

City of Atlanta
2017 Legislative Package
February 15, 2017

1. PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Allow local governments to transfer property back to private ownership after it has obtained ownership of the property to remedy blight. **Legislation is currently being drafted and may be introduced this week.**

- B. Create maximum periods of time for resolution of ownership of property when the claims are fractured among different owners, holders of property tax liens and tax deed purchasers.
Working with the delegation to get legislation drafted.

- C. Increase the financial penalty for illegal activity related to ATV, including dangerous driving in public areas.
Legislation has been drafted and will be introduced this week.

2. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

- A. Exempt a citizen review board from the requirement to release documents under an open records request until all entities finish their respective investigations.

- B. Require school districts to submit a service delivery plan to a municipality during the annexation process.
Discussed this with a senator who may be introducing annexation legislation.

- C. Authorize extended alcohol sales in secured areas of the airport to better serve passengers, particularly those accustomed to travelling internationally.
This has been partially addressed in SB 17, allowing for earlier serving hours on Sundays.

Legislation of Interest

HB 61 - Internet Sales Tax (Rep. J. Powell, R-Camilla)

HB 61 would require Internet retailers that have either gross revenue in excess of \$250,000 from retail sales in Georgia, or over 200 retail transactions in Georgia, to remit all state and local sales taxes. *House Rules*

HB 76 – Recording Maps, Plats & Plans (Rep. Jasperse, R-Jasper)

HB 76 would require maps, plats, plans, and condominium plans to be submitted electronically to the clerk of the superior court. This bill also specifically requires that when a local government has enacted subdivision regulations or land use regulations, or both, approval of any plat must be obtained by the local government before the plat can be presented for filing with the clerk of court. *Senate Judiciary*

HB 144 – Retail Pet Store Sales (Rep. Ehrhart, R-Powder Springs)

This bill would prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing any ordinances or rules which directly or indirectly prohibits or restricts the sale, delivery or transfer of pets from licensed retail pet store owners. The City of Atlanta does not currently regulate these sales. *House Rules*

HB 146 - Firefighter Cancer (Rep. Gravley, R-Douglasville)

This bill passed the House by a vote of 171-1 and is now pending in the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee. This bill provides cancer coverage for firefighters through insurance, rather than through more costly workers' compensation coverage, which is what last year's bill did and was eventually vetoed by the governor. GMA and ACCG have worked with the firefighters on this legislation.

HB 204 – Property Tax Bills (Rep. Harrell, R-Snellville)

This bill would prohibit the listing of any non-tax related fees or assessments on a property tax bill. This bill would require any additional fees, such as stormwater service fees or solid waste service fees, to be listed on a separate notice. HB 204 would allow, however, for multiple billings to be in the same mailing. This bill would also require that partial payments first be applied to the outstanding balance on the property tax bill. Atlanta already has separate billing in Fulton and could change to this system in DeKalb. *House Ways & Means*

HB 336 – Broadband Ready Communities (Rep. Parsons, R-Marietta)

HB 336 would allow the Georgia Department of Economic Development to certify local governments as "broadband ready communities." Local governments that enact a model ordinance developed by the department would be exempt from applying for the certification. *House Regulated Industries*

SB 2 – Local Government Business Licensing & Permitting Fee Schedules (Sen. Dugan, R-Carrollton)

This bill would require local governments to create a fee schedule for licenses and permits for businesses. It also requires an expedited process for such documents, allowing for an additional fee for the expedited request. The bill passed the Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee yesterday and is in *Senate Rules*.

SB 85 – Breweries & Retail Package Sales (Sen. Jeffares, R-McDonough)

The bill would allow craft breweries to sell beer directly to customers. Currently a customer must pay to take tour and then may take a 6-pack home with them. This will allow the brewery to sell directly to a customer without the tour. Passed the House Regulated Industries Committee yesterday and is in *House Rules*.

SB 116 – Prohibition of Stormwater Fees (Sen. Ginn, R-Danielsville)

SB 116 would create "water-neutral sites" that would be exempt from stormwater fees imposed by a local government. This bill would define a "water-neutral site" as "property designed to achieve control of water runoff from a 25 year, 24 hour storm event in a manner consistent with the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual." This bill would allow the property to become eligible for stormwater fees if the local government can prove the property is no longer "water-neutral". Various groups, including GMA, are greatly concerned by this legislation as introduced. Stormwater and runoff standards are designed to protect both residents and businesses from water pollution, flooding and other impacts. Each property within a system must share in the maintenance costs of the system as a whole in order to ensure ongoing viability. **Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities**