

2024 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Update

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Successes

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport & Unprovoked Annexations

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport, nor any unprovoked annexations were not on the agenda this legislative session.



Georgia's Bipartisan Mental Health Bill

Substantial progress was made in areas such as increasing funding for mental health in the state budget, and in facilitating a swifter licensing process for certain out-of-state therapy experts.

For example:

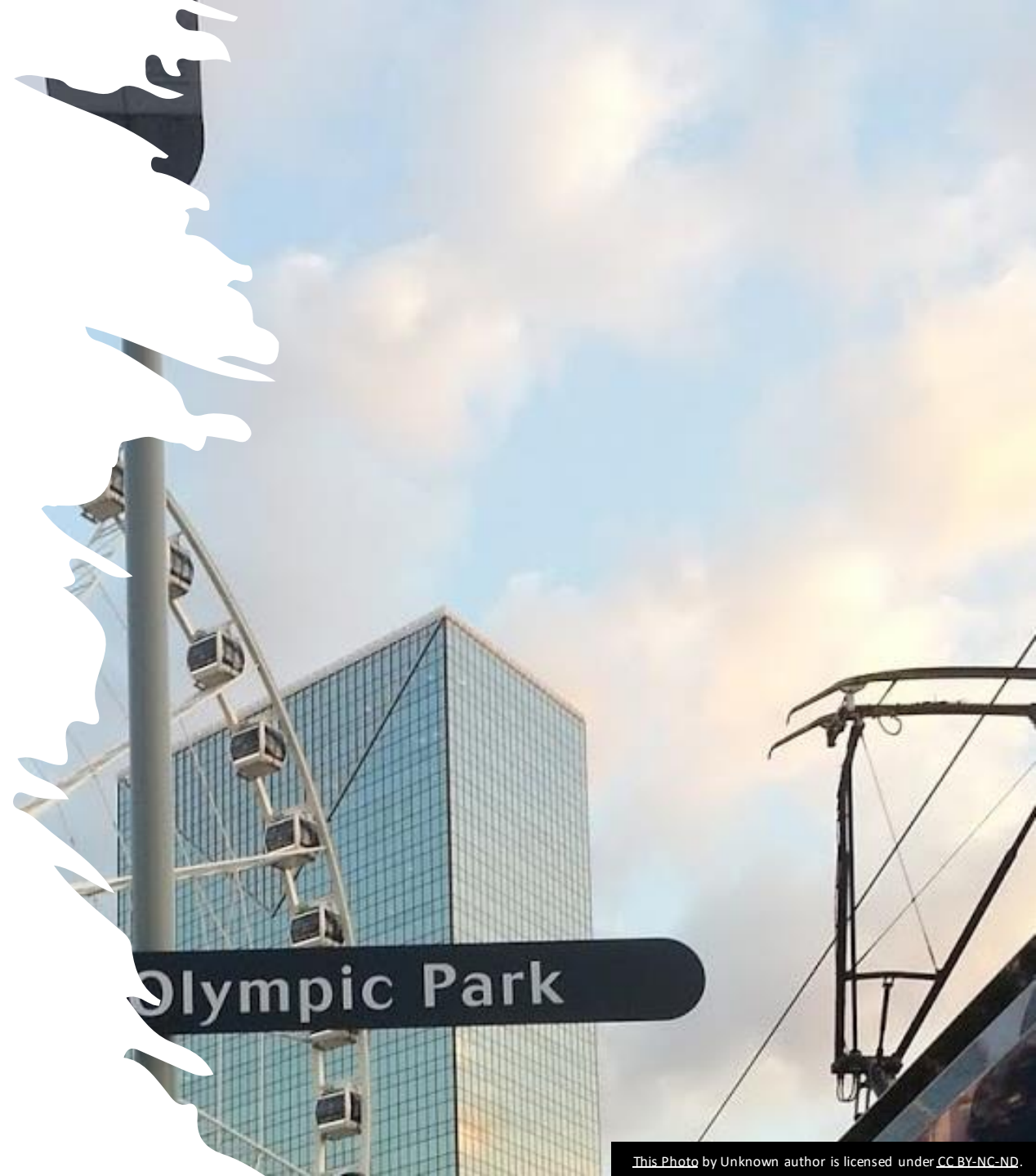
- ✓ HB 1344: Streamlining licensing for the behavioral health workforce
- ✓ HB 873, sponsored by Rep. Stan Gunter, would provide alternative ways of handling juvenile delinquency and truancy cases with the creation of new Juvenile Treatment Court divisions within the juvenile court system.
- ✓ SB 480: Student loan repayment for behavioral health professionals



