The following House bills were also passed during the sixth week of session:

- House Bill 541, which would expand tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions that offer baccalaureate programs in nursing, have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least 10 years, have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions would also be required to have a four-year average passage rate of at least 80 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions would only be considered as approved institutions for the tuition equalization grant program, not the Dual Enrollment program or HOPE scholarships/grants. This bill seeks to address a nursing shortage in our state;

- House Bill 662, which would amend the definition of "rural hospital organization" to include "rural freestanding emergency department." The organization would be required to have its primary campus in a rural county and be licensed to provide maternal and newborn services or have at least five percent of its annual net revenue categorized as indigent care, charity care or bad debt;

- House Bill 818, which would authorize individuals employed full-time by the Georgia Tax Court to become members of the Judicial Retirement System (JRS). Any individual hired at the Georgia Tax Court in a full-time capacity after July 1, 2026, would be a member of JRS. Members would be able to take any creditable service earned in the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to JRS. ERS would be required to transfer all employer and employee contributions, with interest, to JRS. The transferring member would be required to pay an additional cost to cover the full actuarial cost of the creditable service. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill;

- House Bill 956, which would amend the Solid Waste Trust Fund to add a sixth provision in which money appropriated to the fund may be used. The added provision would allow the fund to be used to implement a solid waste management program in Georgia, particularly as it relates to permitting, monitoring, regulation or guidance development, inspections and enforcement;

- House Bill 964, which would amend state law relating to alternative ad valorem taxation of motor vehicles to exempt motor vehicles owned or leased by a 501(c)(3) entity and used for fire protection services for local governments from state and local title ad

valorem tax. The bill would further amend state law related to exemptions from sales and use taxes to exempt the sale of tangible personal property owned by a 501(c)(3) entity and used for fire protection services for local governments from sales tax;

- House Bill 987, or the "Voluntary Portable Benefit Plan Act," which would allow any person or entity to voluntarily contribute funds to a portable benefit account of an independent contractor. The bill would define relevant terms, including that a "portable benefit plan" is a plan held by an independent contractor that provides various benefits, such as health and unemployment insurance. Voluntary contributions may be made using funds withheld from compensation owed to the independent contractor as long as the withholding is expressly and clearly provided in a written agreement, the withholding is voluntary and requires the independent contractor to opt in and the independent contractor can opt out at any time. Voluntary contributions from a person or entity to an independent contractor would not create an employer-employee relationship;

- House Bill 1020, which would amend the Judicial Retirement System to effectively require district attorneys hired after June 30, 2026, to reach age 65, rather than 60, to receive full retirement benefits. The bill would establish different benefit rules based on when a member first joined the system. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill;

- House Bill 1022, which would prohibit any person from operating a motor vehicle with electric tinting applied or affixed to its windshields or windows. Violators would be subject to a fine up to $500 for a first violation and a fine up to $1,000 for subsequent violations. The bill would also repeal the portions of state law related to digital license plates and prohibit the display of digital license plates;

- House Bill 1027, which would authorize counties and municipalities to enter into contracts for solar utility services, wind utility services and the sale of electric power for terms of no more than 20 years;

- House Bill 1086, or the "Preston Fant and Brant Chesney Firefighter Safety Act," which would require the owner of any commercial or industrial building or structure or any multiunit residential building or structure with three units or more to post a notice that the building was constructed using light-frame truss-type construction. The commissioner of insurance would create rules and regulations regarding the type, placement and time of placement of the notice sign or symbol;

- House Bill 1096, which would allow eligible county board of health employees to retain accrued annual and sick leave when they become employed by the Georgia Department of Public Health;

- House Bill 1121, which would revise the terms of court for the Cordele Judicial Circuit to January 1 and July 1;

- House Bill 1181, which would require the application for a certificate of title to a vehicle to include the last certificate of title for that vehicle by the other state to the decedent owner in cases where the vehicle was previously registered in another state in the name of a decedent owner and the applicant is receiving the vehicle upon inheritance, devise or bequest;

- House Bill 1182, which would pertain to soil amendments derived from industrial byproducts, prohibiting them from being stored within 100 feet of any property line and from being loaded or unloaded within 100 feet of a public road;

- House Bill 1199, which would provide the annual Internal Revenue Code update to state law. The updates would be applicable to tax years on or after January 1, 2026, for relevant federal laws passed on or before January 1, 2026;

- House Bill 1202, which would correct a scrivener's error in state law.