

2022

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Weekly Legislative Report: March 21, 2020

Crossover Day 2020, the deadline by which bills must pass their legislative chamber of origination in order to be considered by the other chamber this session, was marked by much more than the usual flurry of last-minute deals, supplemental rules calendars, forceful requests to reconsider bills that fail floor votes and unremitting streams of unhealthy food for guests, lobbyists and lawmakers alike. Most notably, Crossover Day 2020 included a major change to the legislative session schedule with the passage of an adjournment resolution that has suspended all the usual work of the Georgia General Assembly until further notice.

In fact, on Monday, March 16, lawmakers convened for a rare special session to ratify a joint resolution declaring a public health emergency. Before the final gavel went down on Crossover Day, several important bills passed out of their original chamber so that they can be taken up when the Legislature resumes at a future (unknown) date. Here's a rundown of bills Chemical Association I has been following closely that crossed over before the deadline.

PRIORITY BILLS

HB 0444 | Dual Enrollment Act; enact

Our Analysis: Georgia lacks critical data on outcomes for Dual Enrollment students. Now that the program has been in place for five years, Georgia should conduct a high-quality evaluation to ensure that Dual Enrollment is meeting its stated education goals.

In addition to evaluating whether the program meets its goals, the state should collect and report data on participation rates among student groups by race/ethnicity, gender, economic status and geography, and set targets for participation of underserved students. A detailed evaluation that includes information on student populations with lower graduation rates, including male, low-income, Black and Latin students, would help assess the true effectiveness of the program and make sure it is increasing access to postsecondary educational opportunities.

The provisions in HB 444 are a reasonable approach to contain costs and still allow for flexibility and access to Dual Enrollment. However, this legislation should be considered in the larger budget context and research:

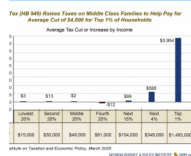
- Dual Enrollment represents less than 1 percent of total public K-12 and higher education spending [6]
- Georgia has limited resources, yet chooses to forgo billions of dollars through tax credits and other breaks, with an unclear return on investment [7]
- Dual Enrollment's benefits are shown through other states' assessments of their programs, such as shorter time to graduation, increased postsecondary attainment, increased lifetime earnings and tax revenues, and decreased spending on social safety net programs.[8]

Indeed, as the state's population and economy grow, Georgia should modernize its tax code to keep pace with growth so that limited budget funds can be used to fund effective programs like Dual Enrollment that support education and workforce development.

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also includes two additional revenue-raising provisions to help finance the \$826 million in costs associated with a top income tax rate of 5.375 percent. The legislation raises taxes on households that currently take about \$433,000's itemized deduction for state income taxes paid, increasing revenues by \$130 million by raising that deduction to \$300,000. Georgia remains an outlier in allowing firms to write-off state tax payments to local and state governments as a business expense under Section 164 of the tax code. Although that should, at least in part, be offset by the provision from the tax code, using the formula to determine the 5.375 percent for top earners rather than fixed state priorities does not represent a positive step forward. Finally, HB 949 erases the state's existing but small low-income tax credit, increasing state revenues by about \$5 million. This new revenue-raising package also contains provisions to benefit top earners, while largely ignoring the needs of low- to middle-income families.

WATCHED BILLS

1 | Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction.

Analysis: 100,000 Georgians are living with a felony conviction—one in 9 adults in the state—and half of Georgia's adult record of some kind. Access to criminal records can considerably shrink the number of jobs available to citizens and the talent available for employers. At the end of 2019, there were 229,000 unfilled jobs in Georgia. The unemployment rate for returning citizens is 15 percent, nearly five times higher than the statewide unemployment rate. An estimated 30,000 previously incarcerated people are unemployed. 72,000 more would be expected if their unemployment rate mirrored that of the general public.

ending expropriation and ensuring the inclusion of returning citizens leads to increased earnings, increased tax revenue and avoided costs for re-incarceration. Employment remains one of the most important ways to avoid victim. Each formerly incarcerated Georgian who was locked out of work due to a record lost \$36,000 in wages in alone. These lost wages amount to an estimated \$2.6 billion in wasted spending power across the state.


