



# Mathews & Maxwell, Inc.

*Governmental Affairs Consulting*

Terry Mathews: 404-310-4173

terry.mathews@comcast.net

Rita Rucker: 404-520-3147

ritarocker@comcast.net

## **Weekly Legislative Report #1**

**Week Ending January 17, 2025**

### **2025 Session Kicks Off**

The legislature convened on January 13<sup>th</sup> for the first session of the Georgia General Assembly's 2025-2026 term. It will meet for 40 Legislative Days with adjournment scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. As planned, Speaker Jon Burns was reelected as Speaker to preside over the House during the next two years. On the Senate side, Senator John Kennedy was reelected President Pro-Tem. Review of the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Leadership.

### **State of the State Address**

Governor Kemp delivered his seventh State of the State Address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Thursday. Among his initiatives highlighted in his speech was his proposal to further cut state income tax rates by 20 basis points, bringing the rate down to 5.19%. [Click here](#) to read the speech in its entirety.

### **Track Budget Changes**

The easiest way to find and keep up with budget line items throughout the process is via the budget tracking documents. They list only new line items and those current line items that are being reduced or increased. [FYA 2025](#) or [FY 2026](#).

### **We Can All Agree**

Legislators, agency staff, lobbyists, and all others can agree on [SR 6](#) – it is the Resolution that sets the calendar for the duration of the session. Day 40 Sine Die (last legislative day) is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. This year is the third consecutive year House and Senate Leadership came together for the good of the order by setting the entire calendar in advance.

### **Infrastructure Spending**

Governor Kemp is recommending spending one billion dollars of surplus funds in infrastructure improvements. The proposal includes \$530 million for the state's freight and logistics network, \$250 million in local grants for road construction, \$250 million for water and sewage

improvement, \$60 million for the infrastructure bank program and \$98 million to GDoT to replace revenue lost by the motor fuel excise tax suspension.

## **Tort Reform**

Governor Kemp has proclaimed tort reform his top priority whether it's this legislative session, or perhaps a second one later this year (threat of a special session). Speaker Burns said he will pursue measures that return balance to our courtrooms and stability to our insurance markets. We expect to have legislation introduced in the next week or two.

## **Fulton County DA Willis**

The Senate voted on Monday to reauthorize a committee formed last year to investigate Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis' role in the Georgia election interference case against Donald Trump. Senator Greg Dolezal, the Committee's chairman, said the committee still has unfinished business.

## **Committee Assignments**

Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced new committee chairs this week, with some senators being moved around. The House also announced new chairs and you may click on the following links for a complete listing of committee chairs and members. [House Committees](#) – [Senate Committees](#)

## **Next Week**

The legislature will have no formal legislative sessions next week. As is custom, MLK Day will be observed on Monday, then the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will hold joint hearings with various agencies on the Governor's proposed budgets Tuesday through Thursday. [Click here](#) for the budget testimony schedule and to live stream the hearings.

## **Tracking List**

Here are the bills we are tracking. **New activity is noted in green.** Click on the [Bill Number](#) to access the current version of the bill.

The 2025 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2025-2026 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2026 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2025 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

### **Sections:**

[Aging](#)

[Business – Tort Reform](#)

[Business](#)

[City & County Governments & Regional Commissions](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Elections](#)

[Environmental & Natural Resources](#)

[Government – General](#)

[Health – General](#)  
[Hospitals – CON \(Certificate of Need\)](#)  
[Hospitals](#)  
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[Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities](#)  
[Military Base Support](#)  
[Pharmaceuticals](#)  
[Public Health](#)  
[Study Committee](#)  
[Taxes](#)  
[Transportation](#)  
[Workers’ Comp](#)

**Aging**

[HB 36](#), Guardians and Wards (Rep. Rob Leverett – R)  
Relating to guardians and wards, so as to revise the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the process. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

**Business – Tort Reform**

**Business**

**City & County Governments and Regional Commissions**

**Economic Development**

[HB 51](#), GEFA Finance of Natural Gas Projects (James Burchett – R)  
So as to authorize GEFA to finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[SB 13](#), GEFA Finance of Natural Gas Projects (Carden Summers – R)  
So as to authorize GEFA to finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte

**Elections**

**Environmental & Natural Resources**

**Government -- General**

**Health – General**

**Hospitals -- CON (Certificate of Need)**

**Hospitals**

**Insurance**

**Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities**

## **Military Base Support**

### **Pharmaceuticals**

[SB 5](#), Certification of private review agents (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick – R)  
Relating to certification of private review agents, so as to provide for health insurers to implement and maintain a program. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte

### **Public Health**

[HB 43](#), Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Program (Rep. Viola Davis – D)  
To establish the Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Program, to provide for requirements. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources Cmte

[HB 46](#), Maternal Mortality Review Cmte (Rep. Viola Davis – D)  
To provide for the composition of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. **Status:** Referred to Public & Community Health Cmte

[HB 83](#), Cigarette tax increase (Rep. Michelle Au – D)  
Increase tax rate on a pack of cigarettes. **Status:** Hopper

[HB 89](#), Maternal Mortality Review Cmte (Rep. Sharon Cooper – R)  
Public Health, Department of; require healthcare providers, facilities, and pharmacies to provide the Maternal Mortality Review Committee with psychiatric or other clinical records. **Status:** Hopper

## **Study Committee**

### **Taxes**

### **Transportation**

[HB 76](#), Require public hearings for local projects of significant impact (Rep. Stacey Evans – D)  
To require public hearings for local transportation projects of significant impact. **Status:** Hopper

### **Workers' Comp**

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