**WEEK 6 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Before we get into the activity Under the Gold Dome this week, we ask for you to pause for a moment of prayer for our friends across the country who have been greatly impacted by severe winter weather. Many are still without power and there will be huge impacts to families, crops, and livestock caused by the freezing temperatures, ice, and heavy snow.

Back in Atlanta, Thursday brought us to day 19 of the 2021 Legislative Session. With Crossover day getting closer, lawmakers fit an entire week's worth of work into the President's Day shortened week and many new bills were introduced. As these newly introduced bills are working through the committee process, we've seen an uptick in bills making their way to the House and Senate floors for debate.

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Tourism is a major part of Georgia’s economy, and agritourism specifically is expanding. Dr. Salazar reports that “6 out of 10 travelers are seeking rural experiences and communities.” While the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced tourism across the state, Professor Salazar affirms that agritourism will quickly rebound as people are becoming more comfortable traveling over the spring and summer in wake of statewide vaccination efforts.  For the official Ag Snapshot information by UGA, click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RQCyPGF7aZNcqh-IOHzlJmHr-mcphJtofNTXcRxU0rMihQt8i0kx_KlzqSBXixkFXlpclZSMIoNS0KkxRXWc-m-48vH3Z0GrEFjVtRIZBI-eJUfC7pHXr6uh8MgLgQ132m7BcliRh6DC642vmSd-4HqA0NtGkysG4UVfhtlRvlsmH9tHAc3y0DymZlYhxFFxUrQ_ncOYMpPsqPESDa8_kKA==&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **CHAIRMAN WATSON INTRODUCES AD VALOREM BILL**  **House Bill 498** was dropped in the House this week and stems from an issue faced by a GAC board member in South Georgia. **Chairman Sam Watson** brings this bill forward after working with GAC and GFB for months to exhaust all other non-legislative options to fix the problem locally. The assessment in this particular case concluded that taxes were owed on agriculture equipment, assets, and livestock that had traditionally been exempted under a qualified farm products provision.  This legislation aims to align the Georgia Code with the intent of the legislature so that qualifying family farm entities will not be subject to ad valorem tax on these products due to their business structure. Much like the issue we faced with CUVA three years ago, it would allow for qualifying entities that qualify separately to consolidate or merge in order to bear the costs of the extremely capital-intensive industry that is agribusiness.  **If not properly addressed, this issue could have huge impacts across the state.** As ad valorem code changes require a constitutional amendment, the legislation will require a 2/3 Yea vote from both chambers and will be placed on the statewide ballot in 2022. **HB 498** is a priority issue for GAC and we appreciate the efforts of Rep. Watson and several other members of the South Georgia delegation.  **GOVERNOR KEMP'S "FAITH PROTECTION ACT" RELEASED**  On Thursday, Governor Kemp introduced a proposal known as, the Faith Protection Act, that would prevent any Georgia Governor from restricting religious institutions from congregating during a statewide emergency.  