



### **Casino Gaming**

After much debate and many hearings, the casino gaming bills in the House and Senate failed to make final passage this session. The bills would have allowed for the construction of two “destination” resorts which would include casinos. One would be located in metