

**SUMMARY OF
GENERAL STATUTES ENACTED
AT THE
2nd SESSION OF THE 153rd
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA
2016**

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

**316 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334**



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FOREWORD

We are pleased to present to you the Summary of General Statutes Enacted at the 2016 Session of the General Assembly of Georgia. This represents one of the services which the Legislative Services Committee and the Office of Legislative Counsel perform for the legislative branch of government. Other services include bill drafting, research, statutory and Code revision, rendering of opinions, counseling, legislative reference, interim committee staffing, and preparation of reports.

This document contains a summary of the general statutes of state-wide application which were enacted at the 2016 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia. No resolutions, local Acts, or uncodified "population Acts" have been included. The document also includes a table of Code sections amended and enacted at the 2016 session.

Minutely analyzing each statute would be impractical, because doing so would defeat the main purpose which we hope that this document accomplishes. It is intended to be used as a convenient reference for persons desiring to know which laws were enacted or to ascertain the main features of each Act without the necessity of reading the Act in its entirety.

For specific, detailed information on any particular law, the Act itself should be examined. Acts may be readily located in the Georgia Laws by Act number, since the Acts are published in the Georgia Laws in numerical order by Act number. In addition, the Georgia Laws contain a table for converting Act numbers to Georgia Laws page numbers.

This summary is not to be deemed in any manner as an opinion from the Office of Legislative Counsel, and the question of constitutionality has not been considered with respect to any Act.

We hope that this document will benefit all who have occasion to use it. Comments and suggestions for improvement are welcomed and should be directed to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Wayne R. Allen
Legislative Counsel

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The Acts in this summary are arranged according to the title of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated which they amend. In those cases in which an Act amends more than one Code title, the Act appears under only one of the affected titles. A table of titles appears below. No Acts are listed for those titles which are indicated by an asterisk. Click on the title or page number and it will take you to the designated title.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016 SESSION SUMMARY

HOUSE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2015 Session	451	39	7	2	34	5
Introduced during the 2016 Session	<u>458</u>	<u>195</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>7</u>
	909	234	16	3	222	12
Generals Passed.	135					
Locals Passed.	<u>99</u>					
Total Passed.	234	Sent to the Governor for approval. 234				

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2015 Session	92	0	0	0	0	0
Introduced during the 2016 Session	<u>993</u>	<u>887</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
	1085	887	4	1	3	0
Generals Adopted.	2					
Non-Privileged Adopted.	19					
Locals Adopted.	0					
Constitutional Amendment Adopted.	1					
Privileged Adopted.	<u>865</u>					
Total Adopted.	887	Sent to the Governor for approval. 3				

SENATE BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2015 Session	181	16	1	0	15	1
Introduced during the 2016 Session	<u>192</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>3</u>
	373	89	3	1	85	4
Generals Passed.	60					
Locals Passed.	<u>29</u>					
Total Passed.	89	Sent to the Governor for approval. 89				

SENATE RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
Pending from the 2015 Session	77	6	0	0	1	0
Introduced during the 2016 Session	<u>629</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
	706	566	5	2	5	0
Generals Adopted.	4					
Non-Privileged Adopted.	34					
Locals Adopted.	0					
Constitutional Amendment Adopted.	1					
Privileged Adopted.	<u>527</u>					
Total Adopted.	566	Sent to the Governor for approval. 5				



TOTAL BILLS	Introduced	Passed	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE BILLS.	909	234	16	3	222	12
SENATE BILLS.	<u>373</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES. ...	1282	323	19	4	307	16

Total number of Bills sent to the Governor for approval. 323

TOTAL RESOLUTIONS	Introduced	Adopted	Prefiled/ Hoppers	Unfav. Rept./ Lost/Withdrawn	Governor Signed	Governor Vetoed
HOUSE RESOLUTIONS.	1085	887	4	1	3	0
SENATE RESOLUTIONS.	<u>706</u>	<u>566</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL FOR BOTH HOUSES. ...	1791	1453	9	3	8	0

Total number of Resolutions sent to the Governor for approval.. . . . 8



**TITLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Act 625; HB 737

This Act makes extensive editorial amendments to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to correct typographical, stylistic, capitalization, punctuation, and other errors and omissions and reenacts the statutory portion of the Code as so amended.

Effective May 3, 2016.

**TITLE 2
AGRICULTURE**

Act 555; HB 1030

This Act revises the membership of the Georgia Seed Development Commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 2-4-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 4
ANIMALS**

Act 366; SB 184

This Act provides that any domestic dog that is registered with the American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club as a sporting breed group dog, hound breed group dog, or nonsporting breed group dog or that is of a breed used in the lawful pursuit of hunting in the state pursuant to Title 27, that is used during an established hunting season to aid an individual to pursue or hunt wildlife, and whose owner or other member of the household has a hunting permit from the Department of Natural Resources shall be classified as a hunting dog, and the owner of any such dog shall receive the same registration, licensing, or permitting fee from any local government as is available to owners of dogs which have been spayed or neutered.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 4-8-1.2.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 348; SB 356

This Act provides a definition of the term "owner" in relation to impoundment of animals. The Act provides for impoundment of animals for any violation of Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 and revises provisions relating to caring for impounded animals. The Act also modifies provisions regarding the circumstances under which an impounded animal may be returned to its owner and the disposal of impounded animals. The Act further creates a process and procedures

TITLE 4 (continued)

for a petition for recoupment of expenses of impoundment. The Act provides for the foreclosure of liens on animals.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 4-11-2, 4-11-9.2, 4-11-9.3, 4-11-9.5, 4-11-9.6, 4-13-5, and 15-10-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 4-11-9.8.

Effective April 26, 2016.

TITLE 7

BANKING AND FINANCE

Act 450; HB 811

This Act provides for efficient regulation of banks, trust companies, credit unions, merchant acquirer limited purpose banks, and the mortgage lending industry. The Act updates and eliminates certain provisions to comply with federal law and court decisions. The Act revises the powers and duties of the Department of Banking and Finance and deletes all appearances of and references to the term "building and loan associations."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-4, 7-1-10, 7-1-36, 7-1-42, 7-1-68, 7-1-77, 7-1-111, 7-1-192, 7-1-241, 7-1-289, 7-1-290, 7-1-293, 7-1-310, 7-1-353, 7-1-355, 7-1-370, 7-1-371, 7-1-372, 7-1-436, 7-1-441, 7-1-488, 7-1-530, 7-1-591, 7-1-592, 7-1-593, 7-1-600, 7-1-601 through 7-1-605, 7-1-607, 7-1-608, 7-1-611, 7-1-620, 7-1-621, 7-1-623, 7-1-624, 7-1-628, 7-1-628.1, 7-1-628.5, 7-1-628.6, 7-1-628.8, 7-1-628.9, 7-1-630, 7-1-650, 7-1-655, 7-1-669, 7-1-670, 7-1-680, 7-1-690, 7-1-740, 7-1-747, 7-1-758, 7-1-770, 7-1-777, 7-1-779, 7-1-780, 7-1-781, 7-1-783, 7-1-786 through 7-1-793, 7-1-795, 7-1-796, 7-1-840 through 7-1-843, 7-1-845, 7-1-911, 7-1-940, 7-1-947, 7-1-958, 7-1-1000 through 7-1-1002, 7-1-1003.5, 7-1-1003.6, 7-1-1004 through 7-1-1004.2, 7-1-1005, 7-1-1011, 7-1-1013, 7-1-1016, 7-2-11, and 7-3-6; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 7-1-11, 7-1-96, 7-1-97, 7-1-239.5, 7-1-594, 7-1-771, 7-1-772, 7-1-775, 7-1-776, 7-1-778, 7-1-782, 7-1-784, 7-1-785, and 7-1-797; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 7-9-5.1 through 7-9-5.4 and 7-9-11.1 through 7-9-11.8.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 9

CIVIL PRACTICE

Act 420; HB 513

This Act revises the procedure and requisites for a claim asserted against a person or entity arising from an act which could be construed as an act in furtherance of the right of freedom of speech so as to allow a motion to strike and provides for the consequences of such motion. The Act revises a definition and provides for exceptions. The Act allows for a direct appeal of an order or judgment entered on such claim or motion and corrects a cross-reference.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 5-6-34, 9-11-11.1, and 51-5-7.

TITLE 9 (continued)

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 10 COMMERCE AND TRADE

Act 434; HB 697

This Act requires solicitors to receive from consumers affirmative assent to continued receipt of certain merchandise following a free trial before a solicitor can charge consumers for such merchandise. The Act provides for the remedy for any violation of this code section.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-50.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 464; HB 871

This Act requires that the fee collected by the new motor vehicle dealer from the consumer at completion of a sale or execution of a lease of each new motor vehicle for implementation of the Georgia Lemon Law be forwarded to the Department of Law instead of the Office of Planning and Budget.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-791.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 472; HB 899

This Act revises and provides for responsibilities of cigarette importers and stamping agents. The Act provides for duties of the Attorney General and the revenue commissioner relative to enforcement of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. The Act provides for definitions. The Act clarifies applicability in conjunction with other provisions of law.

The Act redesignates O.C.G.A. Sections 10-13A-7 through 10-13A-9 as O.C.G.A. Sections 10-13A-8 through 10-13A-10; amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-13-2, 10-13-3, 10-13A-2 through 10-13A-6, 48-11-4, 48-11-6, and 48-11-9; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 10-13A-7.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 12 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Act 359; HB 1028

This Act requires the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill to provide notice to the governing authority of the jurisdiction within which the landfill is located in the event that certain solid waste releases occur and to publish the notice in the relevant county legal organ.

