

The VOICE OF 44



April 30, 2017

2017 Legislative Newsletter

Dear Friend,

In March, we ended the 2017 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly. Those forty days of the Legislative Session were very busy and as your state senator, we accomplished a lot. We passed several bills, some good and some bad.

As your senator, I want to make sure you are informed about what is going on under the Gold Dome. I sponsored and co-sponsored local legislation and general bills which will potentially benefit the entire state. I appreciate hearing from each of you on the issues that are important to you and, as your Senator I am proud to be your voice in the Georgia State Senate.

During the interim, in our district, I will host town hall meetings and continue to be accessible and visible to you. I will work on study committees and proposed legislation for next year to help make Georgia a better place for all.

We have many critical issues which I will address. I hope to continue to hear from you with comments and suggestions. I believe the citizens of Clayton County and DeKalb County should be heard because every voice counts.

Sincerely,

Gail Davenport
State Senator, District 44

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"Working hard for the people of Clayton and DeKalb"

Legislation Sponsored and Co-Sponsored

SB 10- Retirement; provide for creditable service for certain military service

SB 42- Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; engagement of vehicular pursuits; state, county, and local; provide a standard

SB 43- Rules of the Road; operating a vehicle without adequately securing load; revise the criminal penalty

SB 149- School Resource Officers; training requirements; provide

SB 143- DeKalb County Ad Valorem Taxes; homestead exemption; county purposes; tolling provision regarding exemption; remove

SB 150- Loitering at or Disrupting Schools; written agreements between local boards of education and law enforcement officials; provide provisions

SB 163- Carrying and Possession of Firearms; reporting of weapons carry license and renewal license information to the Georgia Crime Information Center; require

SB 187- Lien; foreclosure of liens; set forth conditions

SB 224- DeKalb County; procedures, conditions, and limitations for the imposition of an additional retail sales and use tax; provide

SB 238- 'Whole Women's Health Act'

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CLAYTON COUNTY- LOCAL LEGISLATION



HB 507- Jonesboro, City of; governing authority; create districts for election of members

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Jonesboro, approved April 4, 1996 (Ga. L. 1996, p. 4056), as amended, so as to create districts for the election of members of the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for elections by plurality; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 508- City of Morrow; provide for a governing authority

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Morrow, approved June 3, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 4214), as amended, so as to provide for a governing authority; to create districts for the election of members of the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 548- City of Riverdale; provide for a governing authority

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to incorporate the City of Riverdale, approved February 13, 1956 (Ga. L. 1956, p. 2205), as amended, so as to provide for a governing authority; to create wards for the election of members of the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election and filling vacancies; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 549- City of Lovejoy; Clayton County; provide for a governing authority

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Lovejoy in the County of Clayton, approved March 31, 1976 (Ga. L. 1976, p. 3897), as amended, so as to provide for a governing authority; to create districts for the election of members of the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 550- City of Lake City; provide for a governing authority

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Lake City, approved April 4, 1996 (Ga. L. 1996, p. 4227), as amended, so as to provide for a governing authority; to create districts for the election of members of the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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HB585- Jonesboro, City of; provide nonbinding advisory referendum to lower homestead exemption

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of the City of Jonesboro desire the governing authority of the City of Jonesboro to seek to lower the homestead exemption from all City of Jonesboro ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes over a period of time to the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

DEKALB COUNTY- LOCAL LEGISLATION



HB 449- DeKalb County; taxes, fees, and assessments; change certain provisions

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts within DeKalb County, approved May 13, 2008 (Ga. L. 2008, p. 3817), as amended, so as to change certain provisions relating to taxes, fees, and assessments; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 563 -Clarkston Development Authority Act; create

A BILL to be entitled an Act to create the Clarkston Development Authority; to provide a short title; to provide definitions; to provide for the powers of the authority; to provide for members of the authority; to provide a development area; to provide for revenue bonds and other obligations of the authority; to recite constitutional authority; to provide for effect on other authorities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 595- City of Doraville, DeKalb County; change certain provisions relating to tax levies

