



Week Eight in the Senate

March 2018

Review the week in pictures with the Georgia State Senate's Facebook Photo Essays!



A Message from Senator Gail Davenport

"We just completed our busiest day of the session so far – Crossover Day. This week alone we heard and voted on 72 pieces of legislation. We worked long and hard to ensure that we were passing as many Senate Bills as possible that would benefit the citizens of Georgia. The pace is going to continue to pick up here at the state Capitol, but I encourage you to reach out if you ever have any questions or concerns."

- Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro)



Monday, FEB. 26 DAY 27

Expanding HOPE Scholarship to National Guardsmen

Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah) sponsored Senate Bill 82 which would expand the eligibility for the HOPE scholarship to members of the Georgia National Guard and reservists in Georgia who meet certain residency criteria. SB 82 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 82**

Updating the Teachers Retirement System

Senate Bill 293, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), would require certain employers, who employ non-contributing beneficiaries of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) to pay both the employer and employee contributions, on behalf of certain beneficiaries. SB 293 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **SB 293**

Contributions for Re-employed Retirement Members

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) sponsored Senate Bill 294 which would require public employers to make contributions into the Employees' Retirement System on behalf of re-employed retired members. SB 294 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 294**

Clarifying Special Election Procedures

Senate Bill 309, sponsored by Sen. Josh McKoon (R – Columbus), would require all cities in Georgia to close primary and election polls at 7p.m. The bill would also eliminate special election run-off's for state or county elections and would call for special primaries to be held before special elections. SB 309 passed with a vote of 35-19. – **SB 309**

Allowing County-Municipality Bridge Agreements

Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) sponsored Senate Bill 324 which would allow municipalities to enter into contracts with neighboring counties for the construction and maintenance of bridges that are within the limits of both the municipality and county. SB 324 passed with a vote of 50-2. – **SB 324**



Georgia Joins the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Senate Bill 325, sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would make Georgia a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and creates the IMLC Commission. Additionally, under SB 325 the Georgia Composite Medical Board position would administer the compact for Georgia. SB 325 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **SB 325**

Transferring Authority of the Georgia Board of Nursing

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 334 which would transfer authority over the Georgia Board of Nursing from the Secretary of State's Office to the Department of Community Health. The Board will also appoint and be led by a newly created position of executive director. SB 334 passed with a vote of 51-1. – **SB 334**

Changing the Effective Date for Child Testimony

Senate Bill 337, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would change the effective date for legal procedures related to the testimony of a child in cases of alleged sexual contact or physical abuse. Under SB 337, a child's testimony would be effective for any motion made, hearing or trial occurring on or after July 1, 2013. SB 337 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SB 337**

Free Speech Policy on Georgia University Campuses

Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick) sponsored Senate Bill 339 which would direct the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents to establish policies protecting freedom of speech on Georgia's college and university campuses. The bill directs the Board of Regents to honor the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Georgia's Bill of Rights when creating the policy. SB 339 passed with a vote of 33-19. – **SB 339**

Updating Policyholder Notice Requirements

Senate Bill 350, sponsored by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would update insurance policy renewal notices to match current federal law. SB 350 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 350**

Preventing Utility Billing on Power Plant Construction Projects

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome) sponsored SB 355 which would prevent utility companies from billing citizens for the financing costs on nuclear power plant construction projects. The provisions of the bill apply only to projects that were certified after January 1, 2018, by the Public Service Commission. SB 355 passed with a vote of 51-2. – **SB 355**

Ending Fees on Credit Freezes

Senate Bill 376, sponsored by Sen. David Shafer (R – Duluth), would prevent credit reporting agencies from having the ability to charge for credit freezes. SB 376 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SB 376**

Creating the Georgia Joint Defense Commission

Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) sponsored Senate Bill 395 which would create the Georgia Joint Defense Commission. Under this legislation, the commission would seek advice and prepare for any potential base realignments, in addition to making recommendations regarding the development of military in the state. SB 395 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **SB 395**