TITLE 12 (continued)

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-24.3.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 339; SB 346

This Act exempts certain department projects involving the construction or improvement of public roads or airports from requirements of the state “Environmental Policy Act” except when significant adverse impacts to historical sites or buildings and cultural resources are probable.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 12-16-9.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 13 CONTRACTS

Act 355; HB 943

This Act provides that agreements in connection with a contract for engineering, architectural, or land surveying services which require that one party indemnify, hold harmless, insure, or defend the other party to such contract against liability or claims for damages, losses, or expenses are against public policy and void and unenforceable, except for indemnification for damages, losses, or expenses to the extent caused by or resulting from negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the indemnitor or other persons employed or utilized by the indemnitor in the performance of the contract. The Act does not affect any obligation under workers' compensation or coverage or insurance specifically relating to workers' compensation, nor does it apply to any requirement that one party to the contract purchase a project specific insurance policy or project specific policy endorsement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 13-8-2.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 14 CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ASSOCIATIONS

Act 364; SB 128

This Act enacts reforms consistent with the Revised Model Business Corporation Act. The Act revises provisions relating to the functions, election, and terms of boards of directors. The Act also revises provisions relating to actions of such boards without meetings and committees of such boards. The Act further revises provisions relating to derivative actions, corporate officers and their functions, and resignation and removal of officers. The Act enacts provisions relating to business opportunities. The Act revises provisions relating to definitions, registered agents, and service of process.

TITLE 14 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 14-2-140, 14-2-501, 14-2-801, 14-2-803, 14-2-806, 14-2-821, 14-2-825, 14-2-831, 14-2-840, 14-2-841, 14-2-843, 14-2-859, 14-2-1507, 14-3-140, 14-3-501, 14-3-1507, 14-8-2, 14-8-46, 14-9-101, 14-9-902.1, 14-11-209, and 14-11-703 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 14-2-870.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 15 COURTS

Act 369; SB 262

This Act provides that a judge, judicial officer, grand juror, or trial juror may be disqualified from presiding or serving due to being related by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree to a party. The Act provides for electronic filing of documents in superior and state courts and changes provisions relating to electronic filing of documents in magistrate courts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-8, 15-6-11, 15-10-53, 15-12-70, and 15-12-135 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-7-5.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 605; HB 808

This Act creates a new Judicial Qualifications Commission and provides for its powers, procedures, confidentiality, composition, appointment of members, members' terms, and removal of members.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-1-19.

Effective January 1, 2017, if an amendment to the Constitution abolishing the existing Judicial Qualifications Commission is ratified by the voters in the November, 2016, state-wide general election.

Act 626; HB 927

This Act, known as the "Appellate Jurisdiction Reform Act of 2016," enacts recommendations of the Georgia Appellate Jurisdiction Review Commission and is divided into parts. Part I of the Act provides for qualifications for law assistants to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Part II of the Act provides the Court of Appeals with greater procedural flexibility in its decisional process. Part III of the Act transfers jurisdiction over certain appeals in civil cases from the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeals and makes conforming cross-references. Part IV of the Act adds two Justices to the Supreme Court of Georgia, provides for the appointment for these Justices, and changes provisions relating to reversals and affirmances. Part V of the Act changes provisions relating to the Supreme Court's terms of court.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 5-6-14, 5-7-1, 7-1-155, 9-6-1, 9-6-28, 15-2-1.1, 15-2-4, 15-2-10, 15-2-16, 15-2-19, 15-3-1, 15-3-9, 21-2-171, 21-2-528, 23-4-33, 31-14-8.2, 37-3-150,

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37-4-110, 37-7-150, 44-2-84, 44-2-103, 44-2-136, and 48-5-17 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 15-3-3.1.

Effective May 3, 2016, except that Part II of the Act is effective on July 1, 2016, Part III of the Act is effective on January 1, 2017, and shall apply to cases in which a notice of appeal is filed on or after such date, and Part IV of the Act is effective if appropriations are made in the 2016 appropriations Act, and if so it will be effective on July 1, 2016, for the purpose of making appointments and on January 1, 2017, for all other purposes. Otherwise, Part IV of the Act is repealed on July 1, 2016, if funds are not so appropriated. Part V of the Act is effective on December 5, 2016, and upon such date the December term of court shall begin as provided by the Act; provided, however, that the term of court which began on the first Monday in September, 2016, under the former provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 15-2-4 shall end on December 16, 2016.

Act 349; HB 804

This Act provides for an additional judge of the superior court for the Clayton Judicial Circuit. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-6-2.

Effective July 1, 2016, for purposes of appointing the judge whose term begins January 1, 2017.

Act 379; SB 332

This Act clarifies the judges and Justices who are exempt from various weapons carry laws and prohibitions. The Act provides for the issuance of and specifications for personal identification cards for certain judges and Justices who are exempt from such laws and prohibitions and provides for the duties of The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia with respect to issuing such identification cards.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-60 and 16-11-130 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 15-25.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 569; HB 1025

This Act allows local law to provide for alternative forms of the service of accusations of or citations for violations of ordinances under certain circumstances and the nature of the resulting judgment in such circumstances. The Act provides for conforming cross-references.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-10-62, 15-10-63, and 50-13-19.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 424; HB 555

This Act provides for the reporting of certain statistical information regarding juveniles seeking abortions without parental notice.

TITLE 15 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-11-64.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 350; HB 941

This Act provides for procedures for grand jury proceedings when a law enforcement officer is involved in an incident involving the use of deadly force that results in a serious bodily injury or death. The Act provides for definitions, disclosure of certain information, use of court reporters, and notification to law enforcement officers and repeals a population feature connected to grand juries.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-12-71, 15-12-74, 15-12-100, 17-7-52, 17-7-70.1, and 45-11-4 and repeals and reenacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-12-83 and 15-12-102.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 439; HB 759

This Act provides that certain activities by a financial institution shall not constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 15-19-52.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 449; HB 806

This Act transfers the Georgia Driver's Education Commission from the Department of Driver Services to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The Act extends the sunset applicable to penalties for violations of traffic laws or ordinances. The Act revises provisions applicable to the off-duty use of motor vehicles and equipment by certain law enforcement officers. The Act changes provisions applicable to the expiration of certain drivers' licenses and identification cards issued by the Department of Driver Services. The Act also provides for the result of late reporting of convictions and its effect on a driving record, revocation of a driver's license, and disqualification for a commercial driver's license.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-21-172, 15-21-179, 35-2-101, 40-5-32, 40-5-53, 40-5-100, 40-5-150, and 40-5-172; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 35-2-56 and 35-2-123; and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 35-2-15.

Effective April 26, 2016, except the amendment to O.C.G.A. Section 40-5-53, as set forth in Section 8 of the Act, shall become effective on January 1, 2017.

TITLE 16
CRIMES AND OFFENSES

Act 492; HB 979

This Act increases the potential punishment for aggravated assault or aggravated battery committed upon hospital emergency department personnel and emergency medical services personnel.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-5-21 and 16-5-24.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 518; SB 193

This Act changes the punishment for family violence battery under certain circumstances and provides a definition.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-5-23.1.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 441; HB 770

This Act provides for and changes definitions in connection with trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude so as to protect individuals with a developmental disability, changes punishment provisions for such offenses, and removes a potential defense to a charge of trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-5-46.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 484; HB 949

This Act changes provisions relating to the use of government purchasing cards and government credit cards. The Act provides for and changes definitions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-9-30 and 36-80-24.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 524; SB 270

This Act provides for a new crime when someone falsely represents himself or herself as being in the military, a military veteran, or a recipient of military decorations under certain circumstances and provides for definitions and punishment. The Act changes the crime of transmitting a false public alarm and its punishment. The Act allows for the commissioner of corrections to allow his or her chief of staff to issue escape warrants. The Act allows employees who leave the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to retain his or her board issued weapon and badge under certain circumstances. The Act increases the application fee for parolees seeking out-of-state transfer of parole supervision.

TITLE 16 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-10-28, 42-2-8, 42-9-9, and 42-9-90 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 16-9-63.

Effective May 3, 2016, provided that the commissioner's chief of staff, as provided in Section 3 of the Act, may only seek escape warrants on or after July 1, 2016.

Act 606; HB 874

This Act allows prosecuting attorneys a greater opportunity to prosecute street gang terrorism by providing for greater admissibility of evidence in connection with such prosecutions, allowing mandatory terms of imprisonment and otherwise increasing the punishment for certain acts of street gang terrorism, and providing for the admission of similar transaction evidence. The Act clarifies provisions relating to terroristic threats and acts and changes punishment provisions for such offenses. The Act allows for the commissioner of corrections to allow his or her chief of staff to issue escape warrants. The Act provides for mandatory terms of imprisonment and otherwise increases the punishment for providing certain prohibited items to an inmate.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-703, 16-11-37, 16-11-37.1, 16-15-4, 16-15-9, 42-2-8, and 42-5-18 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 24-4-418.

Effective May 3, 2016, provided that the commissioner's chief of staff, as provided in Section 7 of the Act, may only seek escape warrants on or after July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 8; HB 779

This Act provides for the regulation and use of unmanned aircraft systems and the gathering of evidence by such systems. The Act provides for definitions, exceptions, punishment, preemption, and a civil right of action. The Act also creates the Georgia Unmanned Vehicle Systems Commission.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-69 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 6-2-13 and Article 6 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 16-11.

Veto Number 12; HB 1060

This Act prohibits the discriminatory refusal to provide financial services to persons engaged in the commerce of firearms or ammunition and provides for definitions, a civil cause of action, and action by the Attorney General. The Act allows certain new state residents to carry a weapon for a period of time and to hunt and fish under certain circumstances. The Act allows exceptions for weapons carry license holders carrying a weapon into a place of worship. The Act allows the probate court judge to provide printed information on gun safety, prohibits such judges from suspending or extending the weapons carry license application period, and provides for replacement licenses for individuals who have had a legal name or address change. The Act allows for certain law enforcement officers to carry a handgun on or off duty anywhere in this state, including into courthouses under certain circumstances. The Act clarifies provisions relating to carrying a weapon or long gun into a commercial airport. The Act allows for

TITLE 16 (continued)

preservation of involuntary mental health hospitalization information to be maintained by the Georgia Crime Information Center and a judicial procedure for purging such information, including the right to de novo appeal to the superior court. The Act also provides for civil immunity for firearm instructors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-9-123, 16-11-126, 16-11-127, 16-11-127.1, 16-11-129, 16-11-130, 16-11-130.2, and 35-3-34 and enacts Part 7 of Article 15 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 10-1 and O.C.G.A. Section 51-1-55.

Act 616; HB 792

This Act allows individuals who are at least 18 years of age and enrolled in a class to carry and use an electroshock weapon in any building or real property owned by or leased to a public technical school, vocational school, college, university, or other public institution of postsecondary education and provides for a definition.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-127.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 9; HB 859

This Act allows individuals who hold a weapons carry license to carry a concealed handgun in any building or real property owned by or leased to a public technical school, vocational school, college, university, or other public institution of postsecondary education other than buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or student housing, including fraternity and sorority houses, and provides for definitions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-127.1.

