**WEEK NINE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Week nine of the Legislative Session started with the all-important Crossover Day on Monday that ran late into the night as lawmakers pushed to keep their legislation in play for the remainder of the year.

Though 27 legislative days have already come and gone, the final 12 days usually include most of the real action that will occur Under the Gold Dome in a year. Many pieces of legislation that did not get a vote by the deadline will be looking for "vehicles" to hitch a ride with or similar bills that they can sneak onto at the last minute. This process can be helpful at times but also gives us concern as all pieces of legislation must be reviewed carefully to find what small details could have an impact on our members.

**PRESIDENT BIDEN SIGNS $1.9 TRILLION COVID-19 RELIEF BILL**

This week on a party-line vote, Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law the $1.9 trillion “American Rescue Plan Act” COVID-19 relief package. This latest COVID-19 relief bill brings the U.S total spending on the pandemic to nearly $6 trillion. [**Click here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001EbqFBs7pYgLAQAJf1JfiUZQKgCJdkc3Ed-pmptFiUCcOtYGFiuQExiJuoCAfc7ksOqfg0qqJXi7MUfvmy1-WYPbwGYYT3xxf41mYA_nt1v9RJibtZRimJsizXL2DgT3sH-IbxLJOPalVSRnqCRMSGVysvBYIIEXl74yqGU9P_iTfGkgQspwb3apo6aXwcSv2KpwR4YdyUf4F6ulQCNkVjtz8Ck0rmOVVQmRcoCRnPjWHADhNGmI7wMw13oAndpVuT9k9flBkVXeVoni3dNr_jd6TQLNbRmVOPDj9M7EI7ZVNXx2KSzYqaERm6gmNPmj-zOzdrL3MW0n91mIictoxHWW57nVvLlB7fnigh67Ugg2zNW78zX-Yqg==&c=ZY2r_u3_j4MjHYLhcq8s5SBXrUaB-CG841xguTIFAF-SopXpXDJcNw==&ch=LWMXpq3vuNXp7jG54V-Rdf7JukAAifT4KpHYIZff60EnOp5e9gae6g==) to read the title-by-title summary of the bill. In addition to the $1,400 direct payments to individuals and extended unemployment benefits, the bill includes an additional $7.25 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and an additional $15 billion for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program to help small businesses.

For agriculture, the bill provides an additional $4 billion to address pandemic-related disruptions throughout the food supply chain; invest in new infrastructure for farmers, food processors, and farmers markets to build resiliency; monitor COVID-19 in animals; support small meat and poultry processors; protect food and farm workers on the job; and increase food donations.

﻿The relief package also includes an estimated $4 billion to pay up to 120% of Black, Hispanic, Asian or Native American farmers' outstanding debt as of Jan. 1. The package also designates about $1 billion for equity commissions, agricultural training, improved land access and other assistance to address what this administration claims is racial injustice in farming.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |  | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |   **GAC PRIORITY PASSES ON CROSSOVER DAY - AD VALOREM**  **Chairman Sam Watson’s** House Bill 498 passed through the House early Monday morning. Watson discussed the bill on the House floor explaining how “young and old farmers partner together but are not necessarily related” in response to increased capital expenses for farming equipment. The bill was significantly supported across the aisle with 169 Yeas with only 1 Nay.  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 farm equipment 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.  There is plenty of work still to be done because of the requirement of 2/3 vote in both chambers as well as a statewide referendum on the 2022 ballot. |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://files.constantcontact.com/d2766818501/e75148e6-1969-47c9-9226-2fce0ea4edfe.jpg | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |   **GEORGIA MILK PRODUCERS PRESENT RAW MILK INFO TO HOUSE AG**  During the House Ag Committee Meeting, **Chairman Robert Dickey** invited experts within the dairy and food safety sector to speak to raw milk marketing in Georgia. **Farrah Newberry, Executive Director of Georgia Milk Producers Inc,** began the conversation indicating the organizations evolving opinion on allowing raw milk sales. The organization debated this issue among its diverse dairy members, and staff researched raw milk programs throughout the Southeast to develop a safe and reasonable path forward before ultimately voting to support the regulation and sale of raw milk for human consumption. Newberry noted that raw milk sales are currently operating under a "pet food" label that is well known to be used for human consumption instead. Ms. Newberry detailed a 78% decline in the state dairy industry numbers, attributing high regulatory standards, many milk product competitors, and urban growth as key factors to the decline. Pasteurized Milk is currently subjected to rigorous quality and food safety procedures as it is tested four times before reaching consumers. In Georgia, a gallon of milk averages between $2.99 and $3.99, whereas raw milk- currently sold under a misleading "pet food" license - triples this average, seeing prices as high as $8 to $12 per gallon. Georgia Milk Producers, Inc is concerned with liability issues with the sale of raw milk as pet food as it is not tested or subjected to any regulations currently. Ms. Newbery expressed their desire to work with the Department of Agriculture to develop regulations and open the market up letting smaller farms access to competitive markets at the same time as adding inspection protection to a product that is commonly consumed by many Georgians.  The **Director of Food Safety for Georgia Department of Agriculture, Natalie Adan**, then spoke to the safety and regulatory side of the issue. Ms. Adan first detailed how the Dairy Program currently functions with regular inspections and testing. Currently, there are 71 operating raw milk licenses for "pet food" within the state and the products sold under those licenses are not routinely inspected and subject to other dairy products. The director detailed the regulatory system that South Carolina uses including: mechanized bottling, retail sale only, quarterly inspections, and regular sample testing.  In response to the complexity of raw milk, Chairman Dickey created a subcommittee headed by Chairman Clay Pirkle to further research and discuss the topic. **GAC supports Georgia Milk Producers, Inc**. in their effort to increase safety measures to raw milk sales as well as marketing opportunities for small dairies and we look forward to engaging with the sub-committee throughout the year to find a safe and profitable solutions for these dairy farmers. | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://files.constantcontact.com/d2766818501/41b6ff38-9fed-4deb-b928-0a2e10ad7896.png | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |   **SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECAP**  **Chairman Tyler Harper** convened the Senate Natural Resource and Environment Committee on Wednesdayto hear two House Bills. **HB 362**, presented by House Game, Fish, and Parks **Chairman Trey Rhodes**, is a Department of Natural Resource bill that codifies new rules and regulations regarding hybrid varieties of bass and trout. The bill would also allow DNR to set bag limits on specific species of deer on certain properties and passed the committee unanimously**.**  **﻿**  **HB 355** by **Rep. Wiedower** establishes the Sustainable Development Carbon Registry by expanding Georgia’s existing Carbon Registry to enable the creation and tracking of carbon credits that are tied to carbon sequestered in construction projects throughout the state as well as the embodied carbon benefits arising from a whole-building life cycle assessment. This legislation will create a dual pathway for accruing carbon credits. The primary objective of the legislation will be to increase the use of construction materials that sequester, or store, carbon, furthering sustainable development in Georgia. Participation in the registry would be entirely optional, and developers that do not want to participate in it will not be required to do so in any way. | | | |  | | --- | | **HEMP AND TRACTOR BILLS TAKEN UP IN SENATE AG COMMITTEE**  **Chairman Larry Walker convened the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee** meeting Thursday afternoon to discuss three house bills. **HB 153 by Representative Wiedower** relating to Fair Business Practices Act of 1975 passed unanimously. The legislation would require notices sent out by private entities soliciting government registrations to clearly note that they are solicitations and not official government documents.  **Representative John Corbett** brought forth **HB 335** dealing with hemp to the committee. The bill looks to keep Georgia's hemp program in compliance with federal regulations and includes several changes to the fee structure for processors and other cleanup language. After a lively discussion, including testimony from a hand puppet, the bill passed through the committee.  **﻿Representative Steven Meeks** quickly explained **HB 693** regarding tractors or ag equipment right of ways on the road. The bill addresses tractors facing impediments that are unable to move over will assume the right away until otherwise passable. The legislation passed through committee unanimously. | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **HEMP AND TRACTOR BILLS TAKEN UP IN SENATE AG COMMITTEE**  **Chairman Larry Walker convened the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee** meeting Thursday afternoon to discuss three house bills. **HB 153 by Representative Wiedower** relating to Fair Business Practices Act of 1975 passed unanimously. The legislation would require notices sent out by private entities soliciting government registrations to clearly note that they are solicitations and not official government documents.  **Representative John Corbett** brought forth **HB 335** dealing with hemp to the committee. The bill looks to keep Georgia's hemp program in compliance with federal regulations and includes several changes to the fee structure for processors and other cleanup language. After a lively discussion, including testimony from a hand puppet, the bill passed through the committee.  **﻿Representative Steven Meeks** quickly explained **HB 693** regarding tractors or ag equipment right of ways on the road. The bill addresses tractors facing impediments that are unable to move over will assume the right away until otherwise passable. The legislation passed through committee unanimously.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **BILLS OF INTEREST**  **SENATE BILLS THAT CROSSED OVER**  [**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 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 98**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFglo_ENZj4oijrI4ho2SpovpS1GAyF4OFhMK7kNo1mHw4ig4wETb776nV277L7aewYoqVlWPDi9az2FyVenWZHHJvTwwJW7o4H14SQDsFs20=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: Sen. Beach –** Relating to highways,bridges, and ferries, so as to provide for eligible expenditures for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Bill will provide procedures, conditions, and limitations for public and private financing of projects. Bill will amend the composition of the Georgia Ports Authority. **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 102**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFglo_ENZj4oijrI4ho2SpovpS1GAyF4OFhMK7kNo1mHw4ig4wETb776nV277L7aewYoqVlWPDi9az2FyVenWZHHJvTwwJW7o4H14SQDsFs20=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**:** Sen. Kennedy – would prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel. **Passed through the Senate.**  [**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 195:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bm69STFU9x-0792inZ-FLCIo0RMia2Nh2Y_UgqX7B2W7vrzlZ3XTsXCWYZZPhhYxJqIQSMYbrn7TuUrib-6Qkam1L4sRbkgZMNFFYIO86Fti6CigOcQ8Pgq06b_1y4csBZy3RsuxrfpuTOPb-thCGbR3-UQkTSFCcMKXXAF4QnI=&c=LE2hl4R6_8GrLVlF-ZvB9KvgrpOTjWteyy4GEvC3tZNn0SAGeUDuSA==&ch=8KRRGw60IsT2CBV8DOA0QdVcY-V3ea-6eMWh2L3fMlz_38g_KuZemw==) **Rep. Mullis –** Bill relating to the specifies of Hemp farming. SB 195 more strictly defines the term “process or processing” to exclude packaging raw or dried materials, shucking, bucking, sorting, trimming, and curing. Adding specified language clarifies that traditional farming practices would not be considered processing and would not require a processing license. Passed through the Senate and assigned to the **House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee**  [**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.**  [**SB 247**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFglo_ENZj4oijrI4ho2SpovpS1GAyF4OFhMK7kNo1mHw4ig4wETb776nV277L7aewYoqVlWPDi9az2FyVenWZHHJvTwwJW7o4H14SQDsFs20=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==)**: Sen. Anderson –** 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. Virtual meetings, as well as a simplified voting process, will be implemented. **Assigned to the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.**  **﻿**  **HOUSE BILLS THAT CROSSED OVER**  [**HB 44:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sUpYlV9_1oiBXA94sjmqV727pyCdGfLUQesQw__camsDRr4Ns6IQk8K9UfdQ9CMFqQiFOqtjiMZldBf68veGqwmt-i6YybiJEp7QgENK-un0RexHc0LamPdOcwC_SwIY4TKMfQ88-p3nS5Dy8vEPp0Rx65M2qQJr5ItjLMTAVug=&c=Bl7sOZ09iIAQ9De-HXaibY5urhQCZInpCO1eDgOw00Xj7pVoMZPoHw==&ch=kUO-j6yLN7THmTkUdFkliT7lg_VOCvpq79nhepe-UT0xuNb40MJwhQ==) **Rep. Cantrell** - The bill would require Georgia to observe Daylight Savings Time year-round instead of falling back and moving forward as is currently the tradition. This would become effective only if the US Congress authorizes states to observe daylight savings time year round. Passed House and **assigned to Senate Government Oversight 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 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 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 theHouse and **assigned to the Senate Natural Resources Committee**  [**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 **Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee**  [**HB 647:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bm69STFU9x-0792inZ-FLCIo0RMia2Nh2Y_UgqX7B2W7vrzlZ3XTsXCWYZZPhhYx59bl5fJna7wjmpMxmMn1xc1EzX-UefGtz5aynRGPBnwcp-PuzJgH--hckdlMZakDLoNFoerRITD0yXBbE1tQ7TVrsE0ICYM8s8xd-RXddPk=&c=LE2hl4R6_8GrLVlF-ZvB9KvgrpOTjWteyy4GEvC3tZNn0SAGeUDuSA==&ch=8KRRGw60IsT2CBV8DOA0QdVcY-V3ea-6eMWh2L3fMlz_38g_KuZemw==) **Rep. Smith - HB 647** provides groundwater monitoring in areas where coal combustion residual impoundments reside and have recently closed. HB 647 passed through the House and **assigned to the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee**  [**HB 676:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bm69STFU9x-0792inZ-FLCIo0RMia2Nh2Y_UgqX7B2W7vrzlZ3XTsXCWYZZPhhYx59bl5fJna7wjmpMxmMn1xc1EzX-UefGtz5aynRGPBnwcp-PuzJgH--hckdlMZakDLoNFoerRITD0yXBbE1tQ7TVrsE0ICYM8s8xd-RXddPk=&c=LE2hl4R6_8GrLVlF-ZvB9KvgrpOTjWteyy4GEvC3tZNn0SAGeUDuSA==&ch=8KRRGw60IsT2CBV8DOA0QdVcY-V3ea-6eMWh2L3fMlz_38g_KuZemw==) **Rep. Penny –** Establish a Georgia Farmers’ Market and Produce Terminal Development Authority. The creation of an authority will allow markets to function more independently and manage retained earnings. The authority will have 10 members including the Commissioner of Agriculture, to represent the state’s agricultural, business, and consumer interests and form all geographic areas of the state. Passed through the House and **assigned to the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.**  [**HB 693:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bm69STFU9x-0792inZ-FLCIo0RMia2Nh2Y_UgqX7B2W7vrzlZ3XTsXCWYZZPhhYxmFytgsdEFWlL_gJy8tgVeqmiIILAfGawTcjncXruGh4ot1VEbTz1g26FmKGwnLPtP6vYXHjqqXA6XTG-fKcrwF0F9qr-semXWKauWNJ8C8E=&c=LE2hl4R6_8GrLVlF-ZvB9KvgrpOTjWteyy4GEvC3tZNn0SAGeUDuSA==&ch=8KRRGw60IsT2CBV8DOA0QdVcY-V3ea-6eMWh2L3fMlz_38g_KuZemw==) **Rep Meeks -** tractors to operate on state and local roadways with the right of way. General vehicles must give way to tractors and assume responsibility to safely move and drive within the presence of a tractor vehicle. The bill passed through the **House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs 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. | | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | |  | |