New Background Check Standards for Long-term Care Employees

Senate Bill 406, sponsored by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough), would enact the Georgia Long-term Care Background Check Program and create the Central Caregiver Registry. The bill repeals the existing background check requirements for owners, operators, employees and potential employees at long-term care facilities by creating a new background check process, which includes a criminal background check done by the Department of Community Affairs. SB 406 passed with a vote of 52-1. – **SB 406**



Criminal Justice Reforms

Sen. Brian Strickland (R –McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 407 which would implement comprehensive criminal justice reforms recommended by the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform. The bill would establish the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board, reform probation practices, increase medical care for inmates and further define the use of accountability courts and first-time offender sentencing guidelines. SB 407 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **SB 407**

Railroad Crossings

Senate Bill 409, sponsored by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would make it illegal to cross railroad tracks when on-track equipment is approaching. SB 409 passed with a vote of 46-0. – **SB 409**

Allowing Pharmacist Screenings

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 422 which would allow pharmacists at licensed clinical laboratory locations to administer and perform over the counter tests or screenings that are otherwise publicly available. SB 422 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **SB 422**

The Georgia Tax Credit Business Case Act

Senate Bill 432, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would require an economic analysis to be performed by the state auditor on existing income tax exemptions on a rotating basis. SB 432 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **SB 432**

Renaming and Expanding the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 434 which would rename the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce. The bill addresses the scope of the board’s membership with the addition of a board member to represent the Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition. SB 434 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 434**

Landlord Requirements

Senate Bill 443, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would require landlords to build and maintain a comprehensive list of damages to premises under his or her supervision. This list would be made available to tenants for up to five business days upon request. SB 443 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **SB 443**



Updating Contract Procedure for GDOT Projects

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahunega) sponsored Senate Bill 445 which would further define the public advertising requirements for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) contracts and procedure for the bidding process. The bill also contains a provision banning camping on certain GDOT roads. SB 445 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 445**

Updating the Abandoned Motor Vehicles List

Senate Bill 446, sponsored by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), would add trailers to the list of vehicles that qualify as abandoned motor vehicles. SB 446 would also create a hearing and judicial process for owners of abandoned vehicles who wish to reclaim them. In addition, the legislation increases the derelict value of a vehicle from \$300 to \$600. SB 446 passed with a vote of 49-1. – **SB 446**

Investigating Illegal Aliens

Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro) sponsored Senate Bill 452 which would require arresting officers to report to the prosecuting attorney if the individual in custody is an unlawful resident. The bill also gives more authority to courts to determine the legal status of arrested individuals. SB 452 passed with a vote of 36-17. – **SB 452**

Dedicating Georgia's Highways

Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 745 which would dedicate and name various portions of the state highway system in honor of several Georgians including Robert H. Bell, William Jones, Frank Williams, Thurbert Baker, Troy Simpson, Horace Fitzpatrick, Rudy Bowen, John D. Stephens and Virgil Williams. SR 745 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SR 745**

Creation of a Joint Study Committee on Adoption Expenses

Senate Resolution 774, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would create a Joint Study Committee on Adoption Expenses and lays out its membership and duties. SR 774 passed with a vote of 48-1. – **SR 774**

Re-examining Georgia's Northern Border

Senate Resolution 794, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) would create a joint Georgia-North Carolina and Georgia-Tennessee Boundary Line Commission to resolve the issues associated with a wrongly surveyed and marked northern state border. SR 794 passed with a vote of 47-2. – **SR 794**

Naming Innovation Corridors

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Resolution 821 which would name the city of Augusta as an official Cyber Security and Information Technology Innovation Corridor. In addition, SR 821 would recognize the city of Savannah as an official Logistics Technology Innovation Corridor. SR 821 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SR 821**



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28 DAY 28

Increasing Penalties for Pimping and Pandering

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 39 which would increase the penalties for pimping and pandering. The bill would increase the penalty for a conviction of pimping and a third conviction of pandering from a misdemeanor to a felony and includes mandatory jail time. In both cases, the individual would be required to register with the State Sexual Offender Registry. SB 39 passed with a vote of 47-0. – **SB 39**

