

POWER SESSION

Summarizing the Continuing Legislative Process of the **2015 GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



April 6, 2015

VOL. 5 ISSUE NO. 11

Please contact legislative affairs with any additional information regarding the current session.

As always, we appreciate any and all information you can provide from your respective areas!

SINE DIE! SINE DIE!

The Legislative Affairs Team wishes to say **THANK YOU** to our Corporate Partners who helped to make the 2015 legislative session a success by reading, reviewing, and supplying facts and data on legislation with potential impact to Georgia Power.

QUESTIONS?

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DID YOU KNOW



On the 40th day of the legislative session, the final adjournment is called "**sine die**" and means to adjourn without a day to reconvene. The House and Senate chambers are located directly across the Capitol from one another. As per tradition, the doors of both chambers are opened so the Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor may gavel to signal sine die at the same time.

Since 2015 is the first half of the biennium, any legislation that is still pending in either chamber upon adjournment, will be taken up in 2016 and additional legislation will be introduced.

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Final Passage of the Transportation Bill

Lawmakers worked on a compromise for transportation funding until late into the night on Tuesday, March 31; Day 39 of the 40-day legislative session. Changes to the original version include:

- \$.26 cents per gallon excise tax for gasoline. This is down from the \$.29.2 cents originally proposed. The excise tax for diesel will be \$.29 cents per gallon.
- Addition of a \$5 per night hotel/motel tax to be applied statewide.
- Elimination of sales tax exemption for Delta and other commercial airlines for jet fuel.
- A charge of \$50 to \$100 highway fee will be administered for heavy trucks and big rigs depending on vehicle weight.
- After January 2017, counties will be able to decide on a county-by-county basis whether to pursue a local option sales tax.
- Metro Atlanta counties will be able to pursue the local sales tax sooner than 2017 if they are served by the MARTA transit system or the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

The electric vehicle fee of \$200 for non-commercial and \$300 for commercial and the elimination of the tax credit for alternative fuel vehicles were included in the bill. The tax credit will go away beginning with vehicles purchased on or after July 1, 2015.

The transportation plan approved on Tuesday evening is expected to generate approximately \$900 million a year in revenue to fund transportation initiatives and goes into effect on July 1, 2015. Final vote count for the House was 129 (Y), 41 (N) and 42(Y), 12(N) in the Senate.

To view the complete bill: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/153333.pdf>

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

www.sos.ga.gov – *The Secretary of State website has information Georgia's state government, elections and elected officials.*

<http://www.georgia.gov> – *The State of Georgia website includes information on the governor, legislators and the legislative process, as well as links to all Georgia state department web sites.*

www.legis.state.ga.us *Provides information about the Georgia General Assembly, legislation and committees, and the Georgia Legislative Budget Office.*

To find out how a bill becomes a law go to:

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/default.aspx>

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 5	Rep. Harry Geisinger <i>(R-Roswell)</i>	Rep. Harry Geisinger (R-Roswell) Unmanned aircraft; provide lawful use; prohibit capturing certain images; provisions	Monitor	02/11/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil committee
HB 8	Rep. Tyrone Brooks <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	Minimum wage; substantive and comprehensive reform of provisions regarding the law	Monitor	01/13/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry and Labor committee
HB 9	Rep. Tyrone Brooks <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	Labor; unlawful for employer to include on application a question inquiring whether applicant has been arrested, charged, or convicted of any crime	Oppose	01/13/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry and Labor committee
HB 10	Rep. Rahn Mayo <i>(D-Decatur)</i>	Motor vehicles; only hands-free telephone calls shall be conducted by driver; provide	Monitor	01/26/2015 – Assigned to the House Motor Vehicles committee
HB 44	Rep. Earnest Smith <i>(D-Augusta)</i>	Aviation; operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in certain areas; prohibit	Support with changes	01/13/2015 – Assigned the House Public Safety & Homeland Security committee
HB 57 PASSED	Rep. Mike Dudgeon <i>(R-Johns Creek)</i>	Electricity; financing of solar technology by retail customers for generation of electric energy to be used on and by property owned or occupied by such customers or to be fed back to the electric service provider	Support	01/15/2015 – Assigned to the House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications committee. 01/28/2015 – Passed out of the House EUT committee and sent to Rules for placement on the House floor debate calendar. 01/28/2015 – Passed out of the House EUT committee and sent to Rules for placement on the House floor debate calendar. 02/04/2015 – Voted out of Rules; placed on the House floor debate calendar for Monday, Feb. 9th. 02/09/2015 – Passed the House, 165 Yea, 0 Nay 02/10/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities committee 03/13/2015 – Reported Favorably out of Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities committee 03/19/2015 – In the Senate Rules committee waiting to be placed on a floor debate calendar 03/27/2015 – Passed the Senate, 51 Yea, 0 Nay

