



## 2021 Legislative Update

### Sine Die

The General Assembly met on March 29 and 31, completing Days 39 and 40. Wednesday, March 31, marked Sine Die, the end of the General Assembly's 2021 Legislative Session.

#### **Budget:**

[House Bill 81](#), the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget, had conference committee meetings throughout the week. The conference committee report was adopted on Sine Die and now awaits action by the Governor. *The budget included \$250,000 for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.*

#### **Business and Industry:**

[House Bill 112](#), by Representative Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown), provides certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19 for another year. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 150](#), by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), prohibits 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. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 153](#), by Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville), provides requirements solicitations of services for corporate filings required by the Secretary of State. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 306](#), by Representative Stan Gunter (R-Blairsville), provides that corporations may hold shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 317](#), by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), relates to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 327](#), By Representative Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas), creates the offense of "organized retail theft" to address acute challenges with stolen goods, fraudulent

returns, and gift card scams. It was passed by the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 479](#), by Representative Bert Reeves (R-Marietta), repeals the citizen's arrest law. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 553](#), by Representative Stan Gunter (R-Blairsville), provides for participation in hearings by electronic communications. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 27](#), by Senator Bruce Thompson (R-White), extends the time a member of the military has to qualify for the issuance of a license to be an electrical contractor or plumber. It was passed by the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 114](#), by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), revises grounds for refusing to grant or revoking a license. It was passed by the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 168](#), by Senator Larry Walker (R-Perry), provides a corporation may hold annual shareholders' meetings and special shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication. It was passed by the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 169](#), by Senator Larry Walker (R-Perry), provides for acceptance of electronic signatures and electronic corporate seals on bonds. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

## **Economic Development**

[Senate Bill 255](#), by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), provides for the "OneGeorgia Authority Act," a grant program to support border region retail and tourism projects. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

## **Environment:**

[House Bill 362](#), by Representative Trey Rhodes (R-Greensboro), revises the effective date for standards, rules, and regulations in the Environmental Protection Division. It was passed by both the House and Senate and awaits action by the Governor.

## **Taxation:**

[House Bill 149](#), by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), allows certain elections to be made by subchapter "S" corporations and partnerships for the filing of

tax returns and imposition of taxes. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[House Bill 265](#), by Representative David Knight (R-Griffin), defines terms and incorporates certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law for the Internal Revenue Code. It was signed into law by the Governor on February 24.

[House Bill 593](#), by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), enacts the Tax Relief Act of 2021. It was signed into law by the Governor on March 22.

[House Bill 611](#), by Representative Mike Cheokas (R-Americus), changes the definition of small business. Passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 6](#), by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell), enacts the "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021." The conference committee report was adopted by both the House and Senate on Sine Die and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 201](#), by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), requires financial institutions to provide certain information related to delinquent taxpayers to the Department of Revenue under certain conditions. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

### **Transportation:**

[House Bill 588](#), by Representative Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper), provides provisions for eligible expenditures for the Georgia Freight Railroad Program. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Bill 165](#), by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), exempts autonomous vehicles from certain vehicle equipment requirements. It was passed by both and agreed to and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Resolution 39](#), by Senator Clint Dixon (R-Gwinnett), dedicates the Charlotte Nash Intersection in Gwinnett County. It was passed by both and agreed to and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Resolution 84](#), by Senator Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla), creates a Joint Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure and Improvements. It was passed by both and agreed to and now awaits action by the Governor.

[Senate Resolution 102](#), by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), creates the Georgia Commission on E-Commerce and Freight Infrastructure Funding. It was passed by both the House and Senate and now awaits action by the Governor.

*The Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC) is an organization of over a dozen of the largest and most active Chambers of Commerce throughout the metro Atlanta region. RBC member chambers represent over 15,000 member companies who employ millions of metro Atlanta residents. The RBC's primary goal is to represent the interests of RBC Chamber members on regional public policy issues impacting our transportation, water, and air quality and to advocate for solutions that improve metro Atlanta's quality of life and economic vitality.*