of the SPLOST program for the full five years. HB 934 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Friday, March 11 by a vote of [150-8](#). The business community is supportive of this measure.

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 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 8 by a vote of [169-3](#).

House Bill 1039: Income tax; expenditures on maintenance for Class III railroads; extend tax credit

House Sponsor: [Mack Jackson \(Sandersville\)](#)

House Bill 1039 extends the sunset on the short line railroad maintenance tax credit from 2026 to 2028. The state issues a \$3,500-a-mile tax credit to short line companies, which costs the state about \$5.3 million a year, in exchange for an additional \$10 million of investments. HB 1039 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 8 by a vote of [164-4](#). The business community is supportive of HB 1039. The business community is supportive of this measure.

House Bill 1043: Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals; create

House Sponsor: [Rick Jasperse \(Jasper\)](#)

House Bill 1043 seeks to create the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals to foster a public-private partnership for support of postsecondary teaching professionals in high-demand courses, subjects, and disciplines. It would be applicable to the Technical College System of Georgia teaching professionals. This endowment would be governed by a board of trustees. HB 1043 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 9 by a vote of [157-4](#). The business community is supportive of HB 1043.

House Bill 1437: Income tax; revise rates of taxation on income

House Sponsor: [Shaw Blackmon \(Bonaire\)](#)

House Bill 1437 is a comprehensive change to Georgia's personal income tax. This legislation lowers the standard tax rate from 5.75% to 5.25%. Additionally, it eliminates most deductions but raises the standard deduction to \$12,000 per year for single filers and \$24,000 for those filing jointly. HB 1437 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 9 by a vote of [115-52](#). The business community is supportive of this measure.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Senate Bill 438: Contracts; certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments; change

Senate Sponsor: [Lindsey Tippins \(Marietta\)](#)

Senate Bill 438 addresses construction retainage for public contracts. Current law allows state and local government to keep 10% retainage until a project is 50% complete, and then 0% retainage thereafter. The law penalizes early construction providers who complete their work prior to the 50% completion. SB 438 has a flat 5% retainage threshold for all providers for the life of the project and evens the playing field. Every other state in the southeast has a similar model proposed by the bill. SB 438 passed out of the full Senate on Tuesday, February 15 by a vote of [52-0](#). The business community is supportive of this measure.

Senate Bill 597: Department of Administrative Services; provide for definitions; certification of certain business enterprises; provide

Senate Sponsor: [Bruce Thompson \(White\)](#)

Senate Bill 597 would help provide definitions and certifications of certain businesses as socially and economically disadvantaged businesses or women owned businesses for the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) and to provide lists of those certified businesses. It also provides for clarification and expansion of the Supplier Diversity Programs at DOAS. The business community is supportive of this measure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

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 full House of Representatives on Monday, February 28 by a vote of [161-0](#). On Wednesday, March 9, HB 1064 passed out of the Senate Finance Committee.

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 exemption's sunset and requires companies to pay sales tax on 10% of the first \$15 million spent annually to qualify for the credit. HB 1291 passed out of the House Ways & Means Sales Tax Subcommittee on Wednesday, March 9 and out of the full House Ways & Means Committee on Thursday, March 10.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

House Bill 1215: Education; provision that reduced the amount of certain funding to state charter schools that offer virtual instruction; remove
House Sponsor: [Brad Thomas \(Holly Springs\)](#)

House Bill 1215 would allow students enrolled in a public school to withdraw without penalty from a local school and enroll in a public charter school with available classroom space. This would also allow funding to be carried over with the student. Currently, students can only move from a charter school to a public school. HB 1215 would allow local boards of education to implement a universal and more streamlined transfer process that allows for transfers similar to that of public schools. The business community is supportive of HB 1215.

House Bill 1435: Education; needs based financial aid program; include eligibility for students with a financial aid gap
House Sponsor: [Chuck Martin \(Alpharetta\)](#)

HB 1435 seeks to provide needs-based financial aid to eligible students while pursuing an undergraduate degree. The finances would be applicable to students enrolled in a University System of Georgia or a Technical College System of Georgia school. To remain consistent, students would still need to submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive this funding. Students would be eligible to receive a max of \$2,500 total per semester. On Wednesday, March 9, HB 1435 passed out of the House Higher Education Committee. The business community is supportive of this measure.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

extending post-production industry in Georgia. HB 1053 passed out of the House Ways & Means Income Tax Subcommittee on Wednesday, March 9 and out of the full House Ways & Means Committee on Thursday, March 10. The business community is supportive of HB 1053.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

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

Senate Resolution 463 would create a Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation. The electric vehicle market is expected to experience significant growth which will require the expansion of the public charging network. The joint study committee created by SR 463 will engage various stakeholders, elected officials, and other community leaders to examine opportunities with respect to the public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. This effort is vital for the state to remain economically competitive, a leader in transportation and logistics, and the number one state in which to do business. SR 463 passed out of the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, March 9. The business community is supportive of this senate resolution.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

House Bill 1520: Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges; create
House Sponsor: [Lee Hawkins \(Gainesville\)](#)

House Bill 1520 would create the Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges. The council would include 26 members from a variety of industries: the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, private colleges, K-12, members of the House and Senate, providers including nurses, physicians, rural health systems and state health entities like the Department of Community Health. The Governor's Office will appoint a chair to lead the council in its efforts and it will remain functional until June 2025. On Tuesday, March 8, HB 1520 passed out of House Human Relations and Aging Committee unanimously. The business community is supportive of HB 1520.