**WEEK TEN LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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| **AGRICULTURE AD VALOREM ISSUE PASSED THROUGH SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  **Chairman Sam Watson’s** House Bill 498 was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday. Watson explained the need for the legislation to the Senators and the bill was passed onto the rules committee after several questions from the committee.  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://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://imgssl.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif |   **SENATE AG COMMITTEE HEARS FARMERS MARKET BILL**  **House Bill 676 by Chairwoman Penny Houston** was heard in the Senate Ag Committee meeting this week and aims to address funding and administrative concerns of the multiple state own farmers markets throughout Georgia. Commissioner Gary Black offered his support for the work the legislators are doing to solve the issues faced at the markets and committed to continuing to work with Chairman Houston, Chairman Walker, and others to find the appropriate solutions for the markets and the Department. Several other details were discussed including forming a subcommittee to dive deeper into the issue.  **TIME CHANGE LEGISLATION REMAINS ALIVE**  Both the House and the Senate have passed legislation pertaining to the state staying on one time all year versus springing forward and falling backwards as it currently does. Although the issue has been up for debate since the creation of daylight savings, federal law prohibits states from only observing daylight savings year-round. This means that if the legislature decided to move the state to only one time, it would have to be standard time. Legislation aimed at this issue is brought up almost every year, and this year is no different.  The Senate passed [**Senate Bill 100 by Senator Ben Watson**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OFwc39rnbVYpnazJ9teJ6T5GBdWvyackUqNsTtWSZenKXZvZmarM2Gpob-er-fHSLu7-DJnze43szVDlMlltXfcdYOgMaRw1EoAvPKOvMpQzQC3tn0O02JcBa8tB56aiwJ-DfBlTq-Owt5X_MkW877RhwrrZqyGn11PlHXG-4Aw=&c=zCmOnIco11GAIhR3BKzb08wTqo51E0DpMCD-yKe1sZV_iU7UQx8uDw==&ch=j8M5ZS-BHz_-W4gnHGSBtdQl64FLcHlKgwdorFw3Cg4xA1JkVBeAnw==), which would make Georgia the third state to end the observance of daylight savings time. This bill passed with bipartisan support in the senate chamber and was sent over to the house. The bill was committed to the State Planning and Community Affairs committee where it passed by committee substitute on Thursday.  The second bill is [**House Bill 44 by Representative Wes Cantrell**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OFwc39rnbVYpnazJ9teJ6T5GBdWvyackUqNsTtWSZenKXZvZmarM2JqokYUmiqrwOq_XSc9JkBQNu4sVtq68vvS8aP4VjSNYuvtE8hN3wIUGqnWf2mgX2JafVEiLMaayt9p9ihvZEHq6yoL9R0v4KhROb7lQWSX23MTpDOpBltw=&c=zCmOnIco11GAIhR3BKzb08wTqo51E0DpMCD-yKe1sZV_iU7UQx8uDw==&ch=j8M5ZS-BHz_-W4gnHGSBtdQl64FLcHlKgwdorFw3Cg4xA1JkVBeAnw==). This bill aims to let Georgia stay on daylight savings time permanently only if congress decides to allow for states to recognize it year-round. The legislation passed the House chamber by a large margin and was sent over to the senate.  After passing through each respective chamber, both pieces of legislation were amended in committee to swap the language with the other. This means that SB 100 now contains language to only observe daylight savings time, and HB 44 contains language to observe standard time. Although the current situation is rather complicated and being heavily debated, both bills seem to have momentum and could possibly end with Georgia observing one time throughout the year. GAC and other business groups have concerns with the legislation and its impact on our industry. As Sine Die quickly approaches, we are keeping a close watch on this legislation to see what will happen in the coming days.  **HOUSE AG COMMITTEE TAKES UP SENATE BILLS**  Early Wednesday morning, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, Robert Dickey, called the committee to order to hear three bills that passed through the Senate.  The meeting started with **Senate Bill 247**, by Senator Lee Anderson, dealing with agricultural commodity commissions. SB 247 would modernize the way Georgia 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, the Market Bulletin, and other local options. The bill passed unanimously.  **Senate Bill 195**, by Senator Jeff Mullis dealing with the definition of hemp processing was presented and passed unanimously. The language was previously added to the Rep. Corbett's hemp language and is considered "cleanup language".  **Senator Tyler Harper** then presented **SB 260** that deals with soil amendments. SB 260 suggests that no local government shall adopt a buffer or setback that exceeds more than 100 feet in width. Soil amendments are utilized by several sectors of agribusiness. The bill passed through to the Rule Committee but was later re-committed back to the Ag Committee for additional work. | |   **USDA SEEKS INDUSTRY FEEDBACK ON CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE**  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) issued two notices this week seeking comments on coronavirus response grants and the food purchase program.  ﻿Regarding the coronavirus response grants, USDA AMS is requesting industry feedback on the development, coordination and implementation of grant programs to support food processing, distribution, seafood processing, farmers markets, and producers and other businesses identified in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The legislation directed USDA to use these grant funds to help businesses respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19.  On the food purchase program, USDA AMS seeks comments on the development, coordination, and implementation of a food purchase and distribution program intended to provide additional aid to nonprofits serving Americans in need of nutrition assistance.  If implemented, the program will serve as a successor to the temporary food box purchase program created in April 2020 in response to the rapidly developing crisis within the food supply chain and increased joblessness due to COVID-19. Comments can be submitted on both topics through midnight ET on March 31, via an online portal.  In addition, AMS will host two listening sessions: one for feedback on the coronavirus response grants on March 19 at 2:00 PM ET and another on March 22 at 2:00 PM ET to provide groups and individuals an opportunity to share their views on how USDA can best serve the industry through the programs. Registration is required for both listening sessions, [**click here**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OFwc39rnbVYpnazJ9teJ6T5GBdWvyackUqNsTtWSZenKXZvZmarM2OcBK6ymCCorBnF4Lb6ZAaf9a3ES-HrqCiOAUC8O2nM2xVUi-w8aKxQGYJR5RaITpqq0ZG6IEve91THjFRRzr800APHmwmddltpHEZX5waho3RmV_e2L7i6GV9JrVTlqDg==&c=zCmOnIco11GAIhR3BKzb08wTqo51E0DpMCD-yKe1sZV_iU7UQx8uDw==&ch=j8M5ZS-BHz_-W4gnHGSBtdQl64FLcHlKgwdorFw3Cg4xA1JkVBeAnw==) for more information and registration.  **RESIDENTIAL BURN PERMIT BILL PASSES HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**   |  | | --- | | **Senate Bill 119**, by Senator Tyler Harper, would allow people to burn yard waste without obtaining a permit. Prior to the burning, the forest ranger of the county should be notified of the time and location of the burn or to an employee of the forestry unit. 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. The burn must be 50 feet away from any structure and 25 feet away from any woodlands to follow the guidelines of SB 119. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | 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. Assigned to the **House Committee on State Planning & Community Affairs.**  [**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.**  [**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.**  [**SB 260:**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OFwc39rnbVYpnazJ9teJ6T5GBdWvyackUqNsTtWSZenKXZvZmarM2DJ55Xv4rtsW1HYyev0xkxSWa4tFBPeDj4o2f8s2Xy00ph60Dhf0q-6eueRCi3898I77Qb5ndnICnBsajxEjOU5Qv59js5D3SFA4uUSrt8SdAKu2PlEQ8AA=&c=zCmOnIco11GAIhR3BKzb08wTqo51E0DpMCD-yKe1sZV_iU7UQx8uDw==&ch=j8M5ZS-BHz_-W4gnHGSBtdQl64FLcHlKgwdorFw3Cg4xA1JkVBeAnw==) **Rep. Harper -** Relating to soil amendments so that no local government shall be prohibited or impaired from adopting or enforcing any zoning ordinance, including the adoption of buffers and setbacks; provided, further, that no such buffer or setback shall exceed 100 feet in width. Passed through 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 Senate and will be sent to the **governor to be signed into law**  [**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 Senate and will be sent to the **governor to be signed into law**  **﻿**[**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. Passed through the House and Senate and will be sent to the **governor to be signed into law.**  [**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. Passed through the House and Senate and **will be sent to the** **governor to be signed into law.**  [**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 House and passed through the Senate **Natural Resources and the Environment 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. **Passed through the House and Senate and will be sent to the** **governor to be signed into law.**  [**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.  **Passed through the House** | | | | | | | |  |  | | --- | |  | |