Governor Kemp said, "The Faith Protection Act will ensure the emergency powers of any governor of Georgia in the years to come are not used to limit the God-given right to worship. In Georgia, we never shuttered churches, synagogues, or other places of worship because we value faith, family, and freedom. With the Faith Protection Act signed into law, Georgia will be a sanctuary state for people of faith."   |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |   **KEMP SIGNS FY 21 AMENDED BUDGET**  Gov. Brian Kemp on Monday signed an amended budget to continue government funding through the remainder of the fiscal year. The amended spending plan includes additional ag related spending, bonuses for many state employees and increased spending for schools and health care. Ag highlights include:   * $2,733,177 for Ag Experiment Station Operations * $2,591,668 for Cooperative Extension Service operations * $244,387 to administer the Industrial Hemp program   The midyear budget runs through June 30 and increases state spending by $654 million. Committee work continues on the full FY 22 budget.  **SENATE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING**  **Chairman Tyler Harper** convened the first Natural Resources Committee meeting of the session on Wednesday afternoon. He welcomed the new members and handed it over to Senator Russ Goodman to open with a word of prayer. The committee then unanimously adopted the committee rules and moved onto discussing Senator Harper’s bill, **SB 119**. This bill would allow people to burn leaves, yard waste, and other hand piled debris without obtaining a permit from the GA Forestry Commission. The bill was brought forward by the Georgia Forestry Commission and **Director Tim Lowrimore** was on hand to answer questions from the committee. He noted that unless there is a local ordinance that says otherwise or the EPA has a burn restriction, people will not be required to obtain a permit. This change would save GFC over $100,000 per year. The burn must be 50 feet away from any structure and 25 feet away from any woodlands to follow the guidelines of SB 119. After some discussion between committee members, the bill passed to the Rules Committee.  **GEORGIA CARBON SEQUESTRATION REGISTRY**  **House Bill 355**, sponsored by **Rep. Marcus Wiedower**, seeks to establish a carbon registry in Georgia that would enable the creation and tracking of carbon credits that can be accrued and then sold by developers to companies looking to offset their carbon footprint. The registry would include carbon credits for the use of sustainable building products, such as CO2-infused concrete, mass timber, carbon-neutral flooring, and all wood products, in statewide construction projects. Housed at the State Forestry Commission, the registry allows for the verification of structures by an independent third-party so as to determine the number of credits issued to the developer. Participation in the registry would be voluntary.  The measure would also establish a Sustainable Building Material Carbon Sequestration Technical Advisory Committee. House Bill 355 is currently in the House Committee on Natural Resources & the Environment.