Creating Punishments for Illegal Operation of an Authorized Vehicle

Senate Bill 228, sponsored by Sen. Josh McKoon (R – Columbus), would create new punishments for the unauthorized operation of an authorized emergency vehicle or law enforcement vehicle. It also specifies that elected officials should not use lights or sirens, except when escorting an honorary procession. If convicted, individuals would be charged a fine and risk loss of one's license. SB 228 passed with a vote of 41-12. – **SB 228**

Facilitating Internet Broadband Expansion (FIBRE) Act

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) sponsored Senate Bill 232 which would expand access to public rights of way and set regulations for Georgia's electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) wishing to deploy broadband services, VoIP or wireless services. SB 232 passed with a vote of 55-0. – **SB 232**

Reporting DUI Offenders

Senate Bill 236, sponsored by Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta), would allow a prosecuting attorney to provide relevant documents pertaining to a DUI arrest to the county or district Department of Family and Children's Services office if the offender is the parent or guardian of a child passenger. SB 236 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **SB 236**

Treatment for Mental Illness and Drug Abuse

Senate Bill 318, sponsored by Sen. Michael Rhett (D – Marietta), would establish a one-year pilot program through the Department of Community Health to allow for evaluation and treatment of a certified physician in emergency situations for involuntary people suffering from mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse after the patient has been directly observed by a paramedic or medical technician. SB 318 passed with a vote of 54-1. – **SB 318**

Expanding Offenses for Sex Trafficking Offenders

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 335 which would expand the offense of sex trafficking to include knowingly patronizing a person to conduct sexually explicit content and clarifies that the punishment for that offense is five to 20 years, if the individual who was patronized is 16 years of age or older upon conviction. Senate Bill 335 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 335**

Requirements for Subpoena Notification of Electronic Equipment

Senate Bill 336, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would make it illegal for internet service providers to notify customers of a subpoena of electronic equipment in certain offenses. Senate Bill 336 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **SB 336**

Clarifying Identities for Notaries

Senate Bill 349, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah), would clarify that a Veterans Health Identification Card is sufficient evidence for a notary public to confirm the identity of a document signer. SB 349 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 349**



Nurse Protocol Agreement

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored SB 351 which would increase the number of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) from four to eight that can enter into a nurse protocol agreement with a physician and be supervised at one time. Under SB 351, APRNs would also be allowed to order radiographic imaging tests when the patient is in a life-threatening situation. SB 351 passed with a vote 41-10. – **SB 351**

Residency Requirements for Active Duty Service Members

Senate Bill 354, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah), would allow certain active duty military service members to be classified as in-state residents for tuition purposes for the Technical College System of Georgia. SB 354 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SB 354**

Establishing Financial Institutions in Underserved Zones

Senate Bill 358, sponsored by Sen. Michael Rnett (D – Marietta), would allow the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to designate areas underserved by financial institutions as “banking improvement zones.” The bill would also direct DCA to implement a process for local governments to apply as a zone and defines the terms of agreement for the deposit of public funds. SB 358 passed with a vote of 52-1. – **SB 358**

Surprise Billing

Senate Bill 359, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome), would increase transparency in medical billing by requiring hospitals and physicians to clearly post notices and standard charges on their respective websites. The bill would require insurers to provide enrollees with criteria for in-network and out-of-network coverage. The legislation would also allow for the mediation of a bill greater than \$1,000 for an elective medical procedure. Senate Bill 359 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 359**

Optometry Injectables Training Program

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Bill 382 which would allow a doctor of optometry to administer pharmaceutical agents by injection. Under SB 382, the Department of Public Health would provide guidance on certain training programs approved by the State Board of Optometry. SB 382 passed with a vote of 50-1. – **SB 382**

Solid Waste Disposal

Sponsored by Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson), Senate Bill 385 would change surcharge fees for municipal solid waste disposal facilities operated by a private company from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per ton. Under SB 385, a new code section would be added enabling the change to the surcharge fee and the effective date would be adjusted from January 1, 1992 to July 1, 2018. SB 385 passed with a vote of 45-7 – **SB 385**



Creating the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Commission

Senate Bill 386, sponsored by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), proposes the creation of the Atlanta-region Transit Link “ATL” Commission. The ATL Commission would be responsible for planning, funding and implementing of transit projects throughout the 13 counties currently serviced by the Georgia Regional Transit Authority (GRTA). These counties also have the ability

to offer a T-SPLOST referendum which, if approved by voters, would allow the ATL Commission to fund transit projects in that county. SB 386 passed with a vote of 51-4. – **SB 386**

Regulatory Exemptions for Transit

Sponsored by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), Senate Bill 391 would exempt certain types of motor vehicles and rail systems utilized by the State Road and Tollway Authority from certain regulations. SB 391 passed with a vote of 41-4. – **SB 391**

Cell Phones for Disabled

Sen. David Shafer (R – Duluth) sponsored Senate Bill 396 which would add cell phones to the list of devices that the government can provide free-of-charge to people who are 200 percent below the poverty line and disabled. SB 396 passed with a vote of 48-0. – **SB 396**

Establishing the Quality Basic Education Act

Senate Bill 401, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta), recognizes students enrolled in dual credit courses and requires post-secondary institutions participating in these courses to provide enrollment data to school counselors to help students create individual graduation plans. This bill will also report the counselor's role in helping students create career-oriented plans. SB 401 passed with a vote of 51-1. – **SB 401**

Removing Electronic Voting Systems

Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) sponsored Senate Bill 403 which would discontinue the use of electronic voting machines in Georgia primaries and elections after January 1, 2024, requiring voters to use paper ballots. The bill also directs the Secretary of State's office to issue an open request for proposal to vendors and ultimately select new optical scanning voting system equipment, which should be provided to Georgia counties no later than the 2020 presidential primary. SB 403 passed with a vote of 50-1. – **SB 403**

Prohibiting the Assessment of Fees for Standby Water Service

Senate Bill 404, sponsored by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan), would prohibit county, municipal or public water systems from charging a separate fee for standby water service for the purpose of being used for fire sprinkler protection system connections, as long as the cost does not exceed the maintenance of those connections. SB 404 passed with a vote of 34-14. – **SB 404**

Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture

Sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah), Senate Bill 411 would create the Georgia Commission on African American History and Culture. The Commission would be composed of 20 members and would be charged with discovering, preserving and cataloging historic materials relating to African-American culture and history in Georgia. SB 411 passed with a vote of 49-0. – **SB 411**

Providing Notices for Misusing Receptacles

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 414 which would allow local authorities to issue notices if citizens fail to properly dispose of items in their designated receptacles. This bill would also give local authorities the ability to petition to have the receptacle revoked if the property owner does not comply with the notices three times or more in a



year. SB 414 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **SB 414**

Loosening Local Retail Regulations

Senate Bill 418, sponsored by Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa), would prohibit local governments and municipalities from prohibiting, banning or restricting the sale of any goods in retail stores that are otherwise approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the Georgia Department of Agriculture. SB 418 failed with a vote of 19-34. – **SB 418**

Requiring Defibrillators at Health Clubs

Sen. Michael Rnett (D – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 420 which would require certain health clubs, including fitness centers comprised of 500 or more clients, to obtain at least one functional defibrillator on site. This bill would also require that the external defibrillator be inspected and maintained and would provide immunity for the operator. Senate Bill 420 passed with a vote of 42-11. – **SB 420**

New Classification of Land Surveyors

Senate Bill 425, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), would revise Georgia Code by renaming the profession of 'land surveyor' by adding 'professional' or 'registered' to the title. Under SB 425, a 'surveyor-in-training' would be referred to as a 'land surveyor intern' and current high standards would be adjusted, requiring fewer qualifications for this new classification. SB 425 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 425**

