**WEEK 7 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Week seven of the legislative session saw lawmakers in Atlanta for a full five-day workweek as bills are feverishly trying to reach passage in their respective chambers prior to Crossover Day. Several bills of importance to agribusiness were passed and dozens of others were heard in committee this week. The all-important appropriations process is still ongoing with Chairman England holding FY22 hearings all week and early this morning.

**PROHIBITION ON THE OUTDOOR SALE OF PETS INTRODUCED**

[**HB 609**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCn4Oy6-Z3MOM2nvfWBR0BcDy3GMKAhQporp501FIBz6l7l5R6LPA5MOT6gLizLIqT7o3kp0aj_-3KxKZeTw0Cui2sI3hHB9WbIf86z40Q6big=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)by **Rep. Gullett**, would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and domestic rabbits in outdoor locations such as parking lots, roadsides, and flea markets in Georgia. The bill's author argues that these types of locations are poorly regulated and sellers can evade licensing, taxes, and animal welfare regulations. The current version of the bill would not affect properly licensed breeders that sell from their residential properties nor properly licensed animal shelters/rescues at outdoor adoption events. GAC is still reviewing the language and working with our partners at GVMA to work through potential unintended consequences of the bill.

HB 609 is assigned to the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. If you have input on this bill, please contact Susan Blevins immediately at susan@gvma.net so we can ensure that any changes we would like to see are addressed.

**LT. GOVERNOR DUNCAN RECOGNIZES NATIONAL FFA WEEK**

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| **SENATE AG COMMITTEE MEETS**The Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee convened Thursday afternoon to discuss several senate bills. **Senate Rules Chairman Mullis** introduced **SB 195** dealing with hemp to define the word ‘process’ or ‘processing’ in hemp farming definitions. The bill would clarify that traditional farming practices would not be considered processing and would not require a processing license. Those activities included traditional farming practices such as those commonly known as drying, shucking and bucking, storing, trimming, and curing. The committee passed this cleanup bill unanimously. The committee heard **SB 222** by **Senator Summers** that attempts to designate the pecan as the official state nut. Georgia is recognized as the top pecan-producing state and a similar bill was passed through the Senate in 2020 before being stalled in the House. ﻿The last bill that was introduced was **SB 247** by **Senator Anderson** and it was a hearing only. **SB 247** would modernize the way Georgia commodity commissions release announcements. Instead of the commissions releasing announcements through the AJC, they will be able to send news and announcements out through the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s website and GDA's Market Bulletin. SB 247 was hearing only with action expected next week.

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| **HEMP BILL BROUGHT BEFORE HOUSE AG COMMITTEE**Chairman **Robert Dickey** convened the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs committee meeting on Wednesday morning. The main action discussed was from **Chairman John Corbett** as he presented, House Bill 336. **HB 336**, is an effort to align Georgia's hemp program with new rules and regulations outlined by USDA. This legislation requires growers to be in compliance with federal laws and regulations, requiring history reports, disposal techniques, and sampling and testing. **Commissioner Black** spoke in favor of the bill indicating that the bill simply will “match up with federal regulation.” Many private citizens attended the committee to voice concerns regarding the high licensing’s fees for processors. In response, Corbett lowered processing fees from $50,000 to $25,000 and opted to increase the bond insurance amount to $300,000. The bill passed unanimously out of committee with the amendments and was voted through the full House on Friday by a vote of 153 to 12. ﻿**HB 574**, brought forward by Representative Camp, was also introduced establishing a Companion Local Government Animal Trust Fund for the reimbursement of impoundment expenses incurred by local governments. The bill comes as a Department of Ag bill and was brought forward for a hearing only. The legislation should be taken back up next week for full consideration.

