

Specialty Contractors Coalition Legislative Update

Week Number 11

While the General Assembly was in session last week, several bills of importance were passed. However, several bills of importance also remain hanging in the balance; ie: Final FY 2016 State Budget and the Transportation Funding Bill. Just two legislative days remain - Day 39 on Tuesday, March 31st and Day 40 on Thursday, April 2nd. Many issues will arise in the final days, so we will continue to closely monitor all legislation until Sine Die on Day 40.



Budget:

Last week, the Senate passed their version of the budget. Now the House/Senate conference committee will work each day to agree on a final version of the **\$21.8 billion FY16 Big Budget**.

Bills of Interest:

Transportation:

[HB 170 - Transportation Funding Act of 2015](#) – Rep. Jay Roberts – After three approved amendments, HB 170 barely passed the Senate with a 29-25 vote. The three amendments include:

- Incorporate in the GDOT Annual Report to the General Assembly all allocations of funds that have been redirected to road construction
- Removal of \$25/50 per year highway impact fee that was in the As-Passed Senate Committee version
- Creation of Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure, which would be responsible with introducing and considering one or more bills or resolutions relating to tax reform during the 2016 legislative session that would be forced to mandatory up or down votes.

Since the House and Senate have passed different versions of HB 170, the bill will now go to a Conference Committee in which both chambers will work to create a compromised version of the bill. Speaker David Ralston has selected Transportation Committee Chairman Jay Roberts, Rep. Mark Hamilton, and Rep. Calvin Smyre to represent the House. Transportation Chair Tommie Williams, President Pro-Tem David Shafer, and Sen. Steve Gooch have been selected by Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to represent the Senate. Governor Nathan Deal has given indication that he will force a special session for the 2015 Georgia General Assembly if an adequate transportation funding bill is not passed by the end of regular legislative session on April 2nd.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted by Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Conference Committee Appointed 155th, 24th, 135th; Senate Conference Committee Appointed 51st, 19th, 48th



[HB 225 - All For-Hire Drivers Must Obtain a For-Hire License Endorsement Before Driving For Hire](#) – Rep. Alan Powell – This bill would require all for-hire drivers to obtain a for-hire license endorsement before driving for hire; would require that all for-hire drivers have certain insurance; and provide penalties.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted by Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute

[SB 4 - Surface Transportation Projects in Urban Redevelopment Areas](#) – Sen. Steve Gooch – This bill would allow for surface transportation projects in Urban Redevelopment Areas. It also expands the projects that fall under the urban redevelopment provisions to include transit facilities and improvements, sidewalks, streetscapes, trails and bicycle facilities.

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Passed Adopted by Substitute; Senate Disagree House Amend or Substitute

Business:

[HB 57 - Financing of Solar Technology by Retail Customers](#) – Rep. Mike Dudgeon – This bill would include the following:

- Allow for the financing of solar technology by retail electric customers for the generation of electric energy.
- Solar technology may be leased by the retail customer from a solar financing agent who may be an electric service provider or any person whose business includes the leasing, financing, or installation of solar technology.
- Residential application is limited to ten kilowatts for a customer or 125 per cent of the actual or expected maximum annual peak demand of the premises for a commercial customer.
- The intent of the legislation is to facilitate customers of electric service providers to invest in and install solar technology, to reduce upfront costs involved in solar technology investments, and not be considered as electric service providers.



Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Passed/Adopted by a vote of 51-0

[HB 237 - Angel Investor Tax Credit](#) – Rep. Bruce Williamson – This bill would extend the angel investor tax credit to the years of 2016 through 2020 calendar years, and limit the total aggregate amount of all tax credits for these years to \$5 million each year.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted by Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted by a vote 48-3

[HB 255 - Equal Green Building Credits for Georgia](#) – Rep. Mike Cheokas – This bill would require that Georgia forest products receive equal certification credit when the state uses “green” building standards in state construction projects.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted by Substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted by a vote 41-7

[HB 341 - Building Officials' Association of GA Qualified Inspectors](#) – Rep. Howard Maxwell – This bill relates to definitions and requirements regarding state building, plumbing, and electrical codes, so as to provide that certain qualified inspectors may be certified by the Building Officials' Association of Georgia.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted; Senate Read Second Time

[SB 59 - "Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act"](#) – Sen. Hunter Hill – This bill would amend Georgia law to allow for public agencies to engage with private-sector parties in public-private partnerships to meet current and future needs for government facilities and infrastructure. This would allow private firms to submit unsolicited proposals for projects that have been identified as a public needs.

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

[SB 85 - Development Authorities; modify tax exemption](#) – Sen. Brandon Beach – This bill relates to development authorities, so as to revise the definition of project as applicable to said chapter; to modify the tax exemption of development authorities; and to correct cross-references.

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted; House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute



[SB 88 - Payment of Wages by Payroll Card](#)

- Sen. Burt Jones - The bill would allow an employer to enroll employees in a payroll debit card program if, after giving the option to choose direct deposit, the employee does not select direct deposit as his/her preference. SB 88 will make it easier for some businesses to pay their workers with a technology that allows workers to avoid the high fees associated with check cashing services or long bank lines.

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Passed/Adopted by Substitute

Education:

[SB 2: Competencies and Core Curriculum in Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

– Sen. Lindsey Tippins – This bill would provide that a student who completes certain requirements relating to postsecondary coursework may be awarded a high school diploma.

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute; House Passed/Adopted as Amended by vote 165-0; Senate Agreed House Amend

Other:

[HB 1 - Haleigh's Hope Act](#) – Rep. Allen Peake – This bill would provide immunity from criminal prosecution for persons who possess cannabis oil, a derivative of marijuana which has been effective in the treatment of certain conditions, including children's seizures.

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



[HB 461 - Metal Theft](#) – Rep. Jason Shaw – This bill seeks to clarify some issues that have come to pass since this law was originally passed. The bill includes batteries on the list of regulated metals that were previously excluded.

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted by substitute; Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute

- **FIRST READING**
 - Is the Introduction of the Bill and Bill is assigned to a standing committee.
- **SECOND READING**
 - In the House only, on next legislative day
 - In Senate, second reading comes after bill is reported favorably from committee.
- **COMMITTEE ACTION**
 - Recommend Bill or Resolution Do Pass; or
 - Recommend Do NOT Pass; or
 - Recommend Do Pass with changes (amendments or substitutes);or
 - Hold Bill.
- **THIRD READING AND PASSAGE**
 - House Clerk or Senate Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills favorably reported from committee, one of the following happens:
- Legislation which was second read the day before is placed on a calendar in numeric order for floor action prior to the Rules Committee meeting to choose bills for consideration.
- After a certain point, set by rule, the Rules Committee meets and prepares a Rules Calendar for the next day's floor consideration from bills on General Calendar.
- The presiding officer calls up bills from the Rules Calendar for floor action in order as they appear on this calendar.
 - Once presiding officer calls bill up from Rules Calendar, Clerk or Secretary reads bill's title (third reading). Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting. After debate, main question is called and members vote. if bill is approved by majority of total membership of that house , it is sent to the other house.
- **TRANSMITTAL TO OTHER CHAMBER** Bill is passed if:
 - If second chamber passes bill, it is returned to chamber where bill was introduced.
 - If first chamber rejects changes and second chamber insists, a conference committee may be appointed. Committee report is accepted by both chambers.
- Bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor (if requested). Otherwise, all enrolled bills sent to Governor following adjournment sine die.
- **GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE/VETO** Governor may sign bill or do nothing, and bill becomes law. Governor may veto bill, which requires two-thirds of members of each house to override.
- **ACT:** Act and other laws enacted at the session are printed in the Georgia Laws series. Also, act is incorporated into the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Act becomes effective the following July 1, unless a different effective date is provided in act.