Act 376; SB 316

This Act changes provisions relating to bingo to specify that numbers chosen by lot shall be chosen by a natural person physically located on the premises and removes the daily permissible prize limitation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-12-51 and 16-12-60.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 603; HB 783

This Act changes the definition of low THC oil, makes changes to the list of Schedules I and IV controlled substances and dangerous drugs, provides for restricted dangerous drugs, and provides for a penalty for violations relating to nonprescription injectable insulin.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-12-190, 16-13-25, 16-13-28, 16-13-71, and 16-13-79.

Effective May 3, 2016.

TITLE 16 (continued)

Act 392; HB 362

This Act changes provisions relating to possession of substances containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine and restrictions on sales of products containing pseudoephedrine and provides for real-time tracking of sales of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. The Act provides for definitions and revises provisions relating to exceptions.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 16-13-30.3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 354; HB 900

This Act authorizes the retention of electronic data base prescription information for two years and provides for delegates of prescribers and dispensers to access data base information under certain conditions. The Act revises language relating to subpoenas and search warrants and provides for accessing data base information for purposes of investigating potential abuse. The Act provides for the release of nonpatient specific data to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency for instructional, drug abuse prevention, and research purposes and limits liability of a dispenser or prescriber for damages in connection with receiving or using information obtained from the electronic data base.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 16-13-59, 16-13-60, and 16-13-63.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 18 DEBTOR AND CREDITOR

Act 325; SB 255

This Act modernizes, reorganizes, and provides constitutional protections in garnishment proceedings. The Act provides for definitions regarding same and for an affidavit and summons of garnishment, contents, and procedure for garnishments. The Act also provides for property being subject to and exempt from garnishment. The Act further provides for a garnishee's answer to a summons of garnishment, garnishee expenses, and a defendant's and third party's claim and plaintiff's traverse to a garnishment proceeding. The Act provides procedures for claims and traverses. The Act provides for default judgment and opening of default judgments. The Act provides for procedures only applicable to financial institutions. The Act provides for release of garnishment, continuing garnishments, and continuing garnishment for support of family members. The Act provides for and requires the use of certain forms for garnishment proceedings. The Act corrects cross-references.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 44-7-50 and 53-12-80 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 18-4-1 through 18-4-26, 18-4-40 through 18-4-43, 18-4-50 through 18-4-55, and 18-4-70 through 18-4-89.

Effective May 12, 2016.

TITLE 19
DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Act 337; HB 887

This Act provides for placement of children under certain circumstances. The Act prioritizes placement of a child with an adult relative or fictive kin when such individual is qualified to care for the child and such is in the child's best interests.

The Act creates a temporary power of attorney that delegates caregiving authority over a child to a kinship caregiver by enacting Article 5 of Chapter 9 of Title 19, the "Supporting and Strengthening Families Act." The Act also provides for procedures regarding such powers of attorney and the revocation, rescission, and termination of same.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-135, 15-11-146, 15-11-212, 15-11-321, and 19-3-37 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 19-9-140 through 19-9-151.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 333; HB 229

This Act changes provisions relating to grandparents' right of intervention in certain domestic relation cases. The Act also allows for intervention by great-grandparents and siblings of parents, provides definitions regarding same, and provides an evidentiary standard regarding same.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-7-3, 19-8-13, and 19-8-15.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 404; SB 64

This Act revises the defined term "legal father." The Act repeals voluntary acknowledgments of legitimation. The Act provides for and revises definitions regarding same. The Act clarifies provisions relating to judicial petitions for legitimation. The Act also provides for witnesses to the signing of acknowledgments of paternity and for access to signed acknowledgments of paternity and voluntary acknowledgments of legitimation. The Act also revises provisions relating to hospital programs for establishing paternity.

The Act further provides for the repeal of a certain power of attorney. The Act further revises provisions relating to vital records.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 19-7-22, 19-7-25, 19-7-27, 19-7-43, 19-7-46.1, 19-7-51, 19-8-1, 19-8-4, 19-8-5, 19-8-7, 19-8-9, 19-8-12, 31-10-25, and 31-10-26 and repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 19-7-21.1 and 19-9-140 through 19-9-151.

Effective July 1, 2016, provided that Section 15 of the Act shall become effective only if Article 5 of Chapter 9 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, as would be enacted by HB 887, as passed by the General Assembly during the 2016 legislative session, becomes law prior to the Act; otherwise, Section 15 of the Act shall not become effective.

TITLE 19 (continued)

Act 361; SB 331

This Act provides how causing a child to be conceived as a result of rape is involved in terminating parental rights. The Act revises the defined term "aggravated circumstances." The Act also provides that causing a child to be conceived as a result of rape is relevant in legitimation and adoption proceedings. The Act further provides for a stay of discovery under certain circumstances. The Act also revises provisions relating to a father making a sworn statement in order to inherit from his child.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-11-2, 19-7-22, 19-8-10, 19-8-11, and 53-2-4.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 541; HB 1070

This Act permits the Department of Human Services to utilize department records concerning adopted children and their parents in connection with placement of other children in the adoptive parents' home or in connection with investigating child abuse or neglect concerning the child's biological parents.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-8-23.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 362; HB 52

This Act changes provisions requiring parenting plans to be incorporated into final orders involving child custody.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 19-9-1.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 20 EDUCATION

Veto Number 6; HB 659

This Act provides for legislative intent on qualifications and motivation of board members for local school systems. The Act enacts the "Transparency in Education Act" which requires submission of a written analysis by any department, agency, or state official applying for a grant which would alter or establish education policy for public pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education to the General Assembly. The Act establishes a pilot program for the 2016-2017 school year to provide consolidated federal, state, and local funds by participating local school systems in order to support a school-wide program. The Act provides for accessibility to and publication of certain financial data of a local board of education and state charter school, including school level budget and expenditure data, certain data and audit reports, and certain tax revenues.

TITLE 20 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-49 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-1-11, 20-2-172, and 20-14-45 through 20-14-49.

Veto Number 11; HB 959

This Act expands actions by members of local boards of education which are not to be considered as conflicts of interest. The Act expands eligibility standards for the award of a high school diploma based upon dual credit coursework in an industry or job related skills requisite for a work force need. The Act provides for eligibility for the HOPE scholarship upon obtaining a high school diploma based upon postsecondary coursework. The Act exempts students who complete dual enrollment courses in certain subjects from taking end-of-course assessments for such courses. The Act authorizes the sharing of certain data by the Department of Education with the Office of Student Achievement. The Act authorizes the Department of Education to establish unique identifiers for children of military families. The Act provides for college and career academies to be established as charter schools or by contract for a strategic waivers school system or charter system. The Act revises methods by which a nonprofit corporation incorporated by the Office of Student Achievement may obtain real property.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-63, 20-2-149.2, 20-2-157, 20-2-161.2, 20-2-161.3, 20-2-210, 20-2-281, 20-2-326, 20-4-37, and 20-14-26.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-324.2.

Veto Number 14; SB 329

This Act expands provisions relating to awarding of high school diplomas based on certain dual credit coursework. The Act requires the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to consult with Georgia industry associations, the Georgia Department of Labor, and other state recognized work force industries and initiatives to determine the technical college certificate of credit programs that meet the requirements for industry and job related skills requisite for a work force need and ensure that such programs are instructionally rigorous, operate in accordance with industry standards, and provide quality training. The Act provides that students who earn high school diplomas based on postsecondary coursework meet the rigor requirements for HOPE scholarships. The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-149.2, 20-2-157, and 20-2-161.3.

Act 617; HB 801

This Act revises the course requirements for eligibility for the HOPE scholarship. The Act provides for weighted scores in certain coursework for purposes of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship. The Act requires a biennial report on high demand fields and associated work force shortages to the General Assembly by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and authorizes the establishment of a task force by the Governor. The Act revises certain definitions relative to the HOPE scholarship.

TITLE 20 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-157, 20-3-519, and 20-3-519.2.

Effective July 1, 2016, except for O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-519, which shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

Act 618; HB 879

This Act establishes a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. The Act provides for criteria upon which the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy may be awarded.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-159.5.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 613; SB 348

This Act provides for college and career academies as charter schools or as schools within a strategic waivers school system or charter system. The Act changes the definition of the term "college and career academy." The Act provides that a charter school, charter system, or strategic waivers school system contract establishing a college and career academy shall include provisions requiring that the college and career academy have a governing board reflective of the school community and the partnership with decision-making authority and requiring that the governing board members complete initial and annual governance training.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-161.2, 20-2-326, and 20-4-37.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 612; HB 65

This Act requires local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on a proposed annual operating budget. The Act provides requirements for notification of such meetings and accessibility to the proposed operating budget documents.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-167.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 614; HB 100

This Act provides for requirements relating to virtual instruction provided to students enrolled in a local school system other than the local school system in which the students reside. The Act provides for limitations on when virtual instruction may be provided to such students until June 30, 2019.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-167.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 20 (continued)

Act 523; HB 739

This Act converts the state recommendation process by the State Board of Education for instructional materials and content from mandatory to optional. The Act requires a review and recommendation process when the State Board of Education proposes instructional materials and content. The Act provides for a review and recommendation process for locally approved instructional materials and content beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. The Act removes a requirement that local school systems implement textbook adoptions from the state prescribed list within 18 months.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-168 and 20-2-1012 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-1017.

Effective July 1, 2016, except for O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-1017, which shall become effective on July 1, 2017.

Act 529; SB 364

This Act changes certain provisions relating to annual elementary and secondary school teacher, principal, and assistant principal evaluations. The Act also revises provisions relating to student assessments. The Act provides for mastery in reading by the end of third grade and mastery in basic math skills by the end of fifth grade. The Act provides for complaints as to procedural deficits in conducting evaluations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-210, 20-2-281, and 20-2-989.7.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 15; SB 355

This Act enacts the "Student Protection Act." The Act permits the State Board of Education or local school system to administer a standardized assessment, but not a make-up assessment, in a paper-and-pencil format to any student whose parent or guardian requests such format and to any student 18 years of age or older who requests such format. The Act ends punitive testing consequences for students related to federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments. The Act provides for alternative administrations of student assessments. The Act specifies parental and medical reasons to excuse students from participation in any federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments. The Act also provides guidance on how students are reported for failure to take federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-281 and 20-2-283 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-281.2.