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| **CHAIRMAN WATSON'S AD VALOREM BILL AWAITS HEARING****House Bill 498** was dropped in the House last week and is awaiting a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee. As reported last week, **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.  |

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**RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RENEWED****Speaker of the House David Ralston** continues his commitment to supporting the economic success and prosperity of all Georgians as he puts forth **HR 185**, reauthorizing the House Rural Development Council. Chairman Sam Watson presented the resolution and noted that rural communities face various challenges in social, educational, technological, and economic spheres. This resolution re-establishes a council composed of 15 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Beginning May 1, 2021, the council will continue to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems within these areas recommended action or legislation that the council deems necessary or appropriate. **TOM VILSACK CONFIRMED FOR USDA SECRETARY** The Senate on Tuesday confirmed **Tom Vilsack**, **President Joe Biden’s** nominee to lead the Agriculture Department, by a 92-7 vote. The confirmation gives Vilsack a second chance in the same role he held for the entirety of the Obama administration. Vilsack has long enjoyed bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. In 2009, he was confirmed by unanimous consent on Inauguration Day. But this time, his confirmation had been delayed as Senate leaders wrangled over the 50-50 power-sharing agreement and were further pushed back due to the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. Sec. Vilsack has stated that several of his main agenda priorities will revolve around climate, racial, and food security issues.**URBAN AGRICULTURE INCENTIVE ZONES DISCUSSED**[**HB 482**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCnBjYkALQhjhtSMne2AcJqL2090wmFFVwzChB4z4I8gSNPXCfonhw0Afw0jJLqoi0qcXH5VZtEw-YlOW_m8DcGnYybxrxAjiKgsyovTCVKtsccHbNK5fTSVOFmkF9jMsgG8sbNGVkvNR-9vdeWbjTdOV_f3NPVCsq5_BhDophOyCI9BZhK8XX4ucsdGK2D1tsJFUk8wLWCvH1tj0IpbVHiUjs9Hi5BFW6XZCmh_7OAYaUouls8p3WSN3G4cWs5DhI_83WZlHeaAo92yYAnWE0GqGUQrnqlrgg-cKe4XDUpYRAsP8i_VabAalxO7pwCJ7_d6uJgYqAEg1Av3WJFeI_38D2WKnpfS6LKr6vWNUzYs3iJtd5VzHBtp0288ftZ1Mo3kYJkLkJ4dnFAI4AtHR5f_DOtD_Q5liz9WZmwfyotZdsMZY7jdizTmrt9v_zzWyVWscFmHjxEt8R2yi2QLDaHn750f2TvmYM4fP8qye_ay6TbVrAamHqX1RAXdg7t8gRH6DWOxXedc3FrOEOvzj_7BfWj9y21L_ddIE2ubIQAL-7b8eCmq6cWpe180QWEDW4v6Af0-meyUwTUchEqkuy2LtoYQ-D551qXzgzNxvwtMwk=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) by Rep. Lim of District 99, seeks to allow governments in more urban areas to create **“urban agricultural incentive zones”** to assist with small-scale farm production in areas where larger opportunities for food production may not exist. The property would be required to be at least 0.10 acres and not more than five acres. The land-use agreement would last five years. The bill would require a 2/3 vote in both chambers and a constitutional amendment to become functional. The bill was presented in committee this week as "hearing only" and no further action was taken.