SAFE at Home ACT

HB 404 requires for the first time that Residential rental properties are fit for human habitation:

- ✓ Cooling as a utility cannot be shut off after an order for eviction has been issued by the court;
- ✓ Allows a tenant three (3) business days following a written eviction notice to pay money that is due prior to a lawsuit seeking to evict them may be filed with the court; and
- ✓ Limiting landlords from requiring a security deposit that exceeds (2) two months' rent



Olympic Park

Unsheltered Resolutions

- Bills that unfairly maligned our homeless population did not receive traction this year. Homeless ID cards were a mixed bag. While we were unable to secure a comprehensive ID. We were able to do two things:
 - ✓ SB 387, DFACs ID cards for minors in the legal custody of the Division of Family and Children Services. This bill provides that personal identification card applications of certain applicants who are in the legal custody of the Division of Family and Children Services do not require signatures by the applicant's parent, guardian, or responsible adult.
 - ✓ HB 1410, or the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Act would establish a nine-member state commission to oversee a new fund that local organizations could tap to provide safe, secure housing for homeless people.

This is not exactly what we wanted, but it reverses the damaging tone against the unhoused.

C-PACE

The Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Cooperation Law (C-PACE), enables commercial property owners to obtain low-cost, long-term loans for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation improvements. The loan is repaid through an assessment of the property's tax bill.



Other Bills of Interest:

- ✓ Enhanced penalties for street racing and establishes an offense for knowingly attending and facilitating **illegal drag races**.
- ✓ Harsh sanctions for city policies that penalize local governments that violate **immigration sanctuary policies**. Local governments found in violation would lose their eligibility for certain state and federal funds, lose sovereign immunity for officials and employees, and have members of local governing authorities removed.
- ✓ The General Assembly amended the state's **pension investment regulations** to allow up to 10% allocation to alternative investments. This will make Georgia, and specifically Atlanta, more competitive because there will be more resources for entrepreneurs.



