



Government Affairs Task Force Bill Tracking 2022 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.

Legislation (listed by category)

Government Affairs page 2

Economic Development & Tourism page 5

Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunication page 7

Finances & Taxes page 8

Property & Housing page 10

Transportation page 11

Other Legislation page 12

Government Affairs

House Bill 333: Ethics in Government Act of 2021

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (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: Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute; Senate Recommitted

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: Senate Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 826: Lost Mountain, City of; incorporate

Sponsor: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: HB 826 provides definitions and construction, provides a referendum, and effective dates and transitional provisions governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from Cobb County to the City of Lost Mountain.

Status: Signed by Governor

Council Position: Neutral

House Bill 839: Mableton, City of; incorporate

Sponsor: Rep. Erica Thomas (D-Austell)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: HB 839 provides definitions and construction, provides a referendum, and effective dates and transitional provisions governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from Cobb County to the City of Mableton.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

Council Position: Neutral

House Bill 840: Vinings, City of; incorporate

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: HB 840 provides definitions and construction, provides a referendum, and effective dates and transitional provisions governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from Cobb County to the City of Vinings.

Status: Signed by Governor

Council Position: Neutral

House Bill 841: East Cobb, City of; incorporate

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Dollar (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: HB 841 provides definitions and construction, provides a referendum, and effective dates and transitional provisions governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from Cobb County to the City of East Cobb.

Status: Signed by Governor

Council Position: Neutral

House Bill 923: Local government; development authorities; cap the per diem allowance available to directors

Sponsor: Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (D-Decatur)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: House Bill 923 would cap the amount of per diem allowed for directors of development authorities and state Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission and locally established ethics board would be authorized to investigate allegations of conflicts of interest by development authority board members.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 1044: Local government; creation of regional development authorities; provide

Sponsor: Rep. Clay Pirkle (R-Ashburn)

House Committee: Economic Development & Tourism

Summary: The bill would allow the creation of regional industrial development authorities.

Status: House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 1405: The Zoning Procedures Law; revise

Sponsor: Rep. Shea Roberts (D-Atlanta)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: House Bill 1405 would revise the Zoning Procedures Law to restore the clarity originally provided by the Georgia Supreme Court in its seminal zoning case of Dougherty Co. v. Webb, 256 Ga. 454 (1986), fn. 3, upon which more than 40 years of jurisprudence has been rendered and eliminates the uncertainty of an ad hoc inquiry by the court for every zoning matter. HB 1406 attached to the bill.

Status: House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: Support

House Bill 1406: Zoning; changes to ordinances that revise single-family residential classifications; provide additional notice and hearing provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: House Bill 1406 would change zoning ordinances by revising single-family residential classifications to provide additional notices and hearing provisions. Attached to HB 1405

Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported

Council Position: Evaluating

House Bill 1461: Local government; annexation of territory; revise provisions relating to dispute resolution

Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia)

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: House Bill 1461 relates to annexation of territory that revises the dispute resolution to allow school systems to participate in the dispute resolution process, requires arbitration findings to be sent to the Department of Community Affairs, per diems for arbitration panel members, and extends the period of a zoning freeze following an arbitration.

Status: House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: Evaluating

Senate Bill 369: Board of Education of Gwinnett County; future elections for members of the board of education shall be nonpartisan

Sponsor: Senator Clint Dixon (R-Gwinnett)

Senate Committee: State and Local Government Operations

House Committee: Government Affairs

Summary: Senate Bill 369 provides that future elections for Gwinnett County Board of Education members shall be nonpartisan.

Status: Signed by Governor

Council Position: Neutral

Senate Bill 437: Board of Commissioners of Fulton County; future elections for the office of county commissioner shall be nonpartisan elections

Sponsor: Senator John Albers (R-Roswell)

Senate Committee: State and Local Government Operations

Summary: Senate Bill 437 provides that future Fulton County elections for the office of county commissioner shall be nonpartisan elections.