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**GEORGIA'S ELECTRIC GRID DISCUSSED** In response to Texas’s electric grid failing during last week's hazardous winter weather, the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunication Committee invited some of Georgia’s electric authorities to speak about the current state of Georgia’s electrical grid. Georgia Power Director of Resource Policy and Planning, Jeff Grub, touched on some key differences in power structures between Georgia and Texas and explained how Georgia has and will continue to take proper safety precautions. The U.S is regionally broken into three regions to distribute power: Western Interconnection, Eastern Interconnection, and Texas know as ERCOT. Texas was constrained and unable to rely on neighboring states. Texas being an “energy island” also has a deregulated market structure allowing all parts of the electric system to be disjointed and not overseen by the same entities. In Georgia, the electric system is vertically integrated across all parts of the supply chain: generating units, transmission lines, and distributional lines, all working in tandem with constant communication. Georgia maintains a diverse resource mix obtaining power through natural gas, coal, nuclear, solar, hydroelectric, biomass, etc. Georgia uses many different supply basins and diverse fuel transportation providers for each specific resource. These tactics ensure that the state has several outlets and means of obtaining and moving resources when needed. Mr. Grub relays that there is both oil and gas storage and contracts with suppliers to reserve supply even during inclement weather events. Georgia Power has proactively been replacing aging transmission lines and old equipment, targeting areas that have experienced issues in the past.  Another guest speaker, Greg Ford, President and CEO of GA System Operations Corporation (GSOC), controls and monitors portions of Georgia’s electric generation and distribution. Mr. Ford recounts the 2014 polar vortex experience and how Georgia has used a past hazardous weather event to better prepare and adapt for future winter storms. Since then, electric carriers have increasingly winterized their assets and implemented design improvements across power plants to safeguard against sub-zero temperatures. The experts ensure realistic safety standards in providing Georgia with reliable power during a weather crisis. However, they stress that even with interconnectivity with other states, power storage, and technological upgrades, extreme climate events can still happen and are extremely difficult to manage. Georgia is well prepared to face any inclement weather due to continued investment in technology upgrades, power reserves, and management strategies employed by experts across the state.

