



Government Affairs Task Force Bill Tracking 2021 Legislative Session

Below is a listing of filed bills the Council is actively involved with or that are of interest to Council Members, including their sponsor, location and bill analysis. If you click on the blue links for each piece of legislation, a copy of the legislation, as well as the vote count will be displayed. Words or phrases in red indicates an approved modification of the bill from its original version.

If you have a specific question about a piece of legislation, contact **Senior Policy Analyst Joseph Santoro** at JS@CouncilforQualityGrowth.org.

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Government Administration

House Bill 98: State government; conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions

Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee)

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Science and Technology

Summary: House Bill 98 allows meetings, public hearings, and for certain agency members to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 333: Ethics in Government Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efration (R-Dacula)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Ethics

Summary: House Bill 333 revises the powers and duties of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, how maximum contribution limits are implemented, purposes requiring registration with the commission, and other campaign issues.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute; Senate Tabled/Engrossed

Council Position: *Neutral*

House Bill 476: Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Dale Washburn (R-Macon)

House Committee: Regulated Industries

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

Summary: House Bill 476 declares the Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Board to be functionally removed from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State's office. The board will be attached to the SOS's agency "for administrative purposes only." This bill also creates an Executive Director, who will be appointed by board members, to run the business of this newly independent body.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute/ Senate Read Second Time

Council Position: **Support**

House Resolution 130: Board of Community Affairs; approving transfer of Forsyth County from Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to Atlanta Regional Commission; ratify action

Sponsor: Rep. Lauren McDonald (R-Cumming)

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Government Oversight

Summary: House Resolution 130 ratifies the action of the Board of Community Affairs approving of the transfer of Forsyth County from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; S enate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 22: Board of Commissioners of Henry County; provide a code of ethics

Sponsor: Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur)

Senate Committee: State and Local Governmental Operations

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination

Summary: Senate Bill 22 revises the authority, roles, and responsibilities of the chairperson, the board of commissioners, and the county manager, and provides a code of ethics and an ethics review board for Henry County. This bill redistributes some responsibility from the county manager to the county chair.

Status: ***Signed by Governor***

Council Position: *Neutral*

Senate Bill 49: Buildings and Housing; procedures for alternative plan review, permitting, and inspection by private professional providers

Sponsor: Senator Clint Dixon (R-White)

Senate Committee: State and Local Governmental Operations

House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

Summary: Senate Bill 49 details procedures for alternative plan review, permitting, and inspection by private professional providers so as to allow applicants to elect whether to retain, at their own expense, a private professional provider to provide required plan reviews or inspections of certain buildings.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Passed/Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

Economic Development & Tourism

House Bill 86: Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah)

House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism

Summary: House Bill 86 (and SB 142) legalizes sports betting in this state, and provides for oversight of all sports betting by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Certain resources for individuals with a gambling problem or a gambling disorder, additional requirements imposed on wagers and bettors, regulations to provide for bettors to restrict themselves from placing certain wagers are also provided.

Status: House Withdrawn, Recommitted

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 161: Local government; downtown development authorities; remove provision providing perpetual existence to such authorities

Sponsor: Rep. Jan Tankersley (R-Brooklet)

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Government Oversight

Summary: House Bill 161 relating to downtown development authorities, so as to remove a provision providing perpetual existence to such authorities. This bill makes no other amendments.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 142: Lottery for Education; provide lottery game of sports wagering in this state

Sponsor: Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga)

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism

Summary: Senate Bill 142 (and House Bill 86) legalizes sports betting in this state, and provides for oversight of all sports betting by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Certain resources for individuals with a gambling problem or a gambling disorder, additional requirements imposed on wagers and bettors, regulations to provide for bettors to restrict themselves from placing certain wagers are also provided.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted; House Withdrawn, Recommitted

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Resolution 135: Sports Betting; related matters; provide -CA

Sponsor: Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga)

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism

Summary: Senate Resolution 135 amends the constitution of the State of Georgia to legalize sports betting, both online and in-person. This bill also allocates tax revenue from this legalization to education, among other things.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, Y-41 N-10; House Withdrawn, Recommitted