Act 522; SB 309

This Act provides that high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an athletic association which prohibits religious expression on the clothing of student athletes or which

TITLE 20 (continued)

prohibits member schools from organizing and playing scrimmage matches, games, or other athletic competitions with nonmember schools.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-316.3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 528; HB 614

This Act provides for the placement of video monitoring cameras and equipment in self-contained special education classrooms upon approval by a local school system and with the approval of the Department of Education. The Act provides for requirements and purposes for placing such equipment in self-contained special education classrooms, guidelines for observation of recorded material, and development of evaluations of participating school systems or schools. The Act provides for methods and guidelines of funding for such video monitoring programs.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-324.2.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 525; HB 895

This Act provides for requirements for initial and annual training for boards of charter schools by the State Charter Schools Commission. The Act requires the State Board of Education to establish a charter schools financial management certification program for charter school leaders and personnel. The Act prohibits a charter school principal or its equivalent from serving simultaneously as the school's chief financial officer or its equivalent.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2072, 20-2-2083, and 20-2-2084 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-2073 and 20-2-2074.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 520; HB 54

This Act enacts the "Shawn Smiley Act" to provide for voluntary donations through state income tax returns and driver's license applications to fund undergraduate tuition grants to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, prison guards, and highway emergency response operators who were permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-3-316.2.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 621; HB 1072

This Act provides for eligibility for service cancelable educational loans to Georgia National Guard members who are eligible for the HOPE scholarship or HOPE grant.

TITLE 20 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-374.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 521; HB 798

This Act provides for eligibility for Zell Miller Scholarships for incoming freshman students. The Act revises the standardized test percentile base line score eligibility requirement for the awarding of HOPE scholarships for freshman students who graduated from an ineligible high school.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-519 and 20-3-519.2.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 610; SB 18

This Act provides that the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall maintain a policy by which institutions of the Technical College System of Georgia shall grant academic credit to active duty military or veteran students for college level learning acquired from military service prior to enrollment. The Act requires that training and experience obtained through military service shall be substantially related to the coursework for which any such academic credit is granted.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 20-4-38.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 21 ELECTIONS

Act 347; SB 199

This Act provides a definition of "campaign material." The Act revises qualifying times for municipal elections and provides for the reopening of such qualifications under certain conditions. The Act also revises the period of time for advance voting with regard to Saturday voting. The Act prohibits certain activities within close proximity to polling places. The Act revises certain provisions relating to punishment for ethics violations, disclosure reports relative to campaign contributions, filing of financial disclosure statements by public officers, candidates for public office, elected officials and members of the General Assembly, electronic filing, and transfer of filings from the Secretary of State to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. The Act revises definitions relative to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure. The Act changes certain provisions relating to registration required for lobbyists, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions. The Act authorizes counties and municipalities to provide by local law for district durational residency requirements.

TITLE 21 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 21-2-2, 21-2-132, 21-2-385, 21-2-414, 21-5-9, 21-5-34, 21-5-50, 21-5-70, 21-5-71, and 45-2-1.

Effective April 26, 2016.

Veto Number 5; HB 370

This Act provides a grace period for certain candidate and public officer disclosure filings. The Act provides for a waiver of fines, late fees, and penalties in certain cases. The Act provides for refund of previously paid fines, late fees, and penalties under certain circumstances. The Act provides for review of filings. The Act provides for certain forms and filing fees.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 21-5-7.2.

TITLE 22 EMINENT DOMAIN

Act 557; HB 1036

This Act establishes a temporary moratorium on the use of eminent domain for the construction of petroleum pipelines and creates an interim commission to study certain aspects of the power of eminent domain as it relates to pipelines.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 22-3-80 and 22-3-81; redesignates and amends O.C.G.A. Sections 22-3-82 through 22-3-87 as O.C.G.A. Sections 22-3-86 through 22-3-91; redesignates O.C.G.A. Section 22-3-88 as O.C.G.A. Section 22-3-95; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 22-3-82, 22-3-83, and 22-3-85.

Effective May 3, 2016.

TITLE 25 FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Act 330; HB 727

This Act revises requirements for the issuance of certificates of compliance for fire departments and expands the functions and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council. The Act revises the standard of compliance for consumer fireworks. The Act revises provisions relating to the sale, use, or ignition of consumer fireworks and revises the days, times, locations, situations, and circumstances in which consumer fireworks can be lawfully used or ignited. The Act expands enforcement and regulatory mechanisms of the Safety Fire Commissioner regarding fireworks and consumer fireworks and allows for further regulations by municipal corporations.

TITLE 25 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 25-3-22, 25-4-2, 25-4-7, 25-4-8, 25-10-1, 25-10-2, 25-10-3.2, 25-10-5.1, 25-10-6, 25-10-9, and 36-60-24 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 25-10-2.1, 25-10-11, and 25-10-12.

Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 367; SB 191

This Act changes provisions relating to notices that shall be given prior to blasting or excavating. The Act preempts any local ordinance or resolution on the issue of fines regarding certain requirements for marking of utility facilities.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 25-9-6 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 25-9-11.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 26

FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS

Act 451; HB 815

This Act provides for the inspection and regulation of certain avian meat products and facilities related to the processing of such products for human consumption. The Act removes an obsolete provision relating to enforcement responsibility.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-2-62, 26-2-64, and 26-2-106.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 620; HB 926

This Act provides for the licensure of outsourcing facilities and third-party logistics providers and for definitions regarding same. The Act revises provisions regarding the issuance and renewal of licenses and permits by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. The Act also provides for temporary pharmacy licenses for service members and the promulgation of rules regarding same. The Act further requires that compounding of drug products for use in a practitioner's office can only be conducted by outsourcing facilities to conform to federal law. The Act provides for interaction with out-of-state pharmaceutical firms. The Act establishes requirements relating to drug supply chain security. The Act revises a provision relating to the return of outdated drugs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 26-4-5, 26-4-28, 26-4-43, 26-4-86, 26-4-113, and 26-4-115.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 26 (continued)

Act 468; HB 886

This Act revises a provision relating to employing the mails or common carriers to sell, distribute, and deliver prescription drugs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-60.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 343; SB 402

This Act creates the State Commission on Narcotic Treatment Programs; provides for the membership, powers, duties, compensation, and allowances of the commission; and provides for the abolishment of the commission. The Act also provides for a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new applications for licensure of narcotic treatment programs for a certain period and provides for exceptions and legislative findings regarding same.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 26-5-21.

Effective June 1, 2016.

TITLE 27 GAME AND FISH

Act 456; HB 840

This Act updates general provisions relating to rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources used to establish criminal violations, revises the definition of "feral hog," and establishes a wildlife exhibition permit for use by the film industry.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-2-2, 27-1-2, 27-1-39, and 27-2-23 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-13.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 29 GUARDIAN AND WARD

Act 486; HB 954

This Act repeals various provisions for the procedure and transfer of a guardianship and transfer of a conservatorship. The Act enacts the "Uniform Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings Jurisdiction Act." The Act provides for definitions, applicability, taking of testimony, notice of proceedings, communications between courts, jurisdiction, and special jurisdiction regarding adult guardianship and conservatorship. The Act provides for the petition to transfer a guardianship or conservatorship and registration of such orders.

TITLE 29 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 29-4-95 and 29-5-135; repeals O.C.G.A. Sections 29-4-85 through 29-4-88, 29-4-90 through 29-4-94, 29-5-125 through 29-5-128, and 29-5-130 through 29-5-134; and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 29-11-1 through 29-11-6, 29-11-10 through 29-11-18, 29-11-20, 29-11-21, 29-11-30 through 29-11-32, and 29-11-40 through 29-11-42.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 30 HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Act 519; HB 768

This Act enacts the "Georgia Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act." The Act authorizes the establishment of a qualified ABLE program to encourage and assist the saving of private funds in tax-exempt accounts in order to pay for the qualified disability expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities. The Act creates the Georgia ABLE Program Corporation and provides for a board of directors and its membership, powers, duties, and administration. The Act provides for tax treatment of withdrawals from ABLE accounts.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-27 and 50-13-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 30-9.
Effective May 3, 2016.

TITLE 31 HEALTH

Act 570; SB 305

This Act provides that the Department of Public Health shall notify the chairpersons and each member of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee at least 60 days prior to implementing any modification of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-1-14.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 353; HB 1037

This Act requires that the certified nurse aide registry established and maintained by the Department of Community Health include nurse aides who provide services in temporary or permanent private residences.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-2-14.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 31 (continued)

Act 360; SB 308

This Act establishes the Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program and provides for the awarding of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide pregnancy support services.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-2A and O.C.G.A. Sections 31-8-154 and 31-8-156.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 467; HB 885

This Act repeals the option for certain counties to create a county board of health and wellness by ordinance.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Section 31-3-2.1.

Effective April 27, 2016; provided, however, that for certain county boards of health and wellness established by county ordinance, the members of such boards shall remain in office and such boards shall remain in existence until a county board of health is constituted pursuant to Code Section 31-3-2 or until June 30, 2017, whichever occurs first.

Act 476; HB 920

This Act restricts civil actions against certain parties involved in nursing homes and intermediate care homes. The Act requires insurance or self-insurance trusts as a condition precedent to obtaining or maintaining a permit to operate a nursing home or intermediate care home.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-7-3.3 and 31-7-3.4.

Effective July 1, 2016, and applies to any claim filed on or after July 1, 2016.

Act 473; HB 902

This Act requires assisted living communities to annually provide to all residents educational information on influenza disease.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 31-7-21.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 342; HB 509

This Act creates the Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council and a state-wide Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program within the Department of Community Health.

The Act amends Article 10 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-7.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 31 (continued)

Act 345; SB 258

This Act creates a tax credit for contributions to rural hospital organizations. The Act clarifies persons who may be issued a free license plate and revalidation decals as a disabled veteran. The Act provides requirements on how the assessed value of property may be appealed from amounts determined by the county board of tax assessors.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-69, 48-5-48, 48-5-299, 48-5-311, and 48-5-478 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 31-8-9.1 and 48-7-29.20.