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| **BILLS OF INTEREST****SENATE BILLS**[**SB 1:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFhl0SyvFjm6mdJPcVY5b7yLwNvFS-8McLdKV9YCIhR2yGjxhnwdYsrI6sxm6OfSL4OkxVvbTyOlGKqTc6QvtKV9zFKrQTn-HVstbW7O-HMWs=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUeSGS3b0Xr1av5jpyUUZ4PIlTnBMMKO3no0z5kzRXTJKw9oyagpnBvz61JpFi9K_prZuPPygzUG_U5EibQRd2uq73ZhRyCfoXMqaQvY6poio=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUpfKHXj1NCxqdbWpCtp4eMEEINB65l-tdmy1Auvktirjst4RqVAHkRXjnAbBO5OQbVpKo_fqEDOS_y4_Q_Jj-mv-h-C9FhwfhiknYb31GA660mA8EEtiln9tUQ4Uu8XUBiYBj_I2_P2KecoTlDwHnaJLGcJGuQBYrgJOJE9KfslRRTPplIJA6rwEofO2p049iGUiXWdVqalHc439MTKiapOnfa7LnKr-3rdZMucmfh7H6Fyfd6Cg1gokBT6eKE5jBwzvLufbAoX8ibVnUIZHkHdtQ_H-vbNiLNRJ_Y47BCcg_QEBBIRoKWZ036xc1KYBq7jBXeoWTeM6ybedZdhn3hTdrNcOskjoJcf0oEzJf4jHDAkZzP-sFt8Eszxx99ryLG7WxcuMSUEgdB0TZjIX7lzFkN6yWZu8jWaQeJ5Vp2yDFmkWHamdXaFmaOtzs-X6e31WQgyT2MOkATdJQ1j5GXRghJ53mxejNMPhIjOCJXAb_zx6a-OQTBOqzLC82LaPjSYgwTpvGkoWDGUFVtCFykzepHnymRTMCi6UoBOCxc8bBwjLPQ-ypYT8KeR-yLTdi_FHCXSBa04l0jCFWtYfgDqrYsbhlHAzY4Mcut_hM8nuOvVCT5hVtyL1TwJ7FQ5epAnCy5qrpHPmrIiW5K39s0ZuK4UKaO2hmeF0_jyCfwN9wmE0jUO1dKfFBkshqstsHD50c-rOLeEomzoZ3MXxN-fz3qWakVe15cEnaHGzWircNSHCHloqv4SgFoCFfvsIZF6z7FvM57uQMu43BQAW1mPYhYM40Et1G_D_jHvLguz8POGdc0U-FACBpae83xOrzL9SzDzNrgXw5-NbXDfkW7YI3ikY6998l&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: 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 **Senate Ethics Committee.**  [**SB 30**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUYdmSWBcMlrcKzDe-gwoS7wtWnt-ZBrAMLq6MZLaGPLSa05H5QgrdYNYB4Ma853X7obxeNdT1eyrpMlarA6OF1ZK7grnIxAa-hjEQ3Eahzx4dR5ZT8KMEARon481KehjHD3IVNXIarIQJgxPWgGeBSYp8lpkdVFPWOYr1oaMagn--2T_vQbVMiQaV1LfZxz3DIpw1EAvzr5uVkevw29GAfzMpuLIMp5GNB_rmKs7o_5TsJuHl4Y2GJTbOvpvUPsg2nZ20fhUeOVRMa1ZMX1zA7ryd0DNUE16rIPqcQiAa7QPeEF_2bxM_lt_yBzAvTiwrEnNRPCSMm-W8j-Els_V-7A6vs7kHv-2cbmlrWFBxQ7ZSDylffVMl4jj0XRVT2zSvhHbJv2PZaOgJ_07drHb9BpH8po7-YvGqlGzbBTrKXt-n_uOCXbLFQh98fPBbvBKXoqxCO9hy_uO0jialp-n5trHDfglVFUHNuKlgQJMkobbaJOinJg1cGi4zvMF0L_Vqvu6wQKC8qCPMsACK9hTQbhWs7TPyxFA2pE6_rI5rwYJBMyxp0XkBy3jVlX1Lpnsajid82z7ps_vm4PfWahZzJjyxmTYprKFPmj-76XQ736jjXbK5DkQfbEVCbMrPdgRkBjy0UU3_SEqYcwHTOOqqSboJcAXc2uZLYpgKihzxGSKMwBBG2OO8PihpOtfe2P_dXVv7nt2v426OMHkltiOdHJHgtzQFG53mFljth_dBMdW1KJE6ss-lKxyAjyUd4d8s3AMwGGs6eFVMdHQ5jFBEAtb_q0p8gIbvuOY2RifYRQD8WgK91_3dYreOT7o30ZHdOrxNjqFQOcKoshgBk6-C-g==&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**:** **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 **Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.** [**SB 65**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk4yCrpeVh4iAx72z21bYkWiJ-SPc9CsXk0HYR4FPFuhAqqFWKF2AvA0_NRBG1S3W6Gf8BBt9fdRplzlN6c8yYpmrev6FsC5I4GZbCSnD5K5d_C4qzaFa_mqKJ4JLvoRb32bT2vzT4CGn4lDlSoPw6XhK2ibo3dE661LPqJDgPYTwTH8Kq3UaV1rDpvZq1QQ7oMvguaTheSrmKDNd2T-lDchdNKY9XOENZhNWv9XnLjnqJNCGU17-MSbLrlmvz4c5SfCBbMFAz00icu4qWyVqF3qWaiptHcaATrZaOsvAYcucEnphtFT5SAdkqcmGqxhkSQhlqk8SKMaV1Z9nbJgV84uSIlzN9-nIgdUgTHKwjLPs9vp3h9KK3hEZpic1veBhxd3GmsCICOpUuxPJ6yobT1eQQ0YikVp663VSxOF_Goj-Ysyv4xkhKr2e2yhGEZtHR3LwusClRf-HP5NBUQe-hTHgT-QgtCxpcaCix5tjJ1FUZDZGeuiD6IILND4lfIpOcWxM0JBdy2d4t2P8r5tZ1rj0Lki998YSX2VX0cem1C4gBAV_dLkuEC3oCjx3AdzvsinBVwYTCeH2J4sfi1PabAdkUnjn_KeX9lkw2JvsFRqDLHUoIs2KQeI7QGttkBGW9PZuv0yjWillOqJur1TO_5U-EdN7IGEENbspgYp16DgsmgbYcsXqzN9cRCFp009-uc9Fiq9iie8piwNlrSSW4_mkoBa_aiJD4HrOyeJ4-IIcDHn3QDMCkV3UPStod_QhfZIS49X6xJjPQo_2sI9T8J_DlvJSv6zlAvbn7ecDh9IO1zTv531dHoqES28sz4vBTUQ5Q1FNq5-VBccpr2h5h-zTV46ZtalW-9oVVKi7nUCI&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: 