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 60	Rep. Ed Setzler <i>(R-Acworth)</i>	Revenue and taxation; exempt motor fuels from state sales and use taxes	Oppose	01/15/2015 – Assigned to the House Transportation committee
HB 68	Rep. Jason Spencer <i>(R-Woodbine)</i>	Taxes; property; waive payment requirement of such taxes less than a certain amount	Support	01/26/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 84 PASSED	Rep. Mike Cheokas <i>(R-Americus)</i>	Insurance; denial of an aircraft claim unless the insured's action or failure to act had a direct causal connection to loss upon which claim is based; prohibit	Support	02/27/2015 – Assigned to the House Insurance committee 03/13/2015 – Passed the House, 169 Yea, 0 Nay 03/18/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee 04/02/2015 – Passed the Senate, 37 Yea, 0 Nay
HB 92	Rep. Tommy Benton <i>(R-Jefferson)</i>	Labor; allow employees to use sick leave for care of immediate family members	Monitor for changes	01/27/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee
HB 97	Rep. Scot Turner <i>(R-Holly Springs)</i>	Open Agreements Act	Oppose	01/27/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee 02/09/2015 – House withdrawn from consideration in committee
HB 118 PASSED	Rep. Kevin Tanner <i>(R-Dawsonville)</i>	Drivers' licenses; issuance of commercial licenses and instruction permits to comply with federal law; amend certain provisions	Monitor for changes	01/28/2015 – Assigned to the House Motor Vehicles committee 03/02/2015 – Passed the House, 147 Yea, 11 Nay 03/03/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Public Safety committee 03/31/2015 – Passed the Senate, 51 Yea, 1 Nay
HB 122	Rep. Chuck Martin <i>(R-Alpharetta)</i>	State income tax credits; low-emission vehicles; reduce to zero the amount of such credit	Neutral	01/28/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 133	Rep. Scott Holcomb <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	Contract Cancellation Act	Oppose	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 134	Rep. Karen Bennett (D-Stone Mountain)	State Work Opportunity Tax Credit; incentive to private sector employers to hire individuals from certain target groups of job seekers who face employment barriers; provide	Support	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 136	Rep. Earnest Smith (D-Atlanta)	Taxpayer First Act	Oppose	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee
HB 140	Rep. Tonya Anderson (D-Lithonia)	Open Records Act	Oppose	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee
HB 145	Rep. James Beverly (D-Macon)	Georgia Jobs Matter Act	Oppose	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs committee
HB 155	Rep. Nikki Randall (D-Macon)	Health; registration with the vaccination registry by persons who administer vaccines and by pharmacies, agencies, or businesses employing persons who administer vaccines; require	Monitor	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Health & Human Services committee
HB 157	Rep. Kevin Cooke (R-Carrollton)	Aviation; no aircraft operated in airspace above private property for purpose of searching or engaging in surveillance without search warrant or permission of owner; provide	Monitor for changes	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil committee
HB 163	Rep. Winfred Dukes (D-Albany)	Fair Chance at Employment Act; enact	Monitor	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry and Labor committee
HB 164 PASSED	Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta)	Professional Standards Commission; professional learning requirements for certification renewal; extend the suspension	Monitor	01/29/2015 – Assigned to the House Education committee 02/12/2015 – Passed the House by committee substitute, 166 Yea, 0 Nay 02/20/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Education and Youth committee 03/23/2015 – Passed the Senate, 50 Yea, 0 Nay