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **HOUSE GAME, FISH, AND PARKS MEETING**  The House Game, Fish, and Parks Committee convened this week, with the Department of Natural Resources present to give a brief update on related industries across the state. Within the state, the hunting license registration rate is up 14% and has experienced a record year for alligator hunting. There are many lake restocking initiatives and the Urban Wildlife Program has been implemented to assist the metro-Atlanta area in interactions with wildlife. Recreational fishing was up 78% in March and April of 2020 compared to 2019. Shrimp season closed on January 21st with over $11.4 million in earnings, 23% above the 5-year average; however, shellfish harvest is down. While limiting access due to the pandemic, state park visitation rates in the 2021 fiscal year have experienced a 7% increase. Parks have also begun hosting vaccination sites in a few counties throughout the state.  **Committee Chairman, Trey Rhodes**, then led a discussion on **HB 343** and **HB 362**. HB 362 is a department bill codifying board rules, changing definitions related to fish species, and legalizing a lower caliber for deer hunting, and allowing flexible property-specific deer harvest bag limits from the Department of Natural Resources. The bill passed through the committee and will be heard on the House floor. House Bill 343 relates to the requirement of written permission, enforcement, and immunity of landowners from civil liability when hunting on the lands of another. This bill gives the Games Board more power to convict illegal poaching. The bill passed through the committee and will be heard on the House floor.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SENATE BILLS**  [**SB 1:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RfluFy9tf-TqENdh-oPlXuqdutgpJhgUA3R3FhRUB3cd-ym2FmFN2pxfPVa2JwY4Kw8Pu6SPMxs0VGlauuGZim69qMOe6lnqfdf8AAvYYbqs=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Sen. Burke** - This bill would require self-funded, employer-sponsored health insurance plans to make reports to the state’s All-Payers Claims database or risk losing certain state tax credits. GAC members have expressed concerns with this bill as those health plans are currently regulated at the Federal level and SB 1 would add an additional level of reporting that we see as unneeded. Assigned to the **Senate Finance Committee.**  [**SB 6:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-H-YUDtPr9hk20Por-S11fIU6DCM_eluQHPfVjCC9mg7RBtHIDuZRKhiW_l7r6mPdfJbOoh52TZoagCIw_8CUExrnsi0PmTPqeOMBYf06NuU=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Sen. Albers** - This bill would provide for independent economic analyses to be procured by the Office of Planning and Budget for certain tax break benefits upon request by the chairpersons of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee. Passed through Senate and now assigned to the **House Ways and Means Committee.**  [**SB 29**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-PV5wDaXcBWbYe131LsFzyq9768-rSXmTAyj1EJ1Ed0zuaI2m5JAVc1PZccDJwDXud79PVVWZ2ra_TKrKSqf3pU5E76ie5mQFFblHMTwJjur-llH1HTAjwH6HMQv-LWGbjcouHorcMrSFdlzfROUo-WnUAfqYCAbmgr6iyasT_JYDWaPeWJddGyJHY9KaU2jL9JNZDJOAY6ZRhCXwi8TLBsL-A7U2nH0wx_j4mJnUdkx3xX8Iu0GMy_4KoySQUudWiEY-stjRCBd0mJBZfQZ4FWAgRQvrySjyiEiR5E7Bux0QWurneG6U6cQS3hLfuYvxJEBCMw4UCZc5SMEN2BqCngeS7Y0pHv08KF_ztysreJllQCex6gaowfLT1l2mDmwMLs4WqR2iklSDVDH3VDK-fxMkGBF7g3eLvzl91WkFuwSqY-swSr0jB4bmQnrmsRlCgyUSYYOIGiONCHmpLsq5ZUySwxlSCI3CPTEgODhxKyRtLznSEfQh9R5J6_cEN61H7F3zq_YSZoRtCN0fsf9T344OiEh_tOUKdvroDIKtReuLphZN-tQfAEsBO3hxMA8o27qv2ExpZArTyW9iUuQ8smHRKo-d1L5AW0fFSmc3E2cnC8ZRUabDIDleBItpfbre8vOlStyC56NkO8Wh_2W89RoZsVv5iyU5iflFVdl4WzbWnB3Jh-8Xt9D64g5h2L7RDks9H2udbGtPIS-ltk_KI_8SWGC6cG8nj2BV6ljTYwanB1aVriPwRnbq2pGKS4XmGWlMjINktMIo7i1Jhr4UgrWGhOLjA16EjYGOztzHdi-_HBcz_iuTL5OHDP3RZ36oRFVmyr6u7V-RwpKYOczKaeSXYCez23EE&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**: Sen. Anavitarte** - This bill would require citizens who want to vote in a Georgia election by absentee ballot to include a copy of their driver's license, voter ID card, passport, or other official forms of US identification when they apply for the absentee ballot and at the time of submittal. Assigned to **House Ethics Committee.**    [**SB 30**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-WDcQTQEQttmCv2L9XDUVD5Kjn__njos0tuAQbhixnzUjvLAyEwvuCE5RUBUfB5hBhSx_YCNPMaXNyVhjIst0rH_ARcJRzBvPVh1XNUbjcB8xz5i6evHJX5TiAF89et0IJaYfR7QtZcqiyAFKly2KTv6tuvvLIARkWdjxlRlHyrrXTvnYoYN1nllghtJFeaeC5TxLJasLQt1fhg6xdhXPFABwbOmrpGAITJI2HcldAk9ykNA-IfBiRSgwnX96WxW8YgM42e7JG2u3jrzlOWanT2YjfGUQR0nVPN6Xj1d-AP7KRSXnrH1FYhgcN8Ym1Jy1PhV8fUPg1_25FjVIhBIIYb_sd_iGnXv9OZ-O4Ijqs_qClGJy71ZsYiA8dSBlRcRqxjO-wnhdw1dyyil3asxKFE1d9UPAjegG42AdnmHSuXZPz6le6Zg5kmJH6RoiTd3uxTmky9VyVZCyWx19IN82akB9gqRwAt42CCZ7zkIjzgB8sakiifVcv872CDuTu9UnGPykNMEjvDuWMANV08z8klRXPn84pDbXAbQzdWxmulYT4RmOASK2JKDsppgPbEH7tAU_YW6Nxd6ec0LdeAfVkXGIwJgIel9QoY1lhzxJExaDwvSX865uwGoAjZ434yAvc_PEovYKoqdKfmFqgaFcAstTQPeG27eHshWvVHOZIrWwASXl8zVZN7KrglDa80V66gDn_VI26a4D6GWviXewPFP7mYAoN8_NiTduf8CsfQdixLNR7p66MN5yMvagW4B5dlmGcrowfN7QpOCpnvW6HQJtGFoBZz-Ve3pO4fPuAfgwWzvq7GIylt2AOsVAUnvLQJ294IjctIvWFVvc72Uv4g==&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**:** **Sen. Beach** - This bill would provide for pari-mutuel horse racing in Georgia and would establish Georgia Horse Racing Commission. Assigned and heard in the **House Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.**  [**SB 65**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wqfXw21uY4jRqhFMVlrD1jLhVWaNJmcFaibcKucDTSSehuCQwyCb7PwYDzi6-GEYenePLfrcoYxN_krt9tJr3nO1X4tW7o7feRcb7rwgTtLDA3LOUFbZdSvEtMPPKn9tvbS33_SNxyUoBb3lFRLqBRcL3TIzMXWZnru_4zQOfXYz3Jjd63gE75atwVWAyaNv9DKnQAjHuAuKaZ9lxpzIBtN4IXE-vgAM1wSurUUfxirvNMa7sjQt1Y_9ACFVKxWLM9_zBxEyZ6WhVUWFDN0rH62Ljd9TIR0UDNRdWcX48CoEQdCxqn8Vf19j7ff-ccrLkFoiHlZ9wIJka--34IPUIdl_iQUg1pFVmGQhjJHSmi_e9zxE5YTbb4BWMvi98OYfhwpfBOg16vZwtL6JxRh8BFPkubnJD-boOiSkkoCsvhchmO17B92QF_jg5ffyqENSrzTU5AbvQTI3nF41TtWoDTkBeBLCyGNbYEckbJrzh_8X8Chw9oVZnpxP1Z1-1NQSCJHjwlfu82RVUfogfIFQ9bDOqDntiCkeisFgzo661a6YierbuCm_n8XwHzrfft80jMILxUrl6VP3W2DmpgMnq_3dxHs8Kom5ZS4rVUysrwYYUPXEq26ykEJ-IROAtGEleUCnNyr0g8CqKIdorVc2h5J4n_TbmCtWr1xusKGU1GPhjRbRaNKztOPFLDA1PsNFOefe0n0I-0sF7Kh53PAAB-jP162cbeO3yd66LNVifKdn66n7xXTIR-T7JisxNPjbVngAX44NGuX_FIZhS9TKGbicT2y4moqwliIeda0Fjf-G_OGfKHCF88QjX-11LcxlCPCgfy0KrlO92F9zLqDHBv6_kXs9q59eP4R_cBYPTEgY&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**: Sen. Gooch** -This bill would address a GAC policy issue of Rural Broadband. The bill would allow the Dept. of Community Affairs and the PSC to use parts of the Universal Access Fund to address the state's gaps in high-speed internet access.  Assigned to **Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.**  [**SB 67:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wqfXw21uY4jRivRfZ3_YTxLT4fu7zAb0KvuJTzhGoMA9m0tIktK6t4XBsLVKFe0AmK_NLuxyEREFgUEBgi-iHWob9EzzecdKRHRRVF-urlha-ILDa-gZVKc=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Sen. Walker III** - A bill requiring the documentation of a Georgia driver's license number or the elector's personal identification card number when submitting an absentee ballot. Assigned to the **Senate Ethics Committee**.  [**SB 86**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0R4FEqxAUSdSYMntN2sV_XIdWICXM8fAxxDNk5zYhRwh9CXcaEGuxbBG94V1TZUKt4KcB4Y8Ycr9yCtlz4dknc7Ljqy7b5xt387g2rsHUi6go=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**: Sen. Walker III** - A bill aimed at fighting unwarranted solicitations. Any written solicitation for services relating to corporate filings must include a header that reads, "THIS IS A SOLICITATION. THIS IS NOT A BILL OR OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT AND HAS NOT BEEN SENT BY THE GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE." Assigned to the **Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.**  [**SB 118:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RSCZtMQyTpfQRyJG3uQlddNEqr1ZFZGb1hck5pCL8Vd17YRgxlkw5DYLvQlgquFjFtCoivver5cXPisq_1D6t6hu2UtbCvxrkRGV6jOlPbVQ=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Sen. Harper -** an annual permit for vehicles hauling forest products from the forest were cut to the first point of marketing or processing, even though such vehicles or its load exceeds the maximum limits specified in this article. An annual forest product permit shall authorize the operation of a vehicle with a total gross weight of up to and including 100,000 pounds upon no more than or no less than six axles. Assigned to the **Senate Committee on Transportation.**  [**SB 119**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0R4A9MjPFQTq3Xid-JX145-mshLnpmCMsJTQ4Pre5uiBOd-nzNhlS_LeVF4K_LFmipgfqsqnUALvpoF1_8EazRMG8GHri67ekLE86iGlyMO6c=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**: Sen. Harper** - Relates to permits required for burning woods, lands, marshes, or other flammable vegetation. Assigned to the Committee on **Natural Resources and Environment and passed**  **HOUSE BILLS**  [**HB 3:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RoOyOolWSlEDMBu3z3wv73tResaaHYhX7Muv_IQ4WSONPwfiOPd7RdoAME2nIs2LgxfLrmZjrCm_utafth-e0HHj6w4SBarK4x90YWR9HL9k=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Allen** - The bill would require facilities that release more than 50 pounds of ethylene oxide annually to allow the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to install monitoring equipment, and allow for the department to continuously monitor emissions and keep daily records for the term of the permit. Reports would be required to be available and updated twice a year on the EPD website. The legislation would also set further off-gassing requirements. Additionally, it would require facilities emitting ethylene oxide to submit an ambient air monitoring plan by January 1, 2022. Assigned to **Natural Resources and Environment Committee.**  [**HB 90**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-wiRtRh-LxgGrpGq-y9vBOimEft9WBrpwqmM6Le4UL2MJNJYeU5WeKVNylypiIJ6KBI7Nn9mAr1ROaZnnGmCyKES7I3Gy1F25exKzL0GJh59foV9_WsXwccLMtxhcpYcARzHaB_SPR82tRzgF9KTB6Q7JVUfDgOzd6ZfkgHVYWQw03mciCh9EJtwz3iyTn3QZwxBS4EGEt4Ah1SlJFotesXTT6PLQLlm6VVyql0gpHvmVpHri4OMnK9ilw3JBckmVbm6bISFAaQUYndUcn07A2RPeysipPtEnAxAszy3lp7IWSD2zsIr4Vd1ogY5qC3ieYJPMSIt6gUD47tjmBrfMxXHFHybFlXP2F2aa2SWc3OZpo20wQTdBIYtSvg3Cv6z3kmrOJuCr1Tk1gGLyCPftuzS9U9f_ICeTtXzKsseKwIQy23drp629tNUKGQTPm00UzNFhd4IUfKJX6mGoJNFdc-wDtrZN0attsQ-DJRXzbSiU_ZpvqDHlCDkGKC8Cq7JDechj3Xpm0NhgGdSLgFrfggYwZajPhLgvmsWC-XMdPEw9h66jZ659ZbvNoGxdOurHYCtVZzNcFSoe3-O_gqM32gNrJ-VKVdkLIiQ67w3nV2ldEvOCyS2FqiiHyegn7iOAzB7UEWg_qS1eS298-_XvjXWM1l4yAs-BQX3FGwpzhonXztKpf2-4IktBUSkubMNi7MQ3vPg1uFUct9hSBFZzUVdBGKoA_1Dq-G_V-LNavfbSpE_7yUtolwQMLWEkRDkrimA7GxuYA6j8gtA7idkFwiXU_7TL85dGZwDB2JVFglrmi5qmTrw1Rzq8N7TrbpHfZVdkp6AM7Rsi8n8D6WHByvb0wv5s-cBya3Wn8BZHk9Y=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**:** **Rep. Williamson** - The