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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk4yCrpeVh4iARv6ApW1GX4qu6yueSmVthm62G7LWrk___RbQeUDzZC3TGIBAXhYAQt-JGCwb7egUs8EhLrwChG6tH3iC-HkhUKb4_Tu-4QHEGF-m6HQztpQ=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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 **House Special Committee on Election Integrity**. [**SB 86**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFglo_ENZj4oijrI4ho2SpovpS1GAyF4OFhMK7kNo1mHw4ig4wETb776nV277L7aewYoqVlWPDi9az2FyVenWZHHJvTwwJW7o4H14SQDsFs20=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: 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 **House Judiciary Committee.** [**SB 100:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCnQYU5Ga1HMQ8mH1mZmYM2j1kl7TUZ12LBegD_H5E5AWFFAcr19brtPaLBCqGZW3xa7GXkNOCY6Lo2XYV3oZ4LXdS-0fkZwYmHXP6HzkQg4hY=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **Sen. Watson -** To provide that this state shall observe standard time year-round until such time as Congress authorizes the states to observe daylight savings time. **Passed through the Senate** **and being read in the House.** [**SB 118:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFmitZgx-6obIhpVZqLKZL3nKBH-rvYZJpMVsz_K5WZwU519ataQBBc4fYT5yOKtt5VHmMRRmiGru8WUOfBSFkDiQj5Qzr2N6FXzXmUpB9czs=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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 their 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, then assigned to a subcommittee.** [**SB 119**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMF5Y6EhFkBShY81ZU2Q97HytMFrvuIqhH3vRGvu6Vm_9C6fEfezVDC4R8ngFelEVKNf1JOqt1Mfz3tJfYXLHAKFKuATcJ2qMzzXKq8U_mSK1c=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: Sen. Harper** - Relates to permits required for burning woods, lands, marshes, or other flammable vegetation. Passed through the Senate and assigned to the **Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment** [**SB 222**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCnPvP-dYTADcuwDguIZwU-KgBloP_NesdCBE9EhfFxuWZr8Jl0eYIuDX3lO_MoaqgL4bDZiXrBmOBpQdituRCzsexO7gTe5loxJEeYFtSV8FE=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**:** **Sen. Summers -** A bill to designate the pecan as the official state nut. Assigned to the **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and passed through committee.