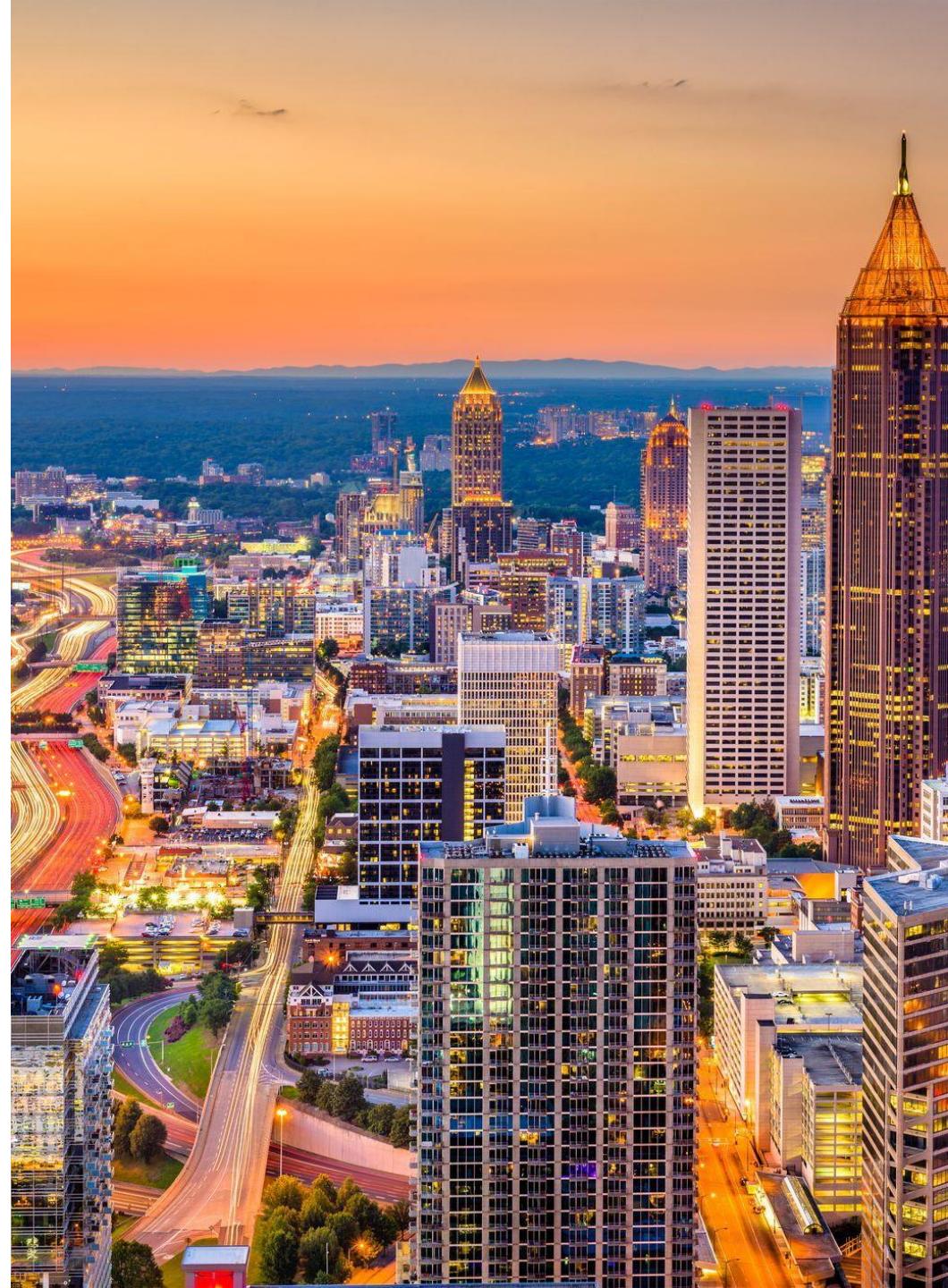
Better Luck Next Year

Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid expansion did not occur this year, but bipartisan support within a Senate Regulated Industry Committee indicates a growing willingness among GOP leaders to consider voting on the issue, reflecting a dramatic shift in support.



MARTA

A legislative priority that we shared with MARTA was met with stiff resistance both politically and procedurally. This legislation dealt with cameras for surveillance in BRT lanes to safeguard their exclusivity for bus-only traffic – ran into procedural obstacles and, thus, did not pass.





Glock Switch Ban

Any infringement on gun rights, even a continuation of federal law is very difficult to pass in Georgia.

Controversial bills require sufficient time to gain support from elected officials, gun rights organizations, public safety, and others. This will along with our other “better luck next year” bills will be reconsidered in 2025.





Over All Successes

Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



Snapshot of Successes

- ✓ Failure of the creation of City of Buckhead
- ✓ Keeping Airport firmly in the hands of the City of Atlanta
- ✓ Advocated for M-Pox vaccinations so our population is safe
- ✓ Secured trailers for our unhoused at the Melody
- ✓ Negotiating with the State to take less money for 2 Peachtree so Atlanta can chip away at its affordable housing challenges
- ✓ Obtaining the largest grant from US Department of Transportation since at least the Eisenhower administration (\$157M!)



Thank you!

Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