bill seeks to address a conflict in law between an outdated law from 1939 and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) regarding timber transactions. Georgia law is clear that the UCC supersedes if there is a conflict. If left unaddressed, the conflict would leave the forest industry exposed to unnecessary liability and encumber transactions of timber. Passed through the House and now assigned to **Senate Banking Committee.**  [**HB 98:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-8HmgWqaAm2C6wOWiSdS4wqcTZnazaD94mnXq8jqfnCtq947MQU8b7PWjIX2jFiTQcsmv8hPKXRfiNMU5xoS4BAl_iBbFDjjgafJUsHaafAM=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Lumsden** - This bill would authorize counties and cities to conduct “public hearings” by teleconference during emergency conditions (e.g. pandemics). The policy would acknowledge that participation by teleconference would be equal to full in-person participation as if those conducting the public hearing are physically present and members of the public must be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if they were physically present. The legislation comes from several instances around the state where local municipalities struggled to conduct the business of their boards as quorums were not met because of health concerns of in-person meetings. Assigned to House **Government Affairs Committee.**    [**HB 104:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0R5_qCjDpN7soym3Suk8eghfnm2aZGabjAotDrFBKLm8sP8DRn1RAH5H2byXX52QzJ6rTU5Jhc50ykKyObjY4gCGnbZpPycceaZqC4UL6nWeI=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Stevens** - Relating to specific, business, and occupation taxes, so as to levy and impose a tax on persons who enter certain rental agreements with certain equipment rental companies within a certain period of time; to require such equipment rental companies to collect such taxes and remit them to county tax commissioners for credit against such company's ad valorem tax liability for certain equipment; to provide that county tax commissioners shall retain excess fees; to provide for the reporting of certain statistical data related to such tax; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Assigned to **House** **Ways and Means.**  [**HB 112:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-tXDIDj5oATJfXAX6GL2QdXzPEUEBQFyQb1ZEg9xYce_aYUYUHQOYEhh9D-iQq1reFGj4t9Zq5-EeA92Dccfb3dz6JhVfeRqwykdPSn8ae1U=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Kelley** - COVID-19 liability protections for Georgia businesses and hospitals would be extended until July 14, 2022, under a bill introduced in the General Assembly. Since August, the liability protections have shielded businesses and health-care facilities in Georgia from lawsuits brought by people who contract COVID-19 in all but the worst negligence or recklessness cases. The bill only calls for a one-year extension.Passed through the House and assigned to the **Senate Judiciary Committee.