** **﻿****HOUSE BILLS**[**HB 3:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFqQiFOqtjiMZldBf68veGqwmt-i6YybiJEp7QgENK-un0RexHc0LamPdOcwC_SwIY4TKMfQ88-p3nS5Dy8vEPp0Rx65M2qQJr5ItjLMTAVug=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUZFUYx2v-J0uFwGe6q8UNgMsNbINZN9J5XoeFvf4hbhL9ed_ZUjXEQmSLs0g-wGHkkpJJ41fYgpF8RcE6qY-QKPEgcxxTNLGCA1_RIFXYzEqpZ89FY2Xpj2l-9_XwPHUJyAEV_5O-UD15y4BSsHsmx6bPNTHlvaxUA95rRLIgipvHgTVdfOAdHx-0DkpvipEDv2HwgUELlMlnURxd29H_7EmLt6Wz7IqCurt0zprkuiKTFHOstgQIAE_aBWDndXd4STjWu5GZJeMqCL2c9HpRqVMQ--iYigIPfGsI2bFljC9qA2IxfNfAXdxcRQGVaB63YmPEdhNxnRQUgTNZiRNOoZWIcbetSXpuly0vs2Y1z2_40463txnzuXCvYN6Mn7vWiB4ftRQbenC2tv3jsoNnZUiVXBruMjh9ucbymjWV7mLpoozohNxdSnYnbxalilbDAzKqDM4Xg2JPt-ZAbOvRkTlmpFXqkYAB51GFPcWjiYZT9olyiAVxMcAPCKOD_Lvpi3--RkgD6iKJpzKxSBxS-OgydWrcSWDf3FfsdTAvfLOmEw1BTY5oSJSpOY55Xx7kp3xzUpjKTd74elR7c7zFB_vWTAQeXnfcRLs2KF5hi0HnOtkk6UTi_CP3zLldFimPL98tb1XkFcjPWuhA6-DH7gPI1ZFuAoxKFkiXGYeOu6HKegkzQp455Gpu0v0rQgbH9xG8SZNu7nnbA0L-j0TAO4jOB1UYJEafVL0vQSIMaTE_u2YwraA3lY2KJyHuSUsiPb3O7OTZS-AXfD2K31Wv57SuGz3I-4eSJaXhLjhUGUu_IqEaAaHIVFByoeG8z4f6iJwul9CaV1bt4KKPvMv-xoh3X9fOcN05sWdhN56iTuk=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**:** **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUN2PZPfynbW5sOa0LmO5UKFlRQFpfKDG9HaiDusiCOVnq84Gp94g5VKbr7uHC9bLu8vbQYqhFKJa1ANMy9kwvPcj8fWqCjdzSMndb1h_4n24=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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. Passed through the House now assigned to **Senate Science and Technology Committee.**  [**HB 104:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFjocKio7bQ-B-tQAiwJBMr7k4e8QHtuA9GqM2EwMJdQvYmrazvHa1xaOtgMlNkzvUlgGBgEK_wB-Dph1uQbZaDDePTOdlmZFY9GlkUqDUaUg=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUCfIOuOsRbmP9OKatLseBLDi2M1rxT0AkiEFZNMgnfNGFOi1lXnILBUQ_z_8lsGkopW6dHyiUxfPOMvZIIFvpz7nLYgQm3LJRyB0sQ_rFVo4=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCU2VMHKu_O1U0EUeSZFmdLzFF3b6u-TEhU08kz1wbFdZTUuJR_7ys1maXPOhV9xiZcPrQHAKma2sH0wjyEA5w6YBvUGV25Nsa9FxZbEarF4HmotjtnFx25co2ejhVF2JP_X4C8uft6xb2S4gx7XchFwxxuxvIaSbXkwTh0rlh5qBo9TPMgoIfjEeVFQ256-jrg8qAuZMGs-P0XKemKoe5lmo1lFMA51O_SsJOSrRJCUyToI7HNKRs6D6BUv4Z3qi-Zj85y5GYqN30gWf02WiO02lS5Nvvc3kdrjueiQjcbKhyONkfl47mz6BV6teeujnGbB_NFi0U6wiz2Db6scaOZLk-JNNdlUQ9IzwoaeT5Hy_QXXgA17i224_TCd67B8sUB3pbElCgyIflHyrdra092h9FFx5TEbpe20CR7AXkNmvLrOdcczL-eIiAlsnDs-eF7kcguQPZnRgChrmQSnW0WDCNQygpbd2ilBG1N44qddLGgzFUt-0hTz6EQXZPpj1G-QjU04IlmrUqplZYsIsof6T6BrPLVDuhtN0JtrLiW2rHIZh4EChOrBGsm2B6J7kKT4byjOYa5oZMJsEdM3RK4Ezw59cQjqw0FmKSOl-UhoNf9-IxrzyIs2-EknHmx6P3H1jpfIBAIXYsvECHF5BN5GljV8GSBhX4lRB66qWHOKkpGD_8ROaJPWT4hnKatWI235KdzhL8eYwr3QN3wxMVX0ooB5E5iwvBk0TUNC7WbUrD187OWW197_3_QBb8DTU3SNF9itKuxFmr3UWEBpYCuIEGm35htdpA18gugAxD6XhQXsi283EhEw767JNNM3VPMPpKZFnC2sEIK299YH2NNm90jYbrOoejX&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==): **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFx5AYvCUb49elkgRdKfLhmobPp8iZ5jNfIAf6GS5rY8M7PseFrabQrSbfvKBl7rrvByDyEmCxxfYNUN_X9ZRgbROfYQxWVSocvd01yG6qrbo=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk6ryOlm0KMCUKQXehb9lwcMrhThXGVh5LOcyo-9Txnr6FhqxrqRxNaX_u_I7eDlvXtKg2vSJV6-vTxLJ1t_rmbuAvfR5W8M1_-lDijcF0WtJNU600AXvDlL6zRKEU2UaY8HPzXmG_c6nMDrbQ4wwNUmm