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 170 PASSED	Rep. Jay Roberts <i>(R-Ocilla)</i>	Transportation Funding Act of 2015	Monitor	2/02/2015 – Assigned to the House Transportation committee 03/05/2015 – Passed the House by substitute, 123 Yea, 46 Nay 03/09/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Transportation committee 03/20/2015 – Passed the Senate by substitute, 29 Yea, 25 Nay 03/25/2015 – Assigned to a joint House/Senate conference committee 03/31/2015 – Final Passage, House – 129 Yea, 41 Nay, Senate – 42 Yea, 12 Nay
HB 176	Rep. Tommy Benton <i>(R-Jefferson)</i>	Income tax; definition of low-emission vehicle; include more vehicles	Monitor	02/02/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 200	Rep. Don Parsons <i>(R-Marietta)</i>	Income tax credit; change amount of credit for electric vehicle chargers	Support	02/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee 03/05/2015 – Passed the House by substitute, 152 Yea, 16 Nay 03/09/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Finance committee
HB 208	Rep. Tom Kirby <i>(R-Loganville)</i>	Revenue and taxation; eliminate state income tax; provisions	Monitor for changes	02/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 215 PASSED	Rep. Mike Jacobs <i>(R-Brookhaven)</i>	Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax Act of 2015	Oppose	02/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee 03/09/2015 – Passed the House by substitute, 128 Yea, 35 Nay 03/11/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Finance committee 03/25/2015 – Passed the Senate, 47 Yea, 0 Nay 03/31/2015 – The House agreed to the Senate Substitute, 135 Yea, 32 Nay
HB 218	Rep. Sam Teasley <i>(R-Marietta)</i>	Preventing Government Overreach on Religious Expression Act	Monitor	02/09/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary committee

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 220	Rep. Ben Harbin <i>(R-Evans)</i>	Income tax credits; low-emission vehicles	Monitor	02/09/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 272	Rep. Rahn Mayo <i>(D-Decatur)</i>	Minimum wage; provide for substantive and comprehensive reform of provisions regarding the law; provisions	Monitor	02/10/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry and Labor committee
HB 284	Rep. Harry Geisinger <i>(R-Roswell)</i>	Public utilities; in event of litigation against a utility to prevent construction of a facility used to service customers in this state, the losing party shall be required to pay attorney's fees and costs of litigation to winning party	Neutral	02/11/2015 – Assigned to the House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications committee
HB 303	Rep. Dustin Hightower <i>(R-Carrollton)</i>	Uninsured motorist coverage; recovery when an insurer refuses to pay for a loss within 60 days after a demand has been made by the insured and a finding has been made that such refusal was made in bad faith; change provisions	Neutral	03/11/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary committee 03/11/2015 – Passed the House, 153 Yea, 7 Nay 03/13/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee
HB 319 PASSED	Rep. Chad Nimmer <i>(R-Blackshear)</i>	Taxes; provide for legislative findings concerning gasoline and aviation fuel	Support	02/12/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee 03/11/2015 – Passed the House, 168 Yea, 0 Nay 03/13/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Finance committee 03/31/2015 – Passed the Senate, 47 Yea, 5 Nay
HB 401 PASSED	Rep. Chuck Efstrotation <i>(R-Dacula)</i>	Early care and learning; revise terminology relating to restrictions on persons with criminal records with regard to child, family or group-care facilities	Support	02/20/2015 – Assigned to the House Education committee 03/13/2015 – Passed the House, 170 Yea, 4 Nay 03/18/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Education and Youth committee 04/02/2015 – Passed the Senate, 53 Yea, 1 Nay