Georgia Leaders Can Offer a Clean Slate to Returning Citizens


ending the scope of record restriction facilitates the return of formerly incarcerated people into Georgia's communities and strengthens the state's workforce. As Georgia lawmakers debate multiple legislative proposals that

SPREADSHEET REPORTS

DAILY CHAMBER REPORT

| # | Title | Introduced On | Full Text | Status | Sponsors | Related | House Committee | 1st Rdg (H) | 2nd Rdg (H) | 3rd Rdg (H) | Senate Committee |
|---------|---|---------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| H8-0001 | Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act, prohibits gender change therapy for minors, prohibits withholding of certain related information from parents | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Wes Allen | | Judiciary | 02/02/2021 | 02/24/2021 | | |
| H8-0002 | Controlled substances, Timeline and related compounds added to Schedule II, subject to criminal penalties, Sec. 20-2-25 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Passed | Mike Holmes | | | 02/02/2021 | 02/24/2021 | 03/11/2021 | Affected Bills |
| H8-0003 | Administrative procedures, minimum threshold for a proposed rule's economic impact set, measures to reduce cost of proposed rules, Sec. 41-22-5.1, 41-22-5.2, 41-22-23 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Wes Allen | | State Government | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0004 | High school athletics, Examiners of Public Accounts, required to audit the High School Athletic Association in the same manner as an agency of the state | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Wes Allen | | State Government | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0005 | Empowerments, administrative filing fees eliminated, Sec. 15-27-4 repealed, Sec. 15-27-3 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Juandalynn Givan | | Judiciary | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0006 | Law enforcement, recordings, procedure to determine to whom and what portion of a recording to disclose or release established | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Juandalynn Givan | | Judiciary | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0007 | Education, requires all public K-12 schools to require student completion of a semester-long course in Black American History | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Juandalynn Givan | | Education Policy | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0008 | Historical monuments, local governments authorized to remove and required to transfer ownership to Archives and History or Alabama Historical Commission for public display, Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017, Secs. 41-9-230 to 41-9-237, inclusive, repealed | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Juandalynn Givan | | Judiciary | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0009 | Education, prohibit public institutions of higher education from providing support for organizations affiliated with China government | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | James Hanes | | Education Policy | 02/02/2021 | | | |
| H8-0010 | Chiropractors Examiners, Sd. Bd. of fee services, add authority to charge by rule, Sec. 34-24-156 added | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Randy Wood | SB 0021 | Boards, Agencies and Commissions | 02/02/2021 | 02/24/2021 | | |
| H8-0011 | Agricultural lands, Sd. Bd. to be labeled with relative neutralizing value as defined, Secs. 2-23-2, 2-23-4 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Engrossed | Jamie Kiel | | | 02/02/2021 | 02/25/2021 | 04/07/2021 | |
| H8-0012 | Cottage food production operations, baked goods and roasted coffees, exempt from obtaining food service permits from health department, labeling of baked goods, other food items, food safety course required, Sec. 22-20-5.1 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Engrossed | Jamie Kiel | | Health | 02/02/2021 | 02/24/2021 | 05/06/2021 | |
| H8-0013 | Crimes and offenses, crimes motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, or physical or mental disability, to include employment as a law enforcement officer within the protected class, Sec. 13A-5-1.1 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Introduced | Rae Reynolds | | Judiciary | 02/02/2021 | 02/04/2021 | | |
| H8-0014 | Airport authorities, sales and use tax exemption, issuance of certificate of exemptions by Revenue Dept., Secs. 40-9-14.1, 40-9-60 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Engrossed | Rae Reynolds | | | 02/02/2021 | 02/24/2021 | 02/25/2021 | |
| H8-0015 | Taxation, to update the disbursement of certain licensor taxes and registration fees, Sec. 40-12-270 am'd. | 02/02/2021 | Full Text | Passed | Rae Reynolds | | | 02/02/2021 | 02/03/2021 | 02/09/2021 | |





UNDER THE GOLD DOME • Weekly Newsletter | April 7, 2021

— Laura Roberts, Xba.org/legislature

THE FOLLOWING IS LEGISLATION THAT WE FOCUSED ON DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND THAT ULTIMATELY PASSED OR WAS CARRIED AND MOVED TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR SIGNATURE.