**  [**HB 139**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-59GCIZIbryHGXRpQGVe-JZaz28_l7DtLudyFo_1CBSwS5uIzs4tA1Yal_Np9P2qZ1hw2Vk_Mms01nE9v6-3I2WtTK4cQ6LlOBhtclNy37hMK7zMHypaE8jCO0lF1p8Y5_Ezpaem14F5HHFR7b_mnX8M7Nivix6aEoVCpLTrmXJb38RYhAPKRks-BWPazBASh0eDYyAepYNRTdY8JPPfOyTVR5WcrtH0_DCrkC_am9nk1lHvBXQkJXtzdEx7gBasUKmjsEJYJbbsIG4UlcqK1MNTha97I5oLWGfoex15YI2_kTWscTAxfuQ4rif7spegNCQ9kNhD9YRFd75iMAffI_8H1SUfHJKKFY7KpQ5bOaC12HXsBI6IFH6RaABr5-Lq0KLwU54UCZBl-m1l-TpV3YalYPbpTeBTZf9yKmMkGOH-OUQYmVnQYrP6gTNpOXFnkhIn-y5Pw-47FZAgVYeJLZqWR7ojPIq4CaTxnC5B7GqenPasbDDSCpRmP28oYYPGhflZV0v-nMpngn7JfZeR8Djk4-yByHe5Mpkmd-FsPOuci7MBQPCTXTEZi2tJcV6onKgSvx3EBMPiw9cakCphbnRWoIoUObRE_YpHMCF3oMbtJJM0-8nUta2yMjAiBYG6pt4rF7p9vtgkoxt8V7Fnk_WTKxJlpRwRawhCRqoiAtJj6Clk4dCNU0ekOjV4i7Sz8tXDN8LltENWMoyYPIVEyXnxEMoQPCX-gorHvIRmXNdPa4AhHpKu-ih2sTRmiEomHDJJWkdKLrJ7TpWqv7ejAzA99IiIw74mzUGzY-Ex3eZtP5T2tbDV9xvFSRXrgO9zCtz5WNzs8WOJqnSq6hwZA8rtdbahNbJcu&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==): **Rep Mainor** - This bill would prohibit trains from restricting traffic crossing for longer than 15 minutes except in emergency situations. **Passed through the House.**  [**HB 147:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RDIj7z24Y9y4owSLcbi7I_orA1g2QcF-BP1ZHXqDMXoVH7SDqoZGr27k1HHbeL23gQ8lNXImVa2L6G5r-HrDgpAi9p-1tH1JjQlocjpgoqVc=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Clark** - Pertains to businesses and professionals that require a formal license and newly move to the state of GA to practice. The bill adds language into current law that requires people new to the state seeking a professional license must establish formal residency, hold a license to practice the profession in another state before moving to GA and pass any exam required to prove knowledge of state-specific rules and regulations. Assigned to **House Regulated Industries Committee.**    [**HB 150**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wicW-ePRU5v-olEUr7NRg_mgYN24KZ6zaecavXbHEkmF7cPnm999LQBeGspQoF1XMSfWkLHh0GPmh-4MEUlQ1LhYZdYUw8j1wTulBD1CWDBujTqCzyhx-MHzcuLy2fkYVIg4WpSNk-MTWHTMLi6oHXGUH1pIcDj5NBIUJS_KcrJTD8111_zb3JV7qpLntWUpTUqOQ0S6w1xhSKZ88Zn18ilHknXJy4yPlukShv6Maizv9Ys807b1uBg4ZC_ulx55beaOpyRfZaexiIAqGrm1e6gIchhO45-YFA3IV5T7wtOSwS7Y524fV0VAXIkO9b0hzdGQIUKx4-4NoNe4A3DmbM__We7esnubAsQ1Mqk0YMi39hGi_uC7CCsbsLwYx_wTzkZP1Q_-XZUHlekv9csSGS-dQWRbTtNAJIYggJhpj2Ux6LnCM5atwjvEgAA_igJcIHGIhsBrWzQvWlm2fVv6a2Xk1EuR8MXD8V0TgHViB28L9-HhAADcnAMSLdxPMAmKvPfFvFOmAwMMbOVa8YOfKM3k4ulM7AXJATC6begcvzVn22DalHVj6OefDWw4yyI1Lwc_g9OENZ26nBMXrCyMvSr5CxTcsBeAIvNu1CRMJ6bwlSIHDGvCvZSXlA2dHWxaLYXK_2-QwBdbqBIf9ml8DfQZB-IIxaRV43tLyyF5qmW-W2m6N1CLkbgjA5pu_BVlcbOsbaLaLslWm7Qj0ciZQxnb34Sl_f96tnfG_OGL3wgrlXZw6PEDk3vdTjBCAbQ8qEsBkkxlWMYmuwGD-hvkQgCvsKA5dypyL-z20FfwNvFqK9bAwXnSGo6rJQadGPSrqjDQ0v3WO8I9CekpgFth1BnhnNHSuyr-Fw==&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**:** **Rep. Williamson** - This bill would prohibit local government entities in Georgia from banning the connection of any utility service based on the type or source of fuel.Passed through the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee, now assigned to **House Rules Committee.