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 412 PASSED	Rep. Mark Hamilton <i>(R-Cumming)</i>	Workers' compensation; change certain provisions	Support	02/20/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry & Labor committee 03/04/2015 – Passed the House, 167 Yea, 0 Nay 03/05/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee 03/31/2015 – Passed the Senate, 46 Yea, 0 Nay
HB 415	Rep. Ben Harbin <i>(R-Evans)</i>	Sales and use tax; machinery and equipment used in research and development; provide exemption	Support	02/20/2015 – Assigned to the House Ways & Means committee
HB 416 PASSED	Rep. Carl Rogers <i>(R-Gainesville)</i>	Consumer Information and Awareness Act	Monitor	02/20/2015 – Assigned to the House Health & Human Services 03/13/2015 – Passed the House, 151 Yea, 21 Nay 03/18/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Health & Human Services committee 04/02/2015 – Passed the Senate, 44 Yea, 7 Nay
HB 461 PASSED	Rep. Jason Shaw <i>(R-Lakeland)</i>	Secondary metals recyclers; buying and selling regulated metal property; change certain provisions	Support	02/24/2015 – Assigned to the House Regulated Industries committee 03/11/2015 – Passed the House by substitute, 165 Yea, 2 Nay 03/13/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities committee 03/31/2015 – Passed the Senate, 48 Yea, 0 Nay 04/02/2015 – House agreed to the Senate Substitute, 121 Yea, 51 Nay

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
HB 492 PASSED	Rep. Rick Jasperse <i>(R-Jasper)</i>	Crimes and offenses; carrying in unauthorized locations; revise provisions	Oppose	02/26/2015 – Assigned to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security committee 03/09/2015 – Passed the House by substitute, 153 Yea, 3 Nay 03/11/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Public Safety committee 03/27/2015 – Passed the Senate, 45 Yea, 6 Nay 03/31/2015 – House agreed to the Senate Substitute, 150 Yea, 15 Nay
HR 126	Rep. Karla Drenner <i>(D-Avondale Estates)</i>	United States Congress; pass constitutional amendment reversing ruling of United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v Federal Election Commission	Monitor	02/02/2015 – Assigned to the House Special Rules committee
HR 473	Rep. Mike Dudgeon <i>(R-Johns Creek)</i>	Joint Study Committee on Cyber Security; create	Monitor	02/24/2015 – Assigned to the House Science and Technology committee 03/03/2015 – Favorably reported out of House Science and Technology committee
HR 613 PASSED	Rep. Chuck Martin <i>(R-Alpharetta)</i>	United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); withdraw the proposed Clean Air Plan; encourage	Monitor	03/11/2015 – Assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/25/2015 – Passed by the House, 111 Yea, 41 Nay
HR 620 PASSED	Rep. Karla Drenner <i>(D-Avondale Estates)</i>	Local boards of education; provide educational awareness regarding renewable energy; urge	Monitor	03/13/2015 – Assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/31/2015 – Passed the House, 137 Yea, 23 Nay
SB 15	Sen. Donzella James <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	Minimum Wage Law; provide for substantive and comprehensive reform	Monitor	01/13/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee
SB 19	Sen. Nan Orrock <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	“Employment Security Law;” change certain provisions	Monitor	01/13/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
SB 34	Sen. Greg Kirk <i>(R-Americus)</i>	Torts; provide immunity from liability; persons entering a parked motor vehicle; purpose of removing a child from motor vehicle	Support	01/15/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee 02/24/2015 – Passed the Senate by substitute, 50 Yes, 2 Nay 02/26/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary committee
SB 36	Sen. William Ligon <i>(R-Brunswick)</i>	'Underground Water Supply Protection Act of 2015'; prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridian aquifer in certain counties	Monitor for changes	03/26/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/13/2015 – Passed the Senate, 48 Yea, 3 Nay 03/18/2015 – Assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environmental committee
SB 52	Sen. Vincent Fort <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	Disclosure of Public Records; clarify that certain tax credits and exemptions are subject to disclosure	Oppose	01/27/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Finance committee
SB 54	Sen. Harold Jones <i>(D-Augusta)</i>	Taxation; confidential taxpayer information; allow the state revenue commissioner to provide members of the legislative study committee with such information	Oppose	01/27/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Government Oversight committee
SB 70	Sen. Judson Hill <i>(R-Marietta)</i>	Armed Security Guard; require that a criminal background check be performed prior to the issuance of a license	Support	02/02/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Public Safety committee
SB 85	Sen. Brandon Beach <i>(R-Alpharetta)</i>	Development Authorities; revise the definition of projects as applicable; modify the tax exemption	Monitor	02/09/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Economic Development and Tourism committee 03/03/2015 – Passed the Senate, 41 Yea, 11 Nay 03/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Governmental Affairs committee