Effective April 26, 2016, and Sections 1 and 7 shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

Act 471; HB 897

This Act requires the Department of Public Health to establish a drug repository program to accept and dispense over-the-counter and prescription drugs donated for the purpose of being dispensed to eligible patients.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-4-152.5, repeals Article 11 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 26-4, and enacts Article 10 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-8.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 459; HB 853

This Act revises the "Coverdell-Murphy Act" to update the current system of levels of certified stroke centers to reflect advances in stroke treatment and therapy.

The Act amends Article 6 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-11.

Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 615; HB 775

This Act revises and provides for restrictions on the sale and dispensing of contact lenses and spectacles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-12-12.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 568; HB 1058

This Act revises provisions relating to prevention and testing for HIV and AIDS and HIV pregnancy screening. The Act provides for consent to medical treatment by a minor at risk of HIV and eliminates the requirement that the Department of Public Health develop AIDS and HIV counseling brochures. The Act revises provisions relating to the exposure of a health care provider to a potentially HIV infected person and provides that disclosure to a parent or legal guardian of a minor's AIDS confidential information is permissive rather than mandatory.

TITLE 31 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 24-12-21, 31-17-4.2, 31-17-7, 31-22-9.1, and 31-22-9.2.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 406; SB 273

This Act excludes certain nondiagnostic laboratories from state licensure as a clinical laboratory.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 31-22-1.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 475; HB 910

This Act provides that the party requesting a patient's psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records from a provider shall be responsible to the provider for the costs of copying and mailing the patient's records.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-33-3 and 31-33-4.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 4; HB 219

This Act exempts swimming pools that are part of a condominium association or townhome from certain regulatory requirements, authorizes inspection requests to the county board of health by residents or owners, and allows such pools to be governed in accordance with state law rather than local ordinances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 31-45-3, 31-45-12, and 31-45-13.

Act 422; HB 34

This Act enacts the "Georgia Right to Try Act." The Act allows patients with terminal illnesses to use potentially life-saving investigational drugs, biological products, and devices. The Act allows manufacturers to make investigational drugs available. The Act does not require a health benefit plan or government agency to provide coverage for the cost of any investigational drug, biological product, or device pursuant to the Act.

The Act repeals O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-38 and enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 31-52.
Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 32
HIGHWAYS**

Act 340; SB 307

This Act provides for a definition of "multiple media display" and allows such types of devices to be used for commercial advertisements by a transit agency in transit vehicles, transit facilities, and bus shelters. The Act also provides for an exemption for such displays from spacing requirements of other outdoor advertising.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 32-6-51.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 16; SB 383

This Act provides that an agritourism facility with a legal outdoor advertising sign may apply for and obtain a permit from the Department of Transportation for trimming trees and clearing vegetation around such sign and within the state's right of way. The Act provides a definition for "agritourism facility."

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 32-6-75.4.

**TITLE 33
INSURANCE**

Act 466; HB 884

This Act eliminates the foreign and alien insurer deposit requirement of securities eligible for the investment of capital funds in certain amounts at the discretion of the Commissioner and revises the definition of company action level event to include a health organization with certain total adjusted capital levels.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-3-9 and 33-56-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 444; HB 784

This Act provides that insurers and insurance producers may advertise or conduct certain promotional programs whereby certain items not to exceed \$100.00 may be provided per customer and shall not be considered an unfair trade practice or an unlawful inducement.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-6-4 and 33-9-36.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 607; HB 883

This Act changes certain provisions relating to insurers rehabilitation and liquidation in regard to reciprocal states and domiciliary liquidators in order to update Georgia's insurance law and

TITLE 33 (continued)

updates the standard valuation law as it relates to the reserve requirements of companies allowed to opt out of the principal based reserves standards.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 33-10-13, 33-37-3, 33-37-50, 33-37-51, 33-37-52, 33-37-54, 33-37-55, and 33-37-57.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 407; SB 158

This Act provides for certain health care provider network restrictions and requirements, definitions, registration of rental preferred provider networks with the Commissioner, rental preferred provider restrictions, applicability, and penalties.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 20C of Title 33.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 341; SB 302

This Act requires certain insurers to maintain accurate provider directories and certain information and provides for definitions, electronic and printed provider directories, and exemptions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Chapter 20C of Title 33.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 374; SB 290

This Act revises the licensing provisions to clarify that an attorney at law and certain salaried employees are not required to be licensed as an insurance agent.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-23-4.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 489; HB 965

This Act provides that no health benefit plan shall require an insured to fail to successfully respond to a drug or drugs for stage four advanced, metastatic cancer prior to the approval of a drug or drugs prescribed by his or her physician and provides for definitions, a short title, and legislative findings.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-24-59.20.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 357; HB 193

This Act provides that an insurer shall not terminate or otherwise penalize an agent for apprising a policy owner of alternatives to a lapse or surrender of an individual life insurance policy.

TITLE 33 (continued)

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 33-25-15.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 365; SB 137

This Act expands the ownership restriction as it relates to the application of the value of property covered against loss by fire to any legal entity wholly owned by a natural person or persons.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-32-5.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 611; SB 347

This Act provides for extensive changes to the captive insurance company provisions, the creation and regulation of different types of captive insurance companies, certain exemptions, certain requirements, and regulation by the Commissioner.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Chapter 41 of Title 33.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 461; HB 866

This Act exempts multiple employer self-insured health plans from premium taxes.
The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 33-50-3.
Effective April 27, 2016.

TITLE 34 LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Act 526; SB 277

This Act enacts the "Protecting Georgia Small Businesses Act" and provides that neither a franchisee nor a franchisee's employee shall be deemed to be an employee of the franchisor for any purpose. The Act specifies that such provision shall not apply to Chapter 9 of Title 34, relating to workers' compensation.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-1-9.
Effective January 1, 2017.

Act 474; HB 904

This Act authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to submit to and receive from the state revenue commissioner certain information related to persons paying into or receiving funds from the

TITLE 34 (continued)

Unemployment Trust Fund. The Act provides penalties for the unlawful divulging of confidential tax information received under the authority of this Act.

The Act provides a rate of employer contributions for the periods on or after January 1, 2017, but on or before December 31, 2022. The Act extends certain provisions relating to variations in the standard rate from December 31, 2016, to December 31, 2022. The Act also establishes the administrative assessment to be paid for the periods on or after January 1, 2017, but on or before December 31, 2022. The Act extends the provision relating to automatic repeal of Article 6 of Chapter 8 of Title 34, relating to administrative assessments, from December 31, 2016, until January 1, 2023.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-8-151, 34-8-155, 34-8-180, 34-8-181, and 34-8-185 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 34-8-130.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 356; HB 402

This Act provides for an optional reduction in workers' compensation premiums up to 5 percent for employers that provide work based learning opportunities for students age 16 and older. The Act provides legislative findings. The Act provides that work based learning students in a work based learning placement for an employer shall be deemed employees of such employer for purposes of workers' compensation coverage except in certain circumstances. The Act establishes requirements for employers providing work based learning.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 33-9-40.3, 34-9-2.4, and 34-9-430 through 34-9-432.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 402; HB 818

This Act changes certain provisions affecting workers' compensation. The Act provides that administrative law judges are subject to the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct. The Act requires an employer to provide the State Board of Workers' Compensation with sufficient information for the board to make an adequate assessment of the employer's workers' compensation exposure and liabilities and to further provide evidence satisfactory to the board of such employer's financial ability to pay the compensation directly in the amount and manner and when due.

The Act increases the compensation benefits for total disability and temporary partial disability. The Act also increases the total compensation payable to a surviving spouse as a sole dependent at the time of death and where there are no other dependents.

The Act changes certain provisions related to the purpose, definitions, participants, liabilities, and the board of trustees of the Self-Insurers Guaranty Trust Fund.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 34-9-47, 34-9-121, 34-9-261, 34-9-262, 34-9-265, 34-9-380 through 34-9-382, and 34-9-384 through 34-9-388.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 34 (continued)

Veto Number 3; HB 216

This Act allows a firefighter seeking compensation for an occupational disease to show by a preponderance of the evidence, which shall include medical evidence, that the cancer, which is otherwise considered an ordinary disease of life, is attributable to the firefighter's performance of his or her duties as a firefighter.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 34-9-280.

**TITLE 35
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES**

Act 338; SB 304

This Act enacts the "Compassionate Care for Victims of Sexual Assault Act." The Act provides requirements for submitting certain evidence from a forensic medical examination to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-1-2.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 609; SB 263

This Act allows boards of education and governing authorities of municipalities and counties to adopt policies for sworn officers who are P.O.S.T. certified to retain their weapon and badge upon retirement or upon leaving employment as a result of a disability arising in the line of duty.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 35-1-20.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 372; SB 279

This Act adds the commissioner of juvenile justice and the commissioner of natural resources as voting members of the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 35-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 36
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Act 624; SB 420

This Act requires referendum approval prior to expenditure of public funds for establishment of a fixed guideway transit system in any county that is a mass transportation regional system

TITLE 36 (continued)

participant. The Act provides definitions, ballot language, and applicability regarding such referenda.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-1-27.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 458; HB 851

This Act revises the procedure for collecting law library fees, the composition of boards of trustees of law libraries, and the uses of excess funds by county law libraries. The Act also requires an annual audit of the financial affairs, books, and records of boards of trustees of county law libraries and provides for publication of such audits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-77, 36-15-1, 36-15-7, and 36-15-9 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-15-13.
Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 433; HB 691

This Act provides for a minimum term for municipal court judges and for agreements regarding same. The Act also provides for the removal of appointed municipal court judges under certain circumstances and for a procedure regarding same.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-32-2 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 36-32-2.2.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 368; SB 206

This Act revises provisions related to a water supplier's cut off of water to a premises because of indebtedness of a prior owner or tenant. The Act provides a procedure for closing attorneys and lenders to obtain information regarding moneys owed for water supplied to certain real property under certain circumstances, as well as an exception regarding same.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-60-17.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 352; SB 275

This Act prohibits local boards of education from adopting or following any code of ethics that prevents the members of the board from discussing freely the policies and actions of such board outside of a board meeting and provides exceptions regarding same.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 36-80-1.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 36 (continued)