3v_w3VIgF4ZiiD2yRXPv7j4PqgOLUOKsvTNZqcJNeMwXsNZzl9GZxxpK-wlhRA_Kz-zx6lXXOrjYTjZSVs5JJoXVmqGJdhszRmorQqkZPkegbR-2LSNAPpYi8Mq6LgvH3U-h4dsWiUZf6OYH2eoKZ5u0cjaFBv75YqhjuuhI7WyljAh3viT7OxopDLYEmcAGhjULgzm_zCgqVqkCH1ueY4NIEAj2pZ8horJCiC1BSuV9ukVXLshnEaR6o53EwxUSaQr1nOXwTGy0Vz2Tiz87GOP-0ui-_in13K-kJEsNDXmnwa1Mdx1mIZcuQc3xte7WrNQkOproYGQcWIfXEkWocmGzwFLLTRQ0OQYe2WRvp1yOXcp0BoOe72UvShOXtjfuZo8nYr0ah2Y7FBsxT4DF8KVQKWcpVxQ2O0oqr4_eFYGM_lTREZZZYLzGg2NVPZ6CU8s-CjPqVj6dgXnsU-scmbmSI5MmRAgIgn1OUgUcu1wcER-Ri_EU89mCSFw9-smK9VjokjtZ6GjYB3Jx_vgRYpsKRnqWi-zx-SQrl5W_SCtGM2Xm1qsMdNyc51N2PsPQLKJNHQzFaEGmfa_73w98gYVUXjbG1bx2mDu9wlnKPnKEKfdlBrjgWVrNipe6WguhJYUyccqbl2YZ1j38c1ClqeY6xVClRSUVQa4YzqszrLcHV6yEDJgfQGs62LrFKpK66WTR8-nCDQ==&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**:** **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, now assigned to **Senate Regulated Industries Committee.** [**HB 169**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCn6r0ADdCBdhofO4eHnXzJcv-L4SxQ0OgrfG5JUz3wPKeCMz45xekZw8PmkVBd2IjVHfZXapnDnqnO8OrhGnmRMD2_IibHZlD9p1XR8CM4HrwV6MwavMFU56LO20aOH1lHF9dj3xdMGqiP78qVKc9kL2DqHbmGnZ4PU4UtRykJgOsbkoRjbA5JmkV71x6FFjtDvvfs8eMnDUj9xaQNiGZ7D4jskeDUYtcz8RhP0yGM5SrCz3vw30k-DfEKrL7KndZVi9ELUbcU7pPQcdhobm4YNh9wdgNvcZu1SKpqX7UgMhofuvwAv_hsD7WKfAt3GiGaosVV37nB_YDNzzKf35aqqEGLVTc1STtuGG-RQIOPmuFWLhWdOTRQciSrcXxWPRTW3ltYRq-EFWjLwlppECdC07A1ODk1IxXqCp8ZIm4tLeykDA1dvU2SFFVMouV_85s4bcd8Rt3WfDrtLRmJ7HzH8cLdKzXJZ51tZ0rzHmy5wPsmVJi7m5s2Y99sFIFq0iaeYOh7N-B-GMvW14eqXMwtxBAtyoJHr5VTU1mrbN7x7FYoS8FzgGbBGmFvqXk_cHvHDXFz_b0QcVaXAM1v0hCz3W1pKGv-xLp16FSThX_X4x8=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **Rep. Corbett -** would remove the 180-day extension hurdle and grant a CDL instruction permit for a period not to exceed 365 days. Georgia's current law requires a CDL instruction permit not to be issued for a period to exceed 180 days and can be renewed one time for an additional 180 days. The bill passed through the house and awaits action in the Senate. Assigned to the **Senate Public Safety Committee**. [**HB 282**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFQ6RAmBKM6PTdMN2pKBhGhJRtI5HUOZUcG285LpYH11avKnMwYSLy88R-QAKR7ht6Map5jOZ05uZaufGNo25T29nTj3NA1bjVjEO8pU8gsgM=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: 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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMF3VK-IwCPLgzHp-JWgAlF-hU-VeliEIOxZC7w1bGntGve3gJ2QtAxUPaxqH3y9P62MBYiMXdQ4ensTZElN7fMgBKL2Q2fIFg1WtNACbdFrwY=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMF53vXdlPWwm_fxeDq2VydFAme0xDxWDzHN-i9laAgnl2SUyNcc7D9iR6XJ4B2LyXo6tglQbZ99QLGnu4ZBTpal5tq5AA0-yvPyw6937vl7SI=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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. Passed through the **Natural Resources Committee and will be herd on the House floor** [**HB 498:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFL3wtG5ELXgA4z467Nm3zHzr0Yiu0LrSz7rLXj2-6Br9Ta5U26rNn_FfEZYBXlUbW6_HFgIvaUktrrl-NANxZkVsd4g_xD4CZ0LiPUc9MA9k=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFXchKc9WyfV3w3uufob4BoUYivumBjsdqO6VAHBK5QbUNAUPtCitM1IfT0v9ixzfo41k3l2uGxXCoSG1SirvKOtB70_X_ASUaC_jUg2mUgVA=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **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.