Council Position: **Support**

Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunication

House Bill 76: Public utilities and public transportation; modify percentage limitation as to the amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make and maintain in a gas affiliate

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Summary: House Bill 76 (and Senate Bill 8) modifies the percentage limitation of the investments an electric membership corporation (EMC) may make and maintain in a gas affiliate. HB 76 modifies the guaranteed debts and obligations of EMC's gas affiliate in total to not exceed 60% (formerly 15%) of such EMC's net utility plan.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Read and Referred

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 150: Public utilities and public transportation; 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

Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe)

House Committee: Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunications

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

Summary: House Bill 150 (and Senate Bill 102) broadly prohibits state, county, municipal, or other local 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.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 625: Tri-County Natural Gas Authority Act

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R-Greensboro)

House Committee: Intragovernmental Coordination

Senate Committee: State and Local Governmental Operations

Summary: House Bill 625 creates the Tri-County Natural Gas Authority including Greene County.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: Evaluating

Finances & Taxes

House Bill 302: Revenue and taxation; require proceeds of local government regulatory fees be used to pay for regulatory activity

Sponsor: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

Summary: House Bill 302 among several other things: removes provisions authorizing collection of local regulatory fees for new construction, renovation, and other construction projects.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Read and Referred

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 317: Excise tax; revise definition of innkeeper to include marketplace facilitators

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Summary: House Bill 317 redefines “innkeeper” to include owners of short-term rental properties, including cabins, apartments, or any furnished room or furnished collection of room. A \$5.00 per night tax will be levied upon the rental or lease of any such rooms.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 374: Sales/use tax; exempt local authorities providing public water or sewer service

Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Senate Committee: Finance

Summary: House Bill 374 is an extremely broad bill. With approximately ten lines of new/changed legislation, this bill exempts from tax “sales to any... authority [that] provides public water or sewer service.”

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 511: State treasury; establishment or revision of certain Trust Funds**Sponsor:** Rep. Bert Reeves (R-Marietta)**House Committee:** Appropriations**Senate Committee:** Finance**Summary:** House Bill 511 establishes or revises the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund, Solid Waste Trust Fund, Hazardous Waste Trust Fund, State Children's Trust Fund, Wildlife Endowment Trust Fund, Trauma Care Network Trust Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, Georgia Agricultural Trust Fund, Fireworks Trust Fund, and Georgia Transit Trust Fund as funds within the state treasury, as well as dedicates the proceeds of fees and taxes to the aforementioned funds.**Status:** House Passed/Adopted by Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted/Transmitted to House**Council Position:** **Support****House Bill 586: Georgia Economic Recovery Act of 2021****Sponsor:** Rep. Sam Watson (R-Moultrie)**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Finance**Summary:** House Bill 586 extends the sunset for the sales tax exemption for projects of “regional significance” through June 30, 2023. The term "competitive project of regional significance" means the commissioner of economic development determines that the project would have a significant regional impact, based on the location or expansion of a business enterprise's operations in this state.**Status:** House Passed/Adopted; Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute/ Senate Read Second Time**Council Position:** **Support****House Bill 587: Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021****Sponsor:** Rep. Sam Watson (R-Moultrie)**House Committee:** Ways & Means**Senate Committee:** Finance**Summary:** House Bill 587 is an omnibus tax credit bill, originally tailored to Georgia’s Agricultural Equipment and other Ag. Materials, and has been amended to include Governor Kemp’s priorities. The amendment extends the sunset for the sales tax exemption for projects of “regional significance” through June 30, 2023 and removes the cap on how many newly created jobs may qualify for this credit (previously 4,500 jobs), extends the tax credit for companies that increase their traffic through the Port of Savannah by 10% or more, and extends the tax credit for manufacturing of PPE & medical equipment.**Status:** House Passed/Adopted; Senate Tabled/ Engrossed**Council Position:** **Support**

[House Bill 593](#): Tax Relief Act of 2021; enact

Sponsor: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Summary: House Bill 593 increases the amount of the standard deduction from state income tax for individuals, among other tax provisions.

