

**FATIMOT LADIPO**

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**Georgia General Assembly Update**

**Finance/Executive Committee Meeting (06/24/2020)**

**Reopening the Capitol/Reconvening the 2020 Legislative Session**

* Reconvened on June 15th
* In session last week Monday-Saturday
* In this week Monday-Friday; Sine Die is Friday, June 26th.

**Outstanding City of Atlanta Legislative Agenda Items**

**SB 322**- A bill to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 71 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to **development impact fees**, to authorize the exemption of certain development projects from funding such projects' proportionate share of system improvement under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Committee:** House Governmental Affairs Committee

**Status:** Hearing on June 15th, bill did not pass. Requested a reconsideration; awaiting hearing

**HB 1167**- A bill to be entitled an Act to provide for a new homestead exemption from City of Atlanta ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of $30,000.00 for each resident of the City of Atlanta who holds real property subject to a written lease having an initial term of not less than 99 years with a landlord that is an entity exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and who owns all improvements located on the real property; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**Committee:** Pending Senate State and Local Government Operations

**Status:** Local Legislation; Passed the House (6/23/20); City of Atlanta Senate Delegation signatures being secured.

**Other Legislation of Interest**

**FY 2021 Budget -**HB 793 passed both chambers and is being finalized in Conference Committee. So far, the Conferees have not reached an agreement on the budget. Earlier this week Governor Kemp changed the revenue estimate, which gave legislators an additional $250 million to fund priorities. The bill should be back on the floor for final approval any day.

**HB 167, COVID-19 Liability Protection for Local Governments & Businesses-** This legislation would prevent lawsuits against local governments and businesses for any exposure to or transmission of COVID-19 unless the exposure or transmission was caused by an act or omission constituting willful and wanton misconduct or intentional infliction of harm. Passed the Senate, 31-19.

**HB 426-Hate Crimes Bill-** as passed, allows judges to impose additional criminal penalties against individuals who are found to have been motivated by their victim’s race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, or physical or mental disability. HB 426 provides that if a defendant is found guilty of committing either a felony or one of five ‘designated misdemeanors’ (simple assault, simple battery, battery, criminal trespass, misdemeanor theft by taking) based on one of these characteristics, the sentencing judge may impose an additional sentence of imprisonment of up to twelve months of and a fine of up to $5,000 for a misdemeanor and a sentence of not less than two years and a fine of up to $5,000 for a felony. Additionally, HB 426 requires the compilation of a ‘Bias Crime Report’ anytime a law enforcement officer investigates what appears to be a hate-motivated crime and the annual gathering and reporting of these statistics by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). House Bill 426 passed the Senate 47-6 followed by a House agreement 127-38.

**HB 838-Peace Officers and Bias against First Responders-** creates the offense of ‘bias motivated intimidation’ and provides penalties for those who are found guilty of committing crimes against first responders (firefighters, police officers, and paramedics). HB 838 provides that individuals found guilty of bias motivated intimidation may be sentenced to imprisonment for between one and five years, a fine of up to $5,000, or both. House Bill 838 passed the Senate followed by a House agreement 92-74.

**SB 131, State Airport Overview Committee & Department of Mobility and Innovation-** provides for the creation of a state airport overview committee to review the operations of general aviation airports in the state. Pending in House Rules Committee

**SB 159-Electric Scooters-** This bill defines electric scooter as a device weighing less than 100 pounds, with handlebars and an electric motor, that is capable of no more than 20 mph when powered by the motor on a paved level surface; and allows local governments to retain authority in regulating the operation of electric scooters. Passed House Committee, Pending in House Rules Committee

**SB 413, Public Hearings Via Teleconference in Emergencies-** This legislation would amend the current law to allow for local governments to hold public hearings via teleconference when necessitated by emergency conditions. Pending in House Rules Committee

[**SR 19**](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20192020/SR/19)**,** calls for a constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to meet virtually or in a location outside of the Capitol in the event of an emergency. This resolution was adopted by the House, 151-6.

**SR 1007, Senate Study Committee on Police Practices-** Creates a Senate Study Committee to examine police operations and discuss reform measures, while focusing on the following aspects of policing: Oversight, Lethal and Nonlethal Force, Practices that may need to prohibited or strictly regulated (including but not limited to Choke holds, No Knock Warrants, Use of tear gas and other chemical projectiles), De-escalation techniques, Data collection and reporting and Shaping of policing in the future with a focus on equality. The committee will consist of the Senate Judiciary chair, the Senate Public Safety chair, and three members to be selected by the President of the Senate and is charged to submit a report with legislative recommendations to the Secretary of the Senate by December 15, 2020. Senate Adopted

**Hearings on elections**

House Government Affairs Committee began their investigation into the June 9th primary last week. They met to hear public comment from several poll observers, poll managers, and members of county election boards. Poll observers from across the state shared their experience on election day and discussed the issues that were most prevalent at the polls. Among the concerns were inadequately trained poll workers, confusion over the issuance of absentee ballots, and technical errors with voting machines.