**  [**HB 282**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RMeueRibj_Mv9bXAeh19oJ5Cn-J_Mj9MIUdxaWgYsL92er9gIf24vv5Wb2dBIMUO1GHe2JwrigQ3TubPw-HAQ-WrkvyiOvhhlbBc7oq0iJxA=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==)**: Rep Meeks** - This bill redefines a contiguous property in order to include tracts that are divided by a public boundary such as a road. Also aims to limit the determination of fair market value to a weighted market and income approach to valuation, Passed through House, assignedto the **Senate Finance Committee.**  **﻿**  [**HB 336:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0Ri9pTZoWMufNZ_hy40483gFeXAIy5FvtHEuW6AMbyT1P__rThM_EyaoMQLv9kb0ElKVuKSzdAelWD292f-fa5rAjlcWUGOQmQW2nDEie9TnM=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Corbett** - Relating to hemp farming. The bill provides legislation in compliance with federal laws and regulations, requiring history reports, disposal techniques, and sampling and testing. Assigned to the **Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.**  [**HB 355:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RYD6yQxa5ktPRfLLSI0TDCLM0mAc6886gZfq1XsGM2sUIBpi1JWG6_rFPJbVxCiQHDK4j85HMI_yrQQ_TJB3RKa7-Hx216_h5gsxJJgLek3Y=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Wiedower** - a long-time priority of our friends at the Georgia Forestry Association was introduced by **Representatives Wiedower** of the 119th this week. The bill would create the nation’s first carbon registry for sustainable buildings that they hope will encourage developers to utilize mass timber and other materials that sequester carbon in more construction projects. This effort was embodied in House Bill 1015 last year, which passed the House with nearly unanimous support, but did not move in the Senate after the COVID epidemic upended the legislature’s work. Assigned to **Natural Resources Committee**  [**HB 498:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RO-UzIqWq9CnXnwcL_vV3JdS5luJytUxrmF0xldg-JmfZpsYouwy2lJeLAzblYkHoy_zGv0_X9nwaoYcyF7m30-T78kqxGpW9Qr5Wa7Etbao=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Watson - Rep. Watson - HB 498** will expand property tax exemptions for agricultural equipment and certain farm products. Bill will add dairy products and unfertilized eggs of poultry to be considered farm products in respect to the exemption. Assigned to the **House Ways and Means Committee.**  [**HB 500:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RETpHhhjOqhBGW0ftncS1TOgEjGD8CMa7yaI1PudwIqwgYhFTDgJLGf_g3XEKW0v8AzHxSsxQ5b9PnKE-bNxRqJqHvxtxpY58H9nq9jL4YJ4=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Burchett** - This bill relates to the "Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Acts" that will add a second round of funding and period for application. Applications to the department begin accepting applications on August 1, 2021, and will certify $100 million in capital investments. The bill will increase an application fee and require an annual maintenance fee. Assigned to the **House Ways and Means Committee.**  [**HR 164:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vAK-don6ZULs1lArP3hV8InioNthJjcJG4D74YYVgGKK6rJUCZp6wrqUo6CFEw0RmeJxacLvVL7QhvoIbd65Ty6poBJ2ZgAcUjzN7yKmcUEaZLW8nCIB4BHCqobd1Dz19hNX0DPj3Cics-ce7bjq-JiHHgG6_MozBUcfhTQMrrc=&c=ug0DTESYGK1Q7a9atpHDiIXoKvSSSvo13oQ18RhykHYHo9ZbW8J-3Q==&ch=uMLEB6LjF1OEFIZTJTCxcH_fSnOlrp4a1EcBS3JJPqqoUzdJKqoNWQ==) **Rep. Lim -** relates to ad valorem taxation of property and will provide the valuation of lands allowing urban agricultural incentive zones Assigned to the **House Ways and Means Committee.** | | | | | | | |