Broadband Infrastructure Leads to Development (BILD) Act

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) sponsored Senate Bill 426 which would address the permitting and deployment of a new wireless technology known as 5g – or small cell broadband – for private companies wishing to utilize public rights of way. Under SB 426, construction of small wireless technology on existing utility poles and other broadband supporting structures is addressed as well as construction of new utility poles where ones do not exist containing electrical or communications capabilities. The legislation includes protections for historic districts throughout the state. SB 426 passed with a vote of 52-2. – **SB 426**

Increasing Salary Minimums for County Officials

Senate Bill 430, sponsored by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan), would increase the minimum salary for local government officials based on the population of the county in which they serve. Officials receiving an increase include clerks of the superior court, probate court judges, sheriffs, registrars and more. The increased pay scale would not take effect until January 1, 2021. SB 430 passed with a vote of 51-3. – **SB 430**



Clarifying Liability on Recreational Use Lands

Senate Bill 431, sponsored by Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia), would clarify liability in the event of injury suffered on recreational lands that have not charged a fee for admission. Senate Bill 431 passed with a vote of 43-4. – **SB 431**

Modernizing Probate Court Functions

Senate Bill 436, sponsored by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough), would make several changes to code sections relating to

probate courts. Specifically, SB 436 would update training requirements of probate judges, increase the bond amount probate judges must give, clarify how vacancies should be filled and address compensation. The bill would also address how long the office of a probate judge should be open, as well as add four additional members to the Council of Probate Judges of Georgia. SB 436 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **SB 436**

Clarifying Non Resuscitation Consent of a Minor

Senate Bill 437, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton), would clarify when a minor child is a candidate for non-resuscitation, an order to not resuscitate will only be issued by oral or written consent of the parent excluding certain circumstances. SB 437 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 437**

Senator Thorborn ‘Ross’ Tolleson, Jr. Act

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 444, also known as the “Senator Thorborn ‘Ross’ Tolleson, Jr. Act,” which would create the Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementia State Plan Advisory Council. Under SB 444, the membership makeup of the 17 member council is outlined along with its duties. SB 444 passed with a vote of 55-0. – **SB 444**

The Fairness and Supplemental Feeding Act

Senate Bill 450, sponsored by Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton), would repeal provisions of Georgia code that prohibit north Georgia from participating in the supplemental feeding and baiting of game. Under the legislation, these practices are now permitted statewide. SB 450 passed with a vote of 36-19. – **SB 450**

Changing Authority of Water Metering Program

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) sponsored Senate Bill 451 which would place the responsibility of agricultural water metering under the Environmental Protection Division. SB 451 provides provisions for surface water and groundwater withdrawals. The legislation would require all people who are permitted to withdraw ground or surface water in excess of 100,000 gallons per day for farm use to install a water metering device which would be overseen by the Environmental Protection Division. SB 451 passed with a vote of 49-2. – **SB 451**

Distance Provisions for New Municipalities

Senate Bill 453, sponsored by Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia), would limit the distance between new municipalities to 3 miles of an already existing municipality. In addition, SB 453 would require cities created after January 1, 2019, to provide at least five different services. This bill would not apply to cities proposed prior to April 1, 2018. SB 453 passed with a vote of 46-7. – **SB 453**

Requiring Safety Drills at Schools

Sen. Horacena Tate (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Bill 457 which would require public and private schools to conduct and execute safety drills with students, teachers and school personnel based on recommendations from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. SB 457 passed with a vote of 48-2. – **SB 457**

Updating MARTA’s Logo

Senate Bill 460, sponsored by Sen. Brandon



Beach (R – Alpharetta), would require the logo for the proposed Atlanta-region Transit Link “ATL” Commission to be included on current MARTA properties beginning on January 1, 2023. SB 460 also clarifies how revenue bonding and transportation contracts will be carried out under the proposed ATL Commission. SB 460 passed with a vote of 51-2. – **SB 460**