Status: *Signed by Governor*

Council Position: Support

[Senate Bill 6](#): "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021"; enact

Sponsor: Senator John Albers (R-Roswell)

Senate Committee: Finance Committee

House Committee: Ways & Means

Summary: Senate Bill 6 allows the Chair of the House Ways & Means and Chair of the Senate Finance Committees go each request up to 5 economic analyses on a tax exemption, exclusion, deduction, deferral, rebate, credit, abatement, or preferential tax rate to be performed by the Office of Planning and Budget.

Status: House/Senate Conference Committee Report Adopted

Council Position: Evaluating

[Senate Bill 148](#): Create 2021 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure

Sponsor: Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome)

Senate Committee: Finance

House Committee: Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight

Summary: Senate Bill 148 is a bi-partisan bill with nearly 40 co-sponsors. This bill creates the 2021 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure, which is chartered to “systematically study the State of Georgia’s revenue structure.” The joint committees will formulate recommendations for tax structure changes which may be recommended to the Georgia General Assembly and Lt. Governor no later than January 10, 2022.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Third Reading Lost

Council Position: Evaluating

Property & Housing

House Bill 138: Property; certain landlords shall provide certain notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises being leased

Sponsor: Rep. Mesha Mainor (D-Atlanta)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

Summary: House Bill 138 would require landlords to provide notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises.

Status: House Passed/Adopted, Y-128 N-34; Senate Read and Referred

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 554: Property; revise when an action may operate as a lis pendens

Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R-Blairsville)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 554 revises when a written notice that a lawsuit has been filed concerning real estate (a lis penden) is required to be issued in real estate transactions and disputes.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Read and Referred

Council Position: Evaluating

Senate Bill 144: Housing Authorities; limit ability of city housing authorities to operate outside municipal boundaries without authorization

Sponsor: Senator Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta)

Senate Committee: Government Oversight

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: Senate Bill 144 removes the provision in current code defining the “area of operation” for a City’s Housing Authority to include “the area within ten miles” of the territorial boundaries. This bill dictates that no new housing projects outside such city can be authorized without the governing body of the county or municipality where such housing project will be located consenting to the expansion of the housing authority’s area of operation into such county or municipality.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted; House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

Transportation

House Bill 577: Highways, bridges, & ferries; proposal guaranty for bids upon certain projects

Sponsor: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton)

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

Summary: House Bill 577 guarantees bids on certain projects, and licensing of airports.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 588: Transportation; eligible expenditures; Georgia Freight Railroad Program

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Jasperse (D-Jasper)

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

Summary: House Bill 588 exempts public transportation from state sales and use tax on fuel.

This bill (and Senate Bill 98) also provides structured language allowing for public and private funding for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program of the Georgia Department of Transportation. This bill also proposes amendments to the composition of the Georgia Ports Authority, as well as the appointment, terms, and qualifications of members generally belonging to the Authority's governing body.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 98: Georgia Freight Railroad Program; provide eligible expenditures; procedures, conditions, and limitations for public and private financing of projects

Sponsor: Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta)

Senate Committee: Transportation

Summary: Senate Bill 98 (and House Bill 588) provides structured language allowing for public and private funding for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program of the Georgia Department of Transportation. This bill also proposes amendments to the composition of the Georgia Ports Authority, as well as the appointment, terms, and qualifications of members generally belonging to the Authority's governing body.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Second Readers

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Resolution 84: Create Joint Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure & Improvements

Sponsor: Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla)

Senate Committee: Rules

House Committee: Transportation

Summary: Senate Resolution 84 creates the Joint Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure and Improvements. The committee will undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Resolution 102: create Georgia Commission on E-Commerce & Freight Infrastructure Funding

Sponsor: Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega)

Senate Committee: Transportation

House Committee: Transportation

Summary: Senate Resolution 102 creates the Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding, which will study and determine the best course of action with regarding to funding an additional \$1.5 billion annually into freight and logistics infrastructure.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted; House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

Other Legislation

House Bill 80: Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Sponsor: Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Appropriations

Summary: House Bill 80, known as the "General Appropriations Act," amends FY 2021 budget.