Act 370; SB 269

This Act requires local governing bodies to provide certain entities with a certification of compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 36-80-23, regarding the prohibition on immigration sanctuary policies by local governments, as a condition of funding. The Act also provides for such reporting in relation to O.C.G.A. Section 50-36-4, regarding annual immigration compliance reports.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 36-80-23 and 50-36-4.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 37 MENTAL HEALTH

Act 405; SB 271

This Act provides for reasonable standards for providing persons with mental illness and their representatives notice of their rights upon each such person's admission to an emergency receiving facility. The Act provides procedures for the continued involuntary hospitalization of a person who has mental illness when a discharge has been planned but is determined to be unsafe. The Act changes the time frame for certain notices related to the procedure for continued involuntary hospitalization. The Act provides for a reasonable standard for diligent efforts to secure the names of a person's representatives.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-3-44, 37-3-83, and 37-3-147.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 38 MILITARY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Act 454; HB 831

This Act provides to employees of both private and public employers certain employment rights and benefits for periods of certain state-sponsored active duty as part of the National Guard of another state.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 38-2-280.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 335; SB 416

This Act renames the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency. The Act renames the director of emergency management to the director of emergency management and homeland security. The Act

TITLE 38 (continued)

establishes the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center within the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and provides for a fusion center.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 12-5-30.4, 12-5-204, 20-2-1185, 31-12-2.1, 38-3-20, 38-3-22, 38-3-22.1, 38-3-27, 38-3-50, 38-3-57, 38-3-140, 38-3-141, 38-3-142, 38-3-143, 38-3-144, 38-3-151, 40-1-23, 46-5-122, 48-2-100, 48-7-29.4, 48-8-13, and 51-1-50 and enacts Article 9 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 35-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 403; SB 230

This Act enacts the "Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act." The Act provides for regulation of volunteer health services and veterinary services during an emergency. The Act provides for recognition of a health practitioner who provides health services or veterinary services in other states.

The Act enacts Article 11 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 38-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 40 MOTOR VEHICLES

Act 437; HB 747

This Act updates the date applicable to the definition of "present regulations" for purposes of the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-8.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 573; SB 320

This Act clarifies the inspection requirements of limousine carriers. The Act provides for the registration, operating standards, insurance requirements, and vehicle inspections of taxi service providers. The Act provides for an exemption to driver's licensing requirements for a nonresident with a valid driver's license from a foreign country and allows for verification of validity of such license by a law enforcement officer through inspection of a passport or visa. The Act removes proof of liability insurance as a requirement for obtaining a for-hire license endorsement. The Act provides for enhanced penalties for a second or subsequent conviction of soliciting prospective students for a driver improvement clinic or DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program through the use of items with monetary value.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-1-154, 40-5-21, 40-5-39, and 40-5-81 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 40-1-193.1.

Effective January 1, 2017.

TITLE 40 (continued)

Act 595; HB 862

This Act clarifies the definition of disabled veteran for purposes of qualifying for a free license plate and revalidation decal, homestead exemption, and exemption from ad valorem taxation for ownership or lease of a motor vehicle.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-69, 48-5-48, and 48-5-478.
Effective May 3, 2016.

Act 331; HB 736

This Act establishes a special and distinctive license plate for Soldier's Medal recipients; women veterans; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Hampton University; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; the support of the law enforcement division of the Department of Natural Resources; the promotion of marine habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement; and the promotion of dog and cat sterilization. The Act extends eligibility for special and distinctive license plates to the spouse of a veteran when no motor vehicle is registered in the name of the eligible veteran.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-2-85.1 and 40-2-86.
Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 408; HB 205

This Act amends the standards for issuance, revocation, and limitations on use of a limited driving permit. The Act provides for the issuance of an ignition interlock device limited driving permit for certain persons arrested or convicted of driving under the influence. The Act provides for issuance, standards of approval, duration, fees, conditions on use, revocation standards, penalties, and other requirements for ignition interlock device limited driving permits. The Act requires submission of a report from the Department of Driver Services to the General Assembly on the number of ignition interlock device limited driving permits issued. The Act extends the time period for a temporary driving permit issued by an officer to a person charged with driving under the influence. The Act extends the time frame for requesting a hearing to challenge a driver's license suspension or disqualification from driving a commercial vehicle and provides for an automatic waiver of such hearing in certain instances. The Act provides for the revocation of an ignition interlock device limited driving permit and deletion of a driving suspension record only in certain instances. The Act provides for required time frames for maintenance of an ignition interlock device on a vehicle by an ignition interlock device limited driving permit holder. The Act provides for conditions for issuing and maintaining an ignition interlock device and corrects cross-references.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-22, 40-5-39, 40-5-63, 40-5-64, 40-5-66, 40-5-67 through 40-5-67.2, 40-5-76, and 42-8-110 through 42-8-112 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-5-64.1, 40-5-64.2, and 42-8-110.1.

Effective July 1, 2017.

TITLE 40 (continued)

Act 326; HB 767

This Act provides for a procedure for passing stationary utility service vehicles and penalties for failure to comply with such procedure. The Act defines "utility service vehicle" and "utility services."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-16.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 443; HB 777

This Act allows a school bus driver to use a cellular telephone while a school bus is in motion when such device is used in a manner similar to a two-way radio to communicate with school officials or public safety officials.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-165.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 425; HB 579

This Act allows for the operation of all terrain vehicles and personal transportation vehicles on any public road by a farmer to transport agricultural products, livestock, farm equipment, or farm supplies. The Act allows a municipality to prohibit or limit the use of such operations if it would pose a danger to the traveling public.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 40-6-305 through 40-6-307.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 334; HB 166

This Act increases the maximum handlebar height on motorcycles from 15 inches to 25 inches.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 40-6-314.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 42

PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Act 460; SB 367

This Act provides for comprehensive reform for offenders entering, proceeding through, and leaving the criminal justice system. This Act expands accountability courts and pretrial intervention and diversion programs. The Act provides for students incarcerated in Department of Corrections facilities or incarcerated or committed to Department of Juvenile Justice facilities to receive educational services through a state charter school. The Act revises matters and procedures related to school discipline and the regaining of driving privileges. The Act clarifies

TITLE 42 (continued)

the responsibilities of, and provides for reorganization within, the Board of Community Supervision and Department of Community Supervision. The Act revises first offender treatment and record restriction and changes provisions relating to misdemeanor probation services. The Act revises the State Board of Pardons and Parole's authority regarding certain drug or alcohol offenders. The Act revises requirements for professional licensing boards to consider certain factors relating to felonies before denying a license to an applicant or revoking a license. The Act revises eligibility for food stamps under certain circumstances. The Act provides for rules and regulations governing the transfer of probation supervision of certain juvenile offenders.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-393.5, 15-1-18, 15-11-11, 15-11-15, 15-11-505, 15-11-710, 15-18-80, 15-21-100, 15-21-101, 16-8-14, 16-8-14.1, 16-11-131, 16-11-135, 17-7-32, 17-10-1, 17-10-3, 20-2-133, 20-2-759, 20-2-1181, 20-2-2090, 20-2-2114, 35-3-33, 35-3-34, 35-3-34.1, 35-3-35, 35-3-36, 35-3-37, 40-5-22.1, 40-5-61, 40-5-62, 40-5-63, 40-5-64, 40-5-75, 40-5-76, 40-5-121, 42-1-14, 42-2-5.1, 42-2-11, 42-2-15, 42-3-2, 42-3-3, 42-3-5, 42-3-6, 42-3-7, 42-8-34, 42-8-34.1, 42-8-35.5, 42-8-36, 42-8-60, 42-8-62, 42-8-63, 42-8-63.1, 42-8-65, 42-8-66, 42-8-100, 42-8-101, 42-8-102, 42-8-103, 42-8-105, 42-8-106, 42-8-107, 42-8-108, 42-8-109.2, 42-8-109.3, 42-8-109.4, 42-8-111, 42-9-45, 43-1-19, 49-4A-2, and 49-4A-12, and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 15-1-19, 15-1-20, 15-11-70, 20-2-2084.1, 20-2-1183, 40-5-9, 42-3-10, 42-8-62.1, 42-8-103.1, 42-8-106.1, and 49-4-22, and repeals Article 2 of O.C.G.A. Chapter 42-3.

Effective July 1, 2016, except for Part IX of the Act, which is effective on April 27, 2016.

TITLE 43 PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES

Act 452; HB 821

This Act enacts the "Military Spouses and Veterans Licensure Act" and requires professional licensing boards and other boards to adopt rules and regulations implementing a process by which military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination thereof for each profession, business, or trade for which a license is issued. The Act provides for definitions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-1-34.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 485; HB 952

This Act enacts the "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act" in response to *N.C. State Bd. of Dental Exam'rs v. FTC*, 135 S. Ct. 1101 (2015), in which the Supreme Court of the United States established a new standard for determining whether state professional licensing boards and board members are entitled to immunity for federal antitrust violations. The Act provides for legislative intent and executive oversight of professional licensing boards through the Governor or his or her designee. The Act authorizes and establishes the duty of the Governor or

TITLE 43 (continued)

his or her designee to actively supervise the professional licensing boards of this state to ensure that their actions are consistent with clearly articulated state policy. The Act provides for definitions.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 43-1C-1 through 43-1C-3.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 377; SB 319

This Act provides that professional counseling includes diagnosing emotional and mental problems and conditions. The Act provides for legislative findings and intent. The Act revises certain definitions. The Act clarifies that persons licensed as professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists are not authorized to conduct psychological testing. The Act provides for a curriculum of continuing education relating to diagnosing. The Act also provides for the establishment of rules and regulations regarding testing conducted by licensed professional counselors and clarifies that psychological testing is part of the practice of psychology. The Act specifies that certain licensed persons are able to perform certain tests other than psychological testing.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 37-1-1, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-16, 43-10A-22, 43-39-1, and 43-39-7.

Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 429; HB 649

The Act enacts the "Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act" and requires licensure of lactation consultants. The Act provides for legislative findings and definitions. The Act creates, within the office of the Secretary of State, a Lactation Consultant Advisory Group consisting of five members appointed by the Secretary of State or his or her designee. The Act provides for licensure application and qualifications, as well as license renewal, revocation, suspension, denial, or refusal, and sanctions. The Act also provides for statutory construction.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 43-22A-1 through 43-22A-13.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 332; HB 1043

This Act provides certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representations of board certification by physicians.