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
SB 88 PASSED	Sen. Burt Jones <i>(R-Jackson)</i>	Labor and Industrial Relations; provide for the payment of wages by credit to a payroll card	Monitor	02/09/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee 02/26/2015 – Passed the Senate by substitute, 43 Yea, 8 Nay 03/03/2015 – Assigned to the House Industry and Labor committee 03/13/2015 – Favorably reported out of House Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/25/2015 – Passed the House, 145 Yea, 0 Nay 04/02/2015 – Senate agreed to the House Amendment, 44 Yea, 2 Nay
SB 101 PASSED	Sen. Ben Watson <i>(R-Savannah)</i>	Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; provide for buffer against coastal marshlands within which certain land-disturbing activities are prohibited	Support	02/11/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/02/2015 – Passed the Senate, 46 Yea, 4 Nay 03/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/13/2015 – Favorably reported out of House Natural Resources & Environment committee 03/26/2015 – Passed the House, 164 Yea, 0 Nay 03/27/2015 – Senate agreed to the House Amendment, 46 Yea, 2 Nay
SB 108 PASSED	Sen. P.K. Martin <i>(R-Lawrenceville)</i>	Insurance; provide the requirements for maintaining a risk management framework	Monitor	02/17/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance & Labor committee 03/02/2015 – Passed the Senate, 53 Yea, 2 Nay 03/04/2015 – Assigned to the House Insurance committee 04/02/2015 – Passed the House, 167 Yea, 0 Nay

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LEGISLATION on the move

BILL	SPONSOR	TITLE	STATUS	COMMITTEE HISTORY
SB 123	Sen. David Lucas <i>(D-Macon)</i>	Insurers, Limits of Risks, Reinsurance; provide for certain requirements by any insurer; liability insurance policy covering automobile liability	Oppose	02/17/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor committee
SB 128	Sen. John Kennedy <i>(R-Macon)</i>	Corporations; directors and officers; enact reforms consistent with the Model Act; functions of a board of directors; change provisions	Monitor	02/18/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee 03/11/2015 – Passed the Senate, 54 Yea, 0 Nay 03/13/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary committee 04/02/2015 – Passed the House by Substitute, 163 Yea, 0 Nay
SB 129	Sen. Josh McKoon <i>(R-Columbus)</i>	“Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act”; provide for the preservation of religious freedom	Monitor	02/18/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee 03/05/2015 – Passed the Senate by substitute, 37 Yea, 15 Nay 03/11/2015 – Assigned to the House Judiciary committee
SB 142	Sen. Brandon Beach <i>(R-Alpharetta)</i>	Local Government; regulate procedures governing applications for permits for critical infrastructure projects	Monitor	02/23/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities committee
SB 144	Sen. Josh McKoon <i>(R-Columbus)</i>	Acquisition of Property for Transportation Purposes; attorney’s fees and expenses of trial in appeals to condemnation compensation award amt.	Oppose/ Monitor for changes	02/23/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Transportation committee
SB 191	Sen. Lindsey Tippens <i>(R-Marietta)</i>	Blasting and Excavating Near Utility Facilities; prohibit local governing authorities from adopting ordinances	Neutral	03/03/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Transportation committee 03/13/2015 – Passed the Senate, 34 Yea, 18 Nay 03/18/2015 – Assigned to the House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications committee
SR 44	Sen. Nan Orrock <i>(D-Atlanta)</i>	U.S. Constitution; request U.S. Congress and U.S. President; prohibit corporations; unlimited independent expenditures; supporting/opposing candidates for public office	Monitor	01/26/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Ethics committee
SR 65	Sen. Harold Jones <i>(D-Augusta)</i>	Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee	Monitor	01/27/2015 – Assigned to the Senate Governmental Oversight committee