Status: *Signed by Governor*

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 81: General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Sponsor: Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

House Committee: Appropriations

Senate Committee: Appropriations

Summary: House Bill 81, known as the "General Appropriations Act," amends FY 2021 budget.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute;
House/Senate Conference Committee Report Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 112: Torts; provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend applicability for one year

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown)

House Committee: Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 112 provides an extension to the sunset for certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19. Extends applicability for one year, to expire July 14, 2022.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 334: Superior courts; clerks; notaries public; provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 334 revises allows a notary public to "interact with another individual by means of communication technology that complies with the provisions of this article..."

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted; Senate Tabled

Council Position: *Neutral*

House Bill 435: Local government; exempt certain contracts competitively procured by the state or cooperative purchasing organizations

Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia)

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: Government Oversight

Summary: House Bill 435 exempts certain contracts competitively procured by state or cooperative purchasing organizations from the bidding process.

Status: House Passed/Adopted, Y-157 N-9; Senate Read and Referred

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 459: Local government; prohibit annexations of county operated airport property

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta)

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Senate Committee: State and Local Governmental Operations

Summary: House Bill 459 prohibits annexations of county operated airport property by governing authorities without approval by the county operating the airport.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: *Neutral*

House Bill 470: Property; no plans are required

Sponsor: Rep. Dale Washburn (R-Macon)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 470 removes the requirement that plans be provided for units that are not designated by physical structures, and removes the requirement that plats be provided for subcondominiums, except for a unit that is an individual residential dwelling intended for single-family occupancy.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 479: Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers

Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 479 removes the article and chapter relating to arrest by a private person (commonly known as “Citizen’s Arrest”). This bill also addresses arrests by law enforcement officers outside his/her jurisdiction, operation of private detective and private security businesses, and arrests made on the suspicion of shop lifting or film piracy.

Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 611: State government; change definition of small business**Sponsor:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (R- Americus)**House Committee:** Small Business Development**Senate Committee:** Finance**Summary:** House Bill 611 creates 3 tiers when defining small businesses. Tier one has ten or fewer employees or \$1 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier two has 100 or fewer employees or \$10 million or less in gross receipts per year. Tier three has fewer than 300 or fewer employees or less than \$30 million or less in gross receipts per year.**Status:** House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub**Council Position:** Evaluating**Senate Bill 45: Professions and Businesses; individuals who move to the state and establish residency to obtain a license by endorsement to practice certain professions and occupations in this state****Sponsor:** Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White)**Senate Committee:** Regulated Industries and Utilities**House Committee:** Regulated Industries**Summary:** Senate Bill 45 (and House Bill 147) allows individuals who move to the state and establish residency to obtain a business license to practice certain professions and occupations in this state, if that resident meets certain requirements. Requirements include holding a license from another state, good standing with such state, and passes any examinations that may be required to demonstrate knowledge of laws and rules of the profession in this specific state.**Status:** Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Second Readers**Council Position:** Support**Senate Bill 52: Selling and Other Trade Practices; legislative findings; standards for cybersecurity programs to protect businesses from liability****Sponsor:** Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White)**Senate Committee:** Science and Technology**House Committee:** Judiciary**Summary:** Senate Bill 52 establishes safe legal harbor which may be pled as an affirmative defenses for data breaches of private information. This bill is intended to incentivize and encourage businesses to achieve a higher level of cybersecurity through voluntary action and does not, and is not intended to, create a minimum cybersecurity standard that must be achieved, nor shall it be read to impose liability upon businesses that do not obtain or maintain practices in compliance with this article.**Status:** Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute; House Second Readers**Council Position:** Support

Senate Resolution 154: Create Joint Study Committee for Strengthening Georgia's Future

Workforce

Sponsor: Senator Nan Orrock (D-Atlanta)

Senate Committee: Higher Education

House Committee: Higher Education

Summary: Senate Resolution 154 creates the Joint Study Committee for Strengthening Georgia's Future Workforce.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, Y-47 N-3; House Committee Favorably Reported

Council Position: **Support**