Status: Signed by Governor

Council Position: Neutral

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 Resolution 579](#): Georgia Commission on Sustainability and Economic Opportunity

Sponsor: Rep. Don Parsons (R-Marietta)

House Committee: Small Business Development

Summary: House Resolution 579 creates the Georgia Commission on Sustainability and Economic Opportunity.

Status: House Small Business Development Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

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.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted; House Withdrawn, Recommitted

Council Position: **Support**

[Senate Bill 379](#): State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state

Sponsor: Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough)

Senate Committee: Economic Development and Tourism

House Committee: Regulated Industries

Summary: Senate Bill 379 provides the Technical College System of Georgia to establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state.

Status: House Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

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 original bill was overhauled to now relate to the supplementation of the property tax digest of any county if the implementation of this method of taxing timber reduces the tax digest by more than 20 percent.

Status: House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

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 Resolution 895: House Study Committee on Electric Vehicle Charging Tariffs; create

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Cheokas (R-Americus)

House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Summary: House Resolution 895 creates the House Study Committee on Electric Vehicle Charging Tariffs; and for other purposes.

Status: House First Readers

Council Position: Evaluating

Senate Bill 438: Contracts; certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments; change

Sponsor: Senator Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta)

Senate Committee: Regulated Industries and Utilities

Summary: Senate Bill 438 changes the public works projects retainage cap from 10% to 5% of each progress payment.

Status: House Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

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: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 910: Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

House Committee: Appropriations

Summary: Amended Fiscal year 2022 appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities.

Status: Signed by Governor

House Bill 911: General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

House Committee: Appropriations

Summary: Fiscal year 2023 appropriations for the operation of the state government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all other governmental activities.

Status: House & Senate Agreed to Conference Committee Report, Headed to Governor's Desk

House Bill 934: Sales and use tax; special district mass transportation; local government; provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Rob Leverett (R-Elberton)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Summary: House Bill 934 relates to the Sales and use tax on special district mass transportation to allow local government to continue to collect SPLOST dollars past the estimated cap on the ballot.

Status: House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: **Support**

House Bill 1034: Sales and use tax; exemption for sales of admissions to nonrecurring major sporting events

Sponsor: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville)

House Committee: Ways & Means

Summary: House bill 1034 relates to exemptions from sales and use taxes of admissions to non-recurring major sporting events and amends the definition of "Major Sporting Event" to include any match of a FIFA World Cup and extends the sunset to December 31, 2031.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: **Support**

[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: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

Council Position: Evaluating

Transportation

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**

House Resolution 467: Georgia Department of Transportation; study potential costs and benefits of extending Interstate 185 and extending and expanding Georgia 300

Sponsor: Rep. Gerald Greene (R- Cuthbert)

House Committee: Transportation

Summary: House Resolution 467 asks the Georgia Department of Transportation to study the potential costs and benefits of extending Interstate 185 south from Columbus to the Florida line and widening Georgia 300 through Albany into four or more lanes.

Status: House Passed/Adopted

Council Position: Evaluating

Senate Resolution 463: Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation

Sponsor: Senator Steve Gooch (R- Dahlonega)

Senate Committee: Rules

Summary: Senate Resolution 463 creates a Joint Study Committee on the Electrification of Transportation for the State of Georgia to establish a comprehensive, strategic plan that sets policy objectives for infrastructure, economic preparedness, transportation funding, innovation, and the development of a successful electric vehicle market in the state of Georgia.

Status: House Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor's Desk

Council Position: **Support**

Other Legislation

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 Conference Committee Appointed 8th, 104th, 19th

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 961: Torts; authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits; provide for evidence of fault of nonparties

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R-Dacula)

House Committee: Judiciary

Summary: House Bill 961 authorizes apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits.

Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, Headed to Governor’s Desk

Council Position: **Support**

House Resolution 627: House Study Committee on Bureaucratic Hindrances to Businesses; create

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Yearta (R-Sylvester)

House Committee: Small Business Development

Summary: House Resolution 627 creates a House Study Committee on bureaucratic hindrances to businesses.

Status: House Small Business Development Committee Favorably Reported

Council Position: **Support**

Senate Bill 45: 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.

Status: House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

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: House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

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**