The Act changes certain provisions relating to vaccine protocol agreements. The Act requires the pharmacist or nurse to take an appropriate case history of a vaccine recipient. The Act provides that any activities conducted by a hospital or health system for the administration of the influenza vaccine are not subject to certain requirements if certain conditions are met. The Act defines the term "health system."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-26.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 43-34-22.1.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 43 (continued)

Act 463; HB 869

This Act changes certain provisions relating to the responsibilities of brokers and qualifying brokers to review certain documents relating to buying, selling, leasing, or exchanging real property. The Act also changes certain provisions relating to actions of salespersons, associate brokers, or brokers that constitute unfair trade practices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 43-40-18 and 43-40-25.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 448; HB 800

This Act clarifies the scope of the veterinarian-client-patient relationship by changing the definition of such term.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 43-50-3.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 44 PROPERTY

Act 351; HB 1004

This Act revises the requirements, procedures, and certifications necessary for the filing of maps, plats, and plans in superior court and provides for electronic recording and access to maps, plats, plans, and other real estate instruments.

This Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 15-6-67, 15-6-68, 44-2-2, 44-2-25, 44-2-26, 44-2-27, 44-2-28, 44-2-237, 44-3-74, and 44-13-13.
Effective January 1, 2017.

TITLE 45 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Act 601; HB 73

This Act authorizes counties and municipalities, by local law, to provide for district residency requirements of up to 12 months with regard to candidates running for certain local offices.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-2-1.
Effective May 3, 2016.

TITLE 45 (continued)

Act 373; SB 283

This Act authorizes multibank pooling of depositories for the acceptance of public funds from public bodies.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 45-8-1, 45-8-12, 45-8-13, and 45-8-13.1.

Effective April 26, 2016, for purposes of promulgating rules and regulations and effective on July 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

TITLE 47 RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS

Act 400; HB 421

This Act provides that community supervision officers employed by the Department of Community Supervision and who are contributing members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia are eligible for certain disability retirement allowances and supplemental monthly benefits payable for certain disabilities incurred in the line of duty.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-221.

Effective July 1, 2016, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2016, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 432; HB 690

This Act provides that certain law enforcement officers who have been members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia for at least ten years may receive creditable service in such retirement system for service to a local government as a full-time law enforcement officer when such an individual was not eligible for a defined contribution retirement or pension plan during such service and pays the full actuarial value of obtaining such creditable service. The Act provides for applicability. The Act provides for a definition.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-2-226.

Effective July 1, 2016, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2016, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 381; SB 336

This Act modifies the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System by permitting governing bodies of municipal corporations to enact plans or join a master plan by resolution in addition to ordinance. The Act provides that, in the instance of purchasing additional service credit in a

TITLE 47 (continued)

plan or master plan, employee contributions may exceed a certain value of an employee's benefit at the time of the commencement of benefits. The Act provides that the valuation of benefits under a defined benefit plan shall be made in accordance with certain actuarial assumptions within a plan or master plan. The Act expands eligibility to join master plans to employers with 16 or more eligible employees. The Act removes the authority for a municipal corporation to designate a board of trustees for a master plan.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-5-40 and 47-5-41.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 457; HB 844

This Act amends provisions relating to the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund by updating certain language relating to determining which insurance premiums are subject to taxation related to the fund. The Act provides that the venue for any action brought in superior court against the fund or the board of the fund shall be in the superior court of the board's county of domicile.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-7-61 and 47-7-124.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 427; HB 635

This Act increases the number of years of required contributions that members of the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund must make from 20 to 30 years, while increasing the maximum payable benefit from 100 percent to 150 percent of a member's average monthly net earnings. The Act also permits any active member as of July 1, 2016, to purchase creditable service at full actuarial cost for service in excess of 20 years, but not more than 30 years. The Act provides for the application and payment of benefits.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-11-40 and 47-11-71 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-11-43.

Effective July 1, 2016, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2016, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

Act 380; SB 335

This Act amends the "Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law" by permitting investments in commingled funds and collective investment funds that are maintained by state chartered banks or trust companies.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-20-83.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 47 (continued)

Veto Number 13; SB 243

This Act permits certain persons employed by the Office of Legislative Counsel in a full-time position requiring admission to the State Bar of Georgia as a condition of employment to make an irrevocable election to transfer their membership from the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia to the Georgia Judicial Retirement System by December 31, 2016, or within 90 days after becoming employed in such position, whichever date is later.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 47-23-43 and 47-23-100 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-43.1.

Act 426; HB 605

This Act provides that members of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System who were serving in a full-time position upon their retirement may use certain prior part-time service in a covered position for vesting of benefits in an amount determined by a certain ratio.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 47-23-63.

Effective July 1, 2016, only if it is determined to have been concurrently funded as provided in Chapter 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the "Public Retirement Systems Standards Law"; otherwise, this Act shall not become effective and shall be automatically repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2016, as required by subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-50.

TITLE 48 REVENUE AND TAXATION

Act 313; HB 742

This Act defines the terms "Internal Revenue Code" and "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" in order to incorporate certain provisions of the federal law into Georgia law. The Act changes certain dates for partnerships and corporations other than Georgia Subchapter "S" corporations. The Act clarifies certain provisions relating to statements of wages paid. The Act changes certain dates and clarifies provisions relating to annual and final compensation returns.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-1-2, 48-7-56, 48-7-80, 48-7-105, 48-7-106, 48-13-77, and 48-13-78.

Effective February 23, 2016. Section 1 of the Act shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015. Sections 2, 3, 6, and 7 of the Act shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

Act 488; HB 960

This Act provides for the confidentiality of certain tax information. The Act provides for an interest rate on delinquent payments that adjusts to reflect changes in the prime rate. The Act adjusts the penalties for nonpayment of ad valorem taxes to offset the reduction in interest rate.

TITLE 48 (continued)

The Act provides for the distribution of certain penalties between taxing jurisdictions. The Act provides for notice to political subdivisions upon the filing of certain tax refund requests. The Act provides for the automatic transfer of certain matters involving tax refund requests to the Georgia Tax Tribunal. The Act provides that the Georgia Tax Tribunal shall make certain determinations and take certain actions on matters related to certain claims for tax refunds and may award attorneys' fees in certain cases.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-2-15, 48-2-35, 48-2-40, and 48-2-44 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-13A-19.1.

Effective July 1, 2016. The new penalty and interest rates provided in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act shall apply to penalties and interest accrued on or after the effective date of this Act. The new notification requirement and the automatic transfer to the Georgia Tax Tribunal requirement contained in Section 2 of this Act, regarding a refund claim of local significance, shall apply to claims for refund received by the department on or after the effective date of this Act.

Act 600; HB 51

This Act modifies the payment amount required for the redemption of real property sold for taxes.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-4-40 and 48-4-42.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 571; SB 379

This Act modifies the payment amount required for the redemption of real property sold for taxes. The Act provides for the distribution of certain proceeds of the alternative ad valorem tax on motor vehicles to a water and sewerage authority under certain conditions. The Act provides a tax exemption for sales to fire districts that have elected governing bodies and are supported by ad valorem taxes. The Act provides for an exemption from state sales and use tax for the period beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2020, for certain sales to a qualified job training organization.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-4-40, 48-4-42, 48-5C-1, and 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 493; HB 987

This Act modifies a certain exception to a breach of a covenant for bona fide conservation use property to provide that it shall not constitute a breach of such covenant when the transferred portion of the property that is used for a single-family residential purpose is occupied by a person who is related to the property owner within 24 months from the date of such transfer. The Act also creates an exception to a breach of a covenant for bona fide conservation use property for the use of the property to host a not for profit rodeo event to which admission and entry fees do not exceed the cost of hosting such event.

TITLE 48 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-7.4.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 539; HB 935

This Act adds certain fulfillment centers, which ship goods to remote purchasers, to the list of properties eligible for a level 1 freeport exemption.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-48.1 and 48-5-48.2.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 494; HB 991

This Act provides that a tax collector or tax commissioner shall waive the collection of penalties and interest incurred upon default that occurred due to a taxpayer's military service in a combat zone if the taxpayer pays the underlying tax liability within 60 days of the end of such military service.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-243.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 393; HB 364

This Act modifies certain provisions related to the approval of tax digests by the commissioner of revenue. The Act imposes sanctions for including nontaxable properties on the tax digests. The Act provides for refunds of taxes improperly collected. The Act expands the jurisdiction of the Georgia Tax Tribunal to include the review of tax refund petitions filed pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-342.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-5-342 and 50-13A-9.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 527; HB 769

This Act provides an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain all-terrain vehicles held in inventory for sale or resale. The Act removes the sunset provision from the exemption from ad valorem taxation for watercraft held in inventory for sale or resale.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-504.40.
Effective May 3, 2016, and applies to all tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2017.

Act 604; HB 802

This Act increases the allowable income deduction on joint returns from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00 per beneficiary for contributions to savings trust accounts established under the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan Act.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-27.

TITLE 48 (continued)

Effective May 3, 2016, and applies to all tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2016.

Act 502; HB 1014

This Act extends the sunset of an income tax credit for the qualified donation of real property for certain conservation purposes from December 31, 2016, to December 31, 2021. The Act provides for certain reporting requirements related to the tax credit.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-29.12.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 480; HB 936

This Act clarifies certain terms related to the wages necessary to qualify for a certain income tax credit for qualifying jobs. The Act modifies the income tax credit for business enterprises in less developed areas by providing parameters that new full-time employee jobs must meet for the credit. The Act establishes a new income tax credit for employers who hire certain qualified parolees for certain full-time jobs from the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending before January 1, 2020.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-7-40 and 48-7-40.1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.31.

Effective July 1, 2016, and Section 3 of the Act shall be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

Act 619; HB 922

This Act adds a definition for 'taxpayer' to a tax credit for creating quality jobs.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-7-40.17.

Effective May 3, 2016, and applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

Act 602; HB 763

This Act extends an exemption from sales and use tax for sales of food and food ingredients to qualified food banks from June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2021. The Act adds certain application and reporting requirements to such tax exemption. The Act extends an exemption from use tax for the use of food and food ingredients donated to a qualified nonprofit agency and that are used for hunger relief purposes from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 327; HB 951

This Act provides for a sales tax exemption for sales of certain back-to-school products from July 30, 2016, through July 31, 2016. The Act provides for a sales tax exemption for sales of

TITLE 48 (continued)

certain energy efficient products from September 30, 2016, through October 2, 2016. The Act provides for a sales tax exemption for sales of admissions to certain major sporting events.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.

