

DATE: March 27, 2013
TO: Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission
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Tomorrow, March 28 is Sine Die. On Day 40 the House will still be considering a large number of bills and resolutions whereas the Senate will only do “agrees and disagrees” with still moving legislation on the last day; and both chambers will still assign conference committees to bills that they cannot reach consensus on. As of now three pieces of major legislation are in conference committees: the 2014 budget; ethics reform; and firearm legislation.

Below is a status of the bills and resolutions we have been monitoring and working. A complete and final update of the 2013 legislative session will be sent to you early next week.

BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS:

SB 24: The Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act/ Senator Charlie Bethel
STATUS: Passed and Adopted

SB 14: Creation of an Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan Task Force/ Senator Unterman
STATUS: Passed and Adopted

HB 199: Expand Reservoir Fund/ Rep Edward Lindsey
This bill would expand the uses of GEFA’s Reservoir Fund to include conservation projects and leak detection. The loaning capacity of the Fund is \$41M.
STATUS: Passed and Adopted

HB 202: Value Engineering Studies (GDOT)/ Rep Epps
This bill as it came from committee now has three parts: First, the bill adjusts the minimum threshold for requiring value engineering studies from \$10M to \$50M. Second, the bill exempts all interstate projects and freight corridor projects as proposed by the planning director and approved by the state transportation board from congressional balancing.
STATUS: Passed and Adopted

SB 70: Design-Build Changes/ Senator Steve Gooch
This is a department bill which changes the procedures for utilizing a design build contract by expanding the selection process to include selection of the best value bidder through weighing of requirements defined by the department.
STATUS: Passed and Adopted



BILLS STILL MOVING:

HR 4: Resolve the Tennessee / Georgia Boundary Dispute/ Rep Harry Geisigner

This resolution offers a settlement to Tennessee giving most of the land in question within the disputed area in exchange for the use of the Tennessee River.

STATUS: Passed the House; Passed the Senate with an amendment; must go back to the House

HB 78: Reporting Abuse in the Elderly and Disabled / Rep Wendell Willard

This bill requires that coroners, EMT's and Paramedics report suspected abuse of the elderly and disabled in long-term care facilities. It establishes a criminal penalty.

STATUS: Passed the House; Pending Senate Committee

HR 107: Creation of a Joint Study Committee on Medicaid Reform/ Rep. Donna Sheldon

STATUS: Passed the House; Pending Senate Rules

HB 264: The MARTA ACT/ Rep Mike Jacobs and others

STATUS: Passed the House; Pending in Senate Transportation

SB 213: Flint River Drought Protection Act/ Senator Ross Tolleson

This is a department bill and was meant to allow a study of the lower Flint River basin including agricultural permitting and usage. It was amended on the floor of the Senate to allow for study of the entire Flint basin, reaching to metro Atlanta. Further it would include a study of interbasin transfers, reservoirs releases and return flows to the Flint basin.

STATUS: Crossed Over with amendments; Passed House committee striking the senate amendments. Pending House Rules.

SB 92: Revenue to Transit/ Senator Fort

Allows sales tax revenue generated from vehicle rentals to be applied to transit.

STATUS: Passed the Senate; Pending House vote

HB 226: Scape Tires/ Rep Nix

This bill strengthens the regulatory program dealing with scrap tires and updates EPD's criminal enforcement.

STATUS: Passed the House; Pending Senate Natural Resources

HB 320: Inert Landfills/ Rep Buddy Harden

This bill exempts inert landfills operating on permit prior to DNR rules that became effective January 2014. The new rules require inert landfills to obtain a solid waste handling permit. Only those landfills that begin operating after that January 2014 will be covered by the rules.

STATUS: Passed the House; Pending

SB 104: DCA and Comprehensive Planning/ Senator Gin

After a bill two years ago to change the Comprehensive Planning Act was vetoed by the Governor, DCA formed a diverse statewide group of stakeholders to work on streamlining requirements and updating DRI rules. This bill is a result of that work.