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act reincorporating the City of Doraville in the County of DeKalb, approved October 13, 1971 (Ga. L. 1971, Ex. Sess., p. 2154), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 20, 2011 (Ga. L. 2011, p. 3621), so as to change certain provisions relating to tax levies; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

HB 600-Stonecrest, City of; DeKalb County; revise city's voting districts; provisions

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to incorporate the City of Stonecrest in DeKalb County, approved April 21, 2016 (Ga. L. 2016, p. 3538), so as to revise the city's voting districts; to provide a term limit for the mayor; to modify provisions related to a quorum of and voting by the governing authority; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

SB 124-"City of Decatur Public Facilities Authority Act"

A BILL to be entitled an Act to create the City of Decatur Public Facilities Authority and to provide for the appointment of members of the authority; to confer powers upon the authority; to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds of the authority; to fix and provide the venue and jurisdiction of actions relating to any provisions of this Act; to exempt the property and revenue bonds of the authority from taxation; to provide for the separate enactment of a certain provision of this Act; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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SB 224- DeKalb County; procedures, conditions, and limitations for the imposition of an additional retail sales and use tax; provide

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act known as the "Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965," approved March 10, 1965 (Ga. L. 1965, p. 2243), as amended, so as to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations for the imposition of an additional retail sales and use tax in DeKalb County; to provide for the selection and submission of rapid transit projects to be funded by the revenue of such tax; to provide for a limitation on the collection of a tax for transportation purposes in certain instances and the imposition of an additional retail sales and use tax in certain instances; to provide for a referendum; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

SB 246- DeKalb County Charter Review Commission; create; membership, officers, purpose, meetings, hearings, functions; provide

A BILL to be entitled an Act to create the DeKalb County Charter Review Commission; to provide for its membership, officers, purpose, meetings, hearings, functions, powers, expenses, and duties; to provide for a final report; to provide for the abolishment of such charter commission; to provide for definitions; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

SB 273- Board of Ethics of DeKalb County; jurisdiction and manner of appointment; change

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws relating to the governing authority of DeKalb County and creating a chairman and board of commissioners of said county, approved March 8, 1956 (Ga. L. 1956, p. 3237), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 12, 2015 (Ga. L. 2015, p. 3811), so as to change the jurisdiction and manner of appointment of the Board of Ethics of DeKalb County; to revise definitions; to revise proscribed conduct; to revise conflict of interest provisions; to revise complaint procedures; to increase sanctions for violations; to provide for a referendum; to provide for contingent effective dates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

House Bill 43- The State Budget

The \$25 billion state budget was signed by Gov. Nathan Deal on May 1, 2017 for the 2018 fiscal year starting July 1, 2017. This budget lays out his desired roadmap for Georgia to fund the people's business over the coming year. It represents a \$1.26 billion increase in total state spending over the 2017 budget approved last year, an increase of 5.3 percent. While the proposed budget represents a high water mark for Georgia in absolute dollar terms, it only returns per-capita state spending to just below pre-recession levels.

The 2018 budget includes some worthwhile investments, including sizable salary raises for state troopers and child welfare workers to help with recruitment and retention, as well as program enhancements to improve child care assistance. At the same time, most of the new revenue is consumed by the naturally rising needs of a growing state. About 80 percent of the \$1.3 billion in new spending maintains the status quo, including increased student enrollment, growing pension and health care costs and an overdue 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment for K-12 public school teachers.

The 2018 budget also includes money from a critical revenue source that is up for renewal. The governor's proposal assumes lawmakers will reauthorize Georgia's hospital provider fee, which

brings in about \$311 million in state funds that can leverage an additional \$600 million in federal funds. If the fee is not renewed, lawmakers will face a roughly \$900 million shortfall in health care spending through the Medicaid budget.

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