Effective July 1, 2016. The sales tax exemption related to major sporting events shall only apply to admissions purchased after January 1, 2017, for events that are secured on or after July 1, 2016; such sales tax exemption shall be automatically repealed on December 31, 2022, but the automatic repeal shall not impact events for which an application has been submitted prior to the automatic repeal.

Act 596; HB 937

This Act extends the sunset provision for a sales and use tax exemption for projects of regional significance from June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2019. The Act extends the period for which local governments may levy an excise tax on rental car charges from December 31, 2038, to December 31, 2047.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-3 and 48-13-93.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 453; HB 822

This Act clarifies a definition relating to sales and use tax.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-3.3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 336; SB 369

This Act provides for the levy of a retail sales and use tax by and within the City of Atlanta to be expended on certain transportation projects upon the passage of certain referenda.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 48-8-260, 48-8-261, 48-8-262, 48-8-263, 48-8-264, 48-8-265, 48-8-266, 48-8-267, 48-8-268, 48-8-269, 48-8-269.1, 48-8-269.2, 48-8-269.3, 48-8-269.4, 48-8-269.5, and 48-8-269.6 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 32-9-13, 48-8-269.7, 48-8-269.8, 48-8-269.9, 48-8-269.91, 48-8-269.92, 48-8-269.93, 48-8-269.94, 48-8-269.95, 48-8-269.96, 48-8-269.97, 48-8-269.98, 48-8-269.99, 48-8-269.991, 48-8-269.992, 48-8-269.993, 48-8-269.994, 48-8-269.995, 48-8-269.996, 48-8-269.997, 48-8-269.998, 48-8-269.999, 48-8-269.9991, 48-8-269.9992, 48-8-269.9993, 48-8-269.9994, 48-8-269.9995, 48-8-269.9996, 48-8-269.9997, 48-8-269.9998, and 48-8-269.9999.

Effective April 26, 2016.

Veto Number 7; HB 726

This Act provides that the amount of any federal excise tax or shipping charges on tobacco products are not subject to the state excise tax on tobacco products when separately stated on the sales invoice for the tobacco products.

TITLE 48 (continued)

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-11-2.

Act 396; HB 408

This Act modifies provisions relating to an excise tax levied on rooms, lodging, and accommodations for municipalities which use a percentage of such tax to finance a multipurpose domed stadium.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 387; SB 350

This Act provides that moneys collected from the excise tax on the sale of consumer fireworks shall be provided in certain proportions to the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and local governments.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-131.

Effective January 1, 2017, only if there is ratified at the 2016 general election an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia which authorizes the General Assembly to provide for the use, dedication, and deposit of revenues raised by an excise tax on the sale of fireworks or consumer fireworks for purposes of trauma care, fire services, and local public safety.

TITLE 49 SOCIAL SERVICES

Act 409; HB 962

This Act authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide a separate link or portal on its website to provide kinship caregivers with information and access necessary to apply for public assistance benefits. The Act provides for the creation, appointment, and duties of a kinship care enforcement administrator.

The Act requires the Department of Community Health to allow legal residents who are dependents of a military service member to maintain eligibility and priority for certain medical assistance and developmental disability services under certain conditions. The Act also requires the department to request a waiver from the appropriate federal agency if necessary to implement such provisions and provides that such provisions shall only apply to the fullest extent permissible to remain in compliance with certain federal laws, rules, and regulations.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-2-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-1-8 and 49-4-158.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 49 (continued)

Act 440; HB 765

This Act provides that appointments of board members to the county departments of family and children services shall be made from the following categories: active or retired pediatric health care providers, active or retired appropriate school personnel, active or retired emergency responders, active or retired law enforcement personnel, active or retired private child welfare service providers, active or retired mental health care providers, active or retired leaders within the faith-based community, alumni of the child welfare system, or former foster parents.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 49-3-2.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 597; HB 905

This Act changes provisions relating to child abuse and the protection of children and youth and provides for immunity from criminal liability for possession of certain materials or images under certain circumstances. The Act also changes and provides for certain defined terms. The Act revises provisions relating to protocol committees on child abuse.

The Act establishes a public scorecard for child welfare agencies under the Department of Human Services. The Act defines certain terms. The Act increases fines for certain offenses relating to licensing of child welfare agencies and placement of children. The Act requires the Department of Human Services to coordinate contract and licensure compliance inspections for any affected agency or division including the Division of Family and Children Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Department of Community Health.

The Act eliminates certain reporting requirements relating to the child abuse registry. The Act requires the Division of Family and Children Services to remove from the registry under certain circumstances the name of a minor child alleged to have committed abuse.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 19-7-5, 19-15-1, 19-15-2, 49-5-12, and 49-5-180 through 49-5-187 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 16-3-22.1, 49-5-4.1, and 49-5-12.3.

Effective July 1, 2016, except for Section 5, which shall become effective on March 1, 2017.

Act 344; HB 725

This Act enacts the "Child Abuse Records Protection Act" to provide for greater confidentiality of child abuse records. The Act provides for and revises certain definitions. The Act changes provisions relating to persons and agencies permitted access to records of child abuse. The Act provides for contents of a protective order to ensure the confidentiality of such records. The Act also provides immunity for child advocacy centers in releasing child abuse records under certain circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 49-5-40, 49-5-41, and 49-5-46.

Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 49 (continued)

Act 547; HB 1085

This Act transfers the oversight of services for the aging from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Community Health. The Act provides for the Department of Community Health to establish a community care unit within the Division of Medical Assistance. The Act removes certain provisions related to the implementation of a community care system. The Act provides for the annual community care plan to be incorporated into the State Plan for Medical Assistance.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 49-6-60 through 49-6-63.
Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 50
STATE GOVERNMENT**

Act 312; HB 750

This Act amends the 2015-2016 General Appropriations Act to change certain appropriations for State Fiscal Year 2015-2016.
Effective February 17, 2016.

Act 517; HB 751

This Act, the General Appropriations Act, provides appropriations for the operation of state government for State Fiscal Year 2016-2017.
Effective May 2, 2016.

Veto Number 10; HB 916

This Act provides that clerical and similar errors are not grounds for recovery of payments made by medical assistance providers and removes an exception for the Department of Community Health with regard to particular provisions of "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights."

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-118 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 49-4-151.1 and 50-1-10.

Act 358; SB 168

This Act designates the adoptable dog as the official state dog.
The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-3-87.
Effective July 1, 2016.

TITLE 50 (continued)

Act 378; SB 327

This Act prohibits the state from entering into certain contracts with individuals or companies unless the contract contains a written certification stating that the individual or company is not boycotting Israel and will not do so for the duration of the contract.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-5-85.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 398; SB 417

This Act enacts the "Georgia Film and Television Trail Act" and tasks the Department of Economic Development with creating a Georgia Film and Television Trail to provide the interested public with location sites of various film and television productions created in Georgia. The Act also allows members of any state board whose membership is elected by members of the state legislature to receive the same per diem and transportation costs as members of the General Assembly while attending meetings of the board.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 45-7-21 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 50-7-110, 50-7-111, 50-7-112, 50-7-113, 50-7-114, 50-7-115, 50-7-116, and 50-7-117.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 1; HB 757

This Act enacts the "Free Exercise Protection Act" and prevents religious officials and faith based organizations from being forced to engage in certain activities inconsistent with their religious beliefs. The Act also establishes limitations on certain practices or requirements that may infringe on religious freedom or expression.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-573 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 10-1-1000, 10-1-1001, 10-1-1002, 19-3-11, 34-1-9, 50-15A-1, 50-15A-2, 50-15A-3, 50-15A-4, 50-15A-5, and 50-21-38.

Act 436; HB 745

This Act extends sunset provisions for certain provisions related to writing off small amounts of money due to the state and nonlapsing revenue of institutions within the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 20-3-86, 20-4-21.1, and 50-16-18.

Effective June 15, 2016.

Act 323; SB 323

This Act extends the deadline for responses to public records requests related to intercollegiate sports programs to 90 days and makes the exemption from public disclosure of documents

TITLE 50 (continued)

pertaining to economic development projects applicable to any agency maintaining such documents.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-18-71 and 50-18-72.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Act 599; HB 976

This Act requires video recordings from law enforcement body-worn devices to generally be retained for 180 days from the date of recording.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-92 and enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-96.
Effective July 1, 2016.

Veto Number 2; HB 59

This Act waives sovereign immunity for declaratory judgment or injunctive relief under particular circumstances.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 23-3-41 and 36-33-1 and enacts O.C.G.A. Sections 23-3-45, 23-3-46, and 50-21-50.

Act 442; HB 773

This Act increases the outstanding bond limit which may not be exceeded by the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 50-26-10.
Effective April 26, 2016.

Act 572; SB 388

This Act prohibits master licensees for bona fide coin operated amusement machines from transferring contracts with location owners or operators during ongoing procedures relative to the potential revocation of the license and provides for disposition of contracts upon revocation. The Act also revises the fee for replacement permit stickers and establishes unauthorized removal of a permit sticker as a misdemeanor. The Act revises the types of revenue to be included in calculation of gross retail receipts, provides additional requirements and restrictions for the operation of bona fide coin operated amusement machines, and revises provisions related to dispute resolution.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Sections 50-27-74, 50-27-78, 50-27-84, 50-27-87, and 50-27-102.
Effective May 3, 2016.

TITLE 50 (continued)

Act 430; HB 676

This Act enacts the "Accountability, Change Management, and Process Improvement Act of 2016" and requires certain state entities to develop and issue a business case and change management plan relating to the implementation of certain projects.

The Act enacts O.C.G.A. Section 50-29-3.

Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 52
WATERS OF THE STATE**

Act 363; HB 172

This Act revises definitions related to watercraft and authorizes the operation of certain watercraft without personal flotation devices on board.

The Act amends Code Sections 52-7-8 and 52-7-12.

Effective July 1, 2016.

**TITLE 53
ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES**

Act 423; HB 547

This Act provides for the divestment of taxes and liens accrued against a homestead set apart for year's support.

The Act amends O.C.G.A. Section 53-3-4.

Effective July 1, 2016.

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