** [**HB 574**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCn7osTMgA_4DFPKSj1dBPk5TfILUNm6xhmBIM0_KY9PCHgCuI2ndKyorN0Ih5_CY5tefCqrFlYxbM3rWiPaJWyrmuMLynd6LRY76CL7eUFPQE=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==): **Rep. Camp,** would establish a Companion Local Government Animal Trust Fund for the reimbursement of impoundment expenses incurred by local governments. The bill comes as a Department of Ag bill and was brought forward for a hearing only. The legislation should be taken back up next week for full consideration. **House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee** [**HB 575**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCnvAAIfeGzeie1s_HI19C1tFZKbv_xmmqmxRaST6esu8sNpLl1wL8Pk_wgRsk3fjUZRmOKeqQpji-cp9bUuVWXAJ7CwTRi-2Y0gIZva5iT92E=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: Rep. Dickey -** To amend Code Section 48-5-7.4, relating to bona fide conservation use property, residential transitional property, application procedures, penalties for breach of covenant, classification on tax digest, and annual report, so as to authorize on-premises processing and marketing of agricultural products as a qualifying conservation use; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Heard in **House Ways and Means Ad Valorem Sub Committee** [**HR 164:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMF66XgnAAO0fkNHDLKFqpL-9qnMXGMZZPtzq7C-6grcRxpS8CvqS_faPcR2_T07OUzwYf92_N8ihmcn4uG2GqnZgKZxvufi-ofkB1WrwRiZjA=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **Rep. Lim -** relates to ad valorem taxation of property. HB 482 permits governing authorities to establish urban agriculture incentives zones. Urban landowners with the property of .1 to 5 acres can commit to 5 years of agricultural or green space use for a lower tax assessment. Assigned to the **House Ways and Means Committee.** [**HR 185:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk-KGA3U-GDCndgBo-nQcVjihFXxP8vN1iIWLF6un8x_1oQB1fHZzRKN2aCUEIwHqiryZuDCQa8w89dCC-s4VoTYZYdrq_OyJtOWHKcSMnXrtNGkRDWKdJuY=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **Rep. Ralston -** reauthorizing the House Rural Development Council. Chairman Sam Watson presented the resolution and noted that rural communities face various challenges in social, educational, technological, and economic spheres. This resolution re-establishes a council composed of 15 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Beginning May 1, 2021, the council will continue to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems within these areas recommended action or legislation that the council deems necessary or appropriate.   |

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