STATUS: Passed the Senate; Passed the House Amended; Goes back to the Senate to be agreed upon



SB 99: Fractional Sales Tax for SPLOST/ Senator Judson Hill

This bill allows for one or more fractional SPLOST at any rate of less than 1 percent if the combined rates do not exceed 1 percent. This bill does not require an intergovernmental agreement.

STATUS: Passed the Senate: Pending House Ways and Means

HB 393: Georgia Workforce Investment Board/ Rep Mark Hamilton and others

This bill deals with the powers and duties of the GA Workforce Investment Board, the local Workforce Development Boards and areas, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Development.

STATUS: Passed the House: Pending Senate Rules

SR 618: Senate Study Committee on Public Transportation in Metro Atlanta/ Senator Beach

Creates a Senate Committee made up of 5 Senators selected by the President of the Senate to study the current makeup of public transportation in metro Atlanta.

STATUS: Pending Senate Rules

BILLS DEAD FOR THE YEAR:

SB 73: Changes Penalty in TIA legislation/ Senator John Albers

This bill would eliminate the 30% match requirement on projects for those regions in the state that did not pass the July 31, 2012 transportation referendum.

HB 195: Changes Definition of Special Districts in TIA Legislation/ Rep Ed Setzler

This bill changes the definition of a special district beginning in July 2013 for those regions that did not vote in favor of the TIA referendum; Districts that approved the tax would cease to exist after January 1, 2023. New special districts could be formed through in intergovernmental agreement of two or more counties whose boundaries are contiguous. A referendum could be held for up to 10 years or as little as three years, and a fractional percent could be asked for.

SB 196: Motorcycles on Toll Roads- Senator Ramsey

This bill would change SRTA's regulations regarding toll lanes to allow that motorcycles be permitted to ride on Hot lanes without paying the toll fee.

HB 41: Water Rates/ Rep Wendell Willard

This bill requires that water providers charge the same rate for water and sewer services to customers who live outside the providers boundaries as those who inside unless an agreement has been reached by the affected governing authorities. The bill only applies to those cities in the state created after the year 2000, and clarifies that the City of Atlanta would be held harmless if it severed water service to the City of Sandy Springs.

HB 225: EPD Rules/ Rep. Kirby

In this bill no new rule pertaining to the Environmental Protection Division shall be effective unless approved by joint resolution of the General Assembly.



HB 408: Water fees Assessed to Apartment Dwellers/ Rep Mike Jacobs

This bill would prohibit a public water provider from charging a higher water and waste water fee to apartment dwellers whose building is on a master meter and whose fees are prorated, to be higher than single family residential users for the same usage.

HB 515: Allowing interbasin transfers from the Tennessee River/ Rep Geisinger

HB 176: Cell Towers/ Rep Don Parsons

HB 282: Municipal Broadband Investment Act/ Rep Mark Hamilton
Vote failed on the House floor.

HB 228: Lobbying by Public Employees/ Rep. Mark Hamilton

This bill would prohibit a public employee from engaging in supporting or opposing the passage of legislation when using government property, whether owned or leased, and including computers and telecommunications devices, faxes, phones etc., or to promote or oppose a veto of legislation by the Governor.

HB 153: Fractional Sales Tax for SPLOST/ Rep. John Carson

This bill allows counties to ask voters for a fractional percentage for the SPLOST. An intergovernmental agreement between cities and counties must be made, and while multiple fractional taxes could be collected they must not exceed 1% in total.

HB 128; Downtown Renaissance Act / Rep Allen Peake

The bill would create public private partnerships and a GA Renaissance Fund and would include three statewide sales tax incentives designed to spur development in Georgia's downtowns: Included are \$20 million tax incentive for new construction of existing buildings; a \$5 million incentive for purchase or significant improvements to owner occupied housing within the District; and a \$5 million incentive to private or corporate contributions to the Renaissance Fund.

Today's Legislative Agenda Update, along with the GA General Assembly Roster, can be found with today's Board agenda at: www.atlantaregional.com/board