Regulation of Barbers

Senate Bill 461, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), would make adjustments to the regulation of barbers, beauticians, cosmetologists, estheticians, hair designers and nail technicians. SB 461 passed with a vote of 52-1. – **SB 461**

Expansion of Car Manufacturers in Georgia

Senate Bill 463, sponsored by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton), would allow companies that build no more than 2,500 cars with a two year timeframe to expand pure electric companies’ ability to build. SB 463 passed with a vote of 35-17. – **SB 463**

Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

Senate Resolution 149, sponsored by Sen. Michael Williams (R – Cumming), would designate September 1 of every year as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia. SR 149 passed with a vote of 53-1. – **SR 149**

Closing Parts of Mitchell Street

Senate Resolution 537, sponsored by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), would close Mitchell Street in Atlanta between Washington Street and Capitol Avenue to unauthorized vehicle traffic. SR 527 passed with a vote of 49-3. – **SR 537**

Urging U.S. Congress to Propose Amendment to Parental Rights

Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone) sponsored Senate Resolution 681 which calls on the U.S. Congress to propose the Parental Rights Amendment which would protect parents’ freedom to make decisions in the best interest of their child in regards to education, religion and upbringing without state interference, unless there is significant governmental interest. SR 681 passed with a vote of 33-19. – **SR 681**

THURSDAY, MAR. 1 DAY 29

Recess in Elementary Schools

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) carried House Bill 273 which would require schools to offer recess to students between kindergarten and fifth grade, with certain exceptions. Elementary schools would be encouraged to leave this time unstructured, supervised, last 30 minutes on average and ideally be located outdoors. HB 273 passed with a vote of 50-0. – **HB 273**

Gold Star License Tags

House Bill 287, carried by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), would allow eligible family members to receive two free Gold Star license plate tags in honor of their fallen military service member. Currently, families are able to receive one free of charge. HB 287 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **HB 287**

Tax Cuts for Georgians

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) carried House Bill 918 which would put Georgia’s “Internal Revenue Code” in compliance with changes made on the federal level. Under HB 918, personal and corporate income tax rates would be lowered – the income tax rate would be reduced from 6 percent to 5.75 percent in 2019 and to 5.5 percent in 2020, if approved by the General



Sen. Davenport wants to remind you to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 11, for Daylight Savings

Assembly. It would also double the standard deduction for all filers. HB 918 passed with a vote of 44-10. – **HB 918**

Recognizing Trevor Lawrence

Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) sponsored Senate Resolution 605 recognizing Trevor Lawrence for his achievements as the Cartersville High School football team quarterback and leading his team to two state championship wins. Lawrence is ranked as the number one recruit in the U.S. and committed to Clemson University in January 2018. He was recently named the Army Player of the Year and *USA Today's* All-USA Offensive Player of the Year. – **SR 605**

Lupus Advocacy Day at the State Capitol

Senate Resolution 645, sponsored by Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta), recognizes March 1, 2018, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state Capitol. More than 55,000 Georgians are living with lupus which affects a majority of the body. – **SR 645**

Recognizing the Georgia Swarm Lacrosse Team

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Resolution 704 commending the Georgia Swarm professional lacrosse team on becoming the 2017 National Lacrosse League (NLL) World Champions. This was the first world championship in the team's 13-year history. – **SR 724**

Rural Health Day at the State Capitol

Senate Resolution 786, sponsored by Sen. Greg Kirk (R – Americus), recognizes March 1, 2018, as Rural Health Day at the state Capitol and commends the Georgia Rural Health Association for their efforts to improve health care and services in rural Georgia. – **SR 786**

Celebrating the Georgia-Japanese Relationship

President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 892 celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Japanese Consulate relationship to Georgia. The current trade between Georgia and Japan is more than \$6 billion in imports and exports, and there are more than 550 Japanese company affiliated offices located in the state of Georgia. – **SR 892**

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Sen. Gail Davenport represents the 44th Senate District which includes portions of Clayton and DeKalb Counties. She may be reached by phone at 404.463. 5260 or by email at gail.davenport@senate.ga.gov.