



Friday, March 25, 2022 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The legislature convened for legislative day 32 on Monday, March 21 and worked through Friday, March 25. Thursday, March 24 was a committee workday.

Next week, the general assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 28 for legislative day 36 and work through Friday, April 1. Thursday, March 31, Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3 are all committee workdays.

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

2022 ELECTION CYCLE

The week of Monday, March 7, the Georgia State Capitol served host to the qualifying process for all candidates running for elected office in 2022. To view qualified candidate information, please visit the Georgia Secretary of State's website [here](#).

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

KEY LEGISLATIVE ACTION

House Bill 385: Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; employ beneficiaries; permit public school systems

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

Senate Sponsor: [Russ Goodman \(Cogdell\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

House Bill 385 allows retired teachers who have 30 years of credible service to return to the classroom in high-needs areas while still drawing their retirement, but not accruing any more years of service. These retired educators who wish to return will be allowed to resume full-time instruction after 12 months of retirement. In order to best serve each community's individual needs, high-demand areas will be determined for each Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) by the Georgia Department of Education. HB 385 passed out of the full Senate on Tuesday, March 22 by a vote of [50-1](#). HB 385 will now go to the Governor for his consideration.

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

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

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

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 Friday, March 25, HB 1064 passed out of the full Senate by a vote of [56-0](#). HB 1064 will now go to the Governor for his consideration.

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

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

House Sponsor: [Mandi Ballinger \(Canton\)](#)

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 bill passed the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 22 by a vote of [99-67](#). SB 331 will now go to the Governor for his consideration.

Senate Bill 470: Mortgage Lenders and Brokers; different categories of felony convictions for purposes of investigations of mortgage loan originator applicants; provide

Senate Sponsor: [Randy Robertson \(Cataula\)](#)

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

Senate Bill 470 allows mortgage lending companies to employ individuals with certain previous non-financial felony convictions in certain circumstances. On Tuesday, March 15, SB 470 passed out of the full Senate by substitute with a vote of [47-1](#). SB 470 passed the full House of Representatives on Friday, March 25. 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 \(Marietta\)](#)

House Sponsor: [Stan Gunter \(Blairsville\)](#)

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. SB 438 has a flat 5% retainage threshold for all providers for the life of the project and levels the playing field. Every other state in the southeast has a similar model. SB 438 passed out of the full Senate on Tuesday, February 15 by a vote of [52-0](#). SB 438 is up for consideration by the full House of Representatives on Monday, March 28. The business community is supportive of SB 438.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

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

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

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

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. On Tuesday, March 15, HB 1034 passed the full House of Representatives by a vote of [155-15](#). This bill passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 23 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate.

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

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

Senate Sponsor: [Steve Gooch \(Dahlonega\)](#)

House Bill 1044 allows 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 passed the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 15 by a vote of [165-0](#). This bill passed out of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee on Thursday, March 24 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of HB 1044.

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

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

Senate Sponsor: [Jeff Mullis \(Chickamauga\)](#)

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. On Tuesday, March 15, HB 1053 passed out of the full House of Representatives by a vote of [140-25](#). This bill passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, March 24 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of HB 1053

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

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

Senate Sponsor: [Billy Hickman \(Statesboro\)](#)

House Bill 1058 allows for elective consolidated corporate tax returns. Currently, the law allows for the Georgia Department of Revenue (DOR) to give permission for consolidated reporting, and this bill removes the DOR discretion to allow taxpayers to make their own filing determinations. HB 1058 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Thursday, March 3 by a vote of [163-0](#). This bill passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 23 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of HB 1058.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Senate Bill 231: Education; pilot program; individuals between ages 21 and 35 who have not attained a high school diploma; provide

Senate Sponsor: [Jason Anavitarte \(Dallas\)](#)

GHCC Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 231 would provide a pilot program for individuals who have dropped out of school to further their education by enrolling in a charter school. SB 231 creates a pathway for nontraditional students to gain the skills and education necessary to enter the workforce, addressing our statewide labor shortage. This program focuses on individuals aged 21-35 and allows those participating in this pilot program to be eligible to receive a Georgia high school diploma upon completion. Additionally, this program would alleviate traditional burdens for adult learners such as childcare, transportation, and financial needs. This proposal would serve Georgians who would like to continue their education in hopes of achieving a postsecondary degree or entry into the workforce. On Thursday, February 10, SB 231 passed out of the senate with a [51-3](#) vote. On Wednesday, March 23, SB 231 was heard in the House Higher Education Committee.

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](#). On Wednesday, March 23, SB 379 was heard in the House Higher Education Committee. This bill will be heard in the House Higher Education Committee on Monday, March 28 at 1PM.

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. HB 1043 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 9 by a vote of [157-4](#). On Tuesday, March 22, HB 1043 was heard in the Senate Higher Education Committee. The business community is supportive of this measure.

House Bill 1435: Education; needs based financial aid program; include eligibility for students with a financial aid gap

House Sponsor: [Chuck Martin \(Alpharetta\)](#)

House Bill 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 a 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 Tuesday, March 15, HB 1435 passed out of the full House of Representatives by a vote of [171-3](#). On Tuesday, March 22, HB 1435 was heard in the Senate Higher Education Committee. The business community is supportive of this measure.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Senate Resolution 463: Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation; create

Senate Sponsor: [Steve Gooch \(Dahlonega\)](#)

House Sponsor:

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. On Tuesday, March 15, SR 463 passed out of the full Senate by a vote of [53-0](#). On Thursday,

March 24, SR 463 passed out of the House Transportation Committee and is now eligible for consideration by the full House of Representatives. The business community is supportive of SR 463.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

House Bill 1520: Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges; create

House Sponsor: [Lee Hawkins \(Gainesville\)](#)

Senate Sponsor: [Butch Miller \(Gainesville\)](#)

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 15, HB 1520 passed the full House with a vote of [157-10](#). On Thursday, March 24, HB 1520 passed out of the Senate Government Oversight Committee and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of HB 1520.

LAW & JUDICIARY

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

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

Chamber Position: **Support**

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](#). This bill was heard in a subcommittee meeting of the House Ways & Means Committee on Monday, March 21.

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

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

GHCC Position: **Support**

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 of fault in single-defendant cases. HB 961 passed out of the full House of Representatives on Thursday, March 3 by a vote of [168-0](#). The legislation will now be considered in the Senate. This bill will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, March 28.

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

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

Senate Sponsor: [John Kennedy \(Macon\)](#)

House Bill 1134 allows 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](#). This bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, March 21 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of HB 1134.

TRANSPORTATION

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](#). HB 934 passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, March 24 and is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. The business community is supportive of this legislation.