“ADOPTED” means all of the bills. **“H. 1038”** was **ADOPTED** by the House! Representative Robert Doherty (H.1038) This resolution is in honor of all of the Georgia school, NATIONWIDE PROFESSIONALS that were laid off due to the COVID pandemic to continue to nourish children the best way you can! Please visit <https://www.housofgeorgia.com/pressroom/2021/04/06/h-1038/>


Please also visit the following congressional Representatives and thank them for recognizing Xba.org via House Resolution 208:

Robert Doherty (District 16, Atlanta) - rdoherty@house.ga.gov

Todd Jones (District 12, Cumming) - tjones@house.ga.gov

Tony England (District 11, Atlanta) - tonyengland@house.ga.gov

Reynold N. Dismick (8th Congressional District) - <https://www.congress.gov/people/representatives/reynold-n-dismick>



Individuals That Representatives (H. 1031)

House Bill 511 requires that be complied with the state for a specific rural area only dedicated to their intended purpose. Last year, a constitutional amendment (Amendment 1) was approved by 67% of Georgia voters that allows the state to establish laws and the civil and hazardous waste facilities, which for years have had dollars diverted from the environmentally important programs. The bill also establishes additional conditions around the introduction of funds to the Environmental Justice Institute (Environmental Program) (see more about EGJIP below).

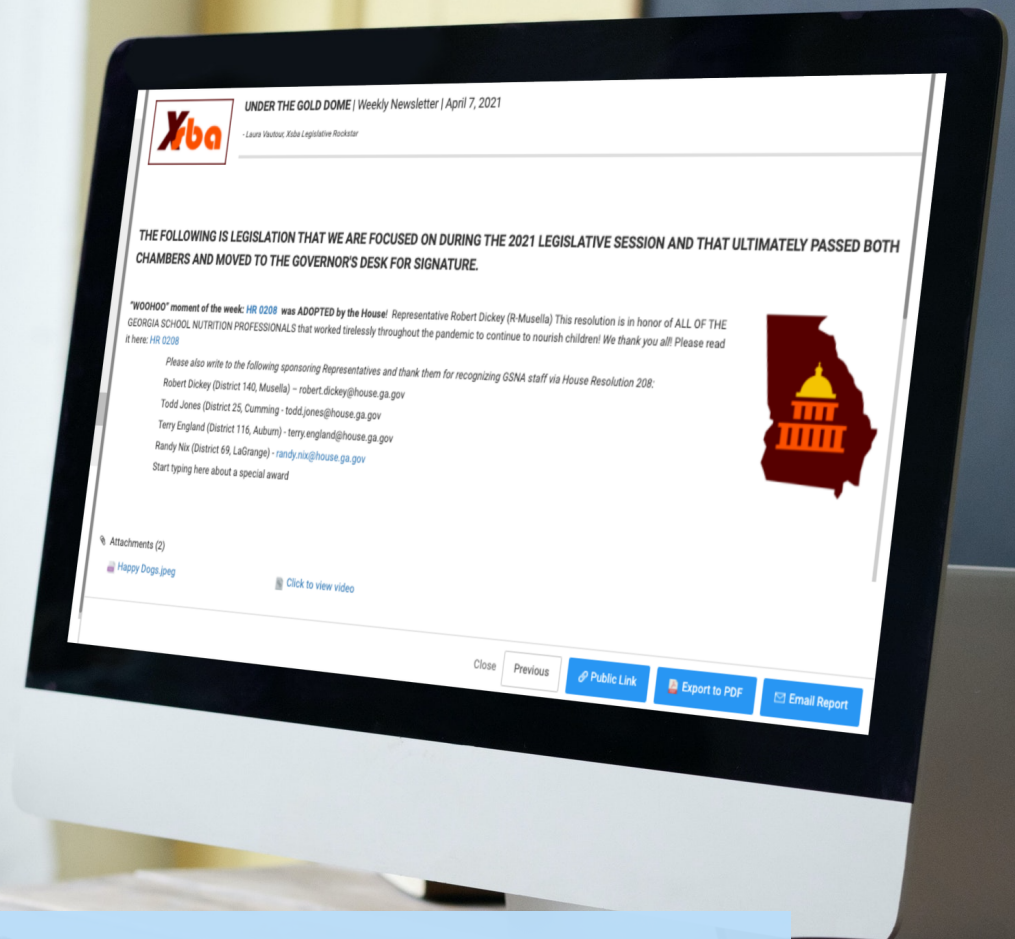
Spending Plan (H. 1001)

- H. 1001 is the spending plan for FY22 that passed on April 6 on the House floor. The new budget has a few notable line items that Xba has been tracking:
 - There is no new funding for rural and community based economic funding
 - A 7% increase for home and community based care funding
 - Aging received nearly \$27.7 million in funds from the American Rescue Act bill
 - The budget increased funding for Georgia's Family Resource Centers from \$10 million to \$12 million
 - There is \$2 million allocated to the year and a recommendation for an additional \$12 million each subsequent year to be allocated to GoDeeper.org (the rural broadband implementation)

Other legislation that Xba is currently monitoring includes:

[illegible]

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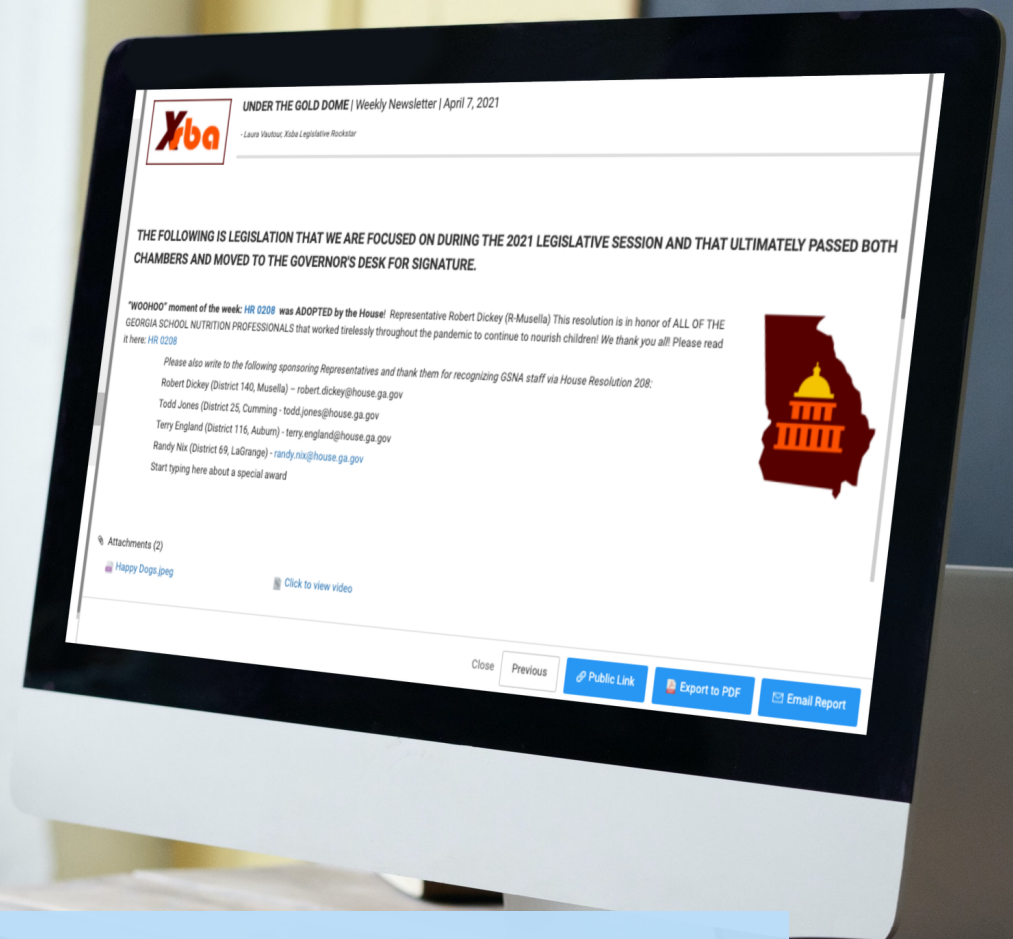
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