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Weekly Legislative Report #2

Week Ending January 24, 2025

More Inclement Weather

The traditional joint House – Senate budget hearings usually held Tuesday through Thursday after the MLK Holiday were canceled due to another arctic blast. Capitol Hill was shut down through Wednesday. In a reversal of the usual pattern, the latest winter storm dumped more snow on Middle and South Georgia than the northern half of the state. The National Weather Service meteorologist in Peachtree City said it's the arctic air pushing through the Gulf that's bringing the unusual pattern.

A statewide state of emergency will be in effect through January 28, which prohibits price gouging, suspends hours-of-service limitations for commercial vehicle operators involved in the storm response, and temporarily increases weight, height, and length limits for commercial vehicles transporting emergency supplies.

The Capitol came back to life on Thursday with a few committee meetings and then went quiet again Friday as members headed back to their home districts.

Trade Mission

Governor Kemp left for Europe this week on a trade mission to Germany and Poland. The trip is intended to strengthen existing economic and cultural ties with the two countries and develop new relationships that will create jobs. Germany is the fourth-largest export and import market for Georgia, with more than \$12.8 billion in trade moving back and forth in 2023.

Next Week

The legislature will crank back up Monday for Day 6 and play catch up on budget sub-committee hearings in addition to the usual standing committee meetings. They will remain in session through Thursday before taking a recess day on Friday.

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:

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[Military Base Support](#)
[Pharmaceuticals](#)
[Public Health](#)
[Study Committee](#)
[Taxes](#)
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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

[HB 92](#), Revenue and Taxation, postpone date (Rep. Shaw Blackmon – R)
Revenue and taxation; postpone date by which local governing authorities can opt out of base year homestead exemption. **Status:** Hopper

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 84](#), Increase tax rate on consumable vapor products (Rep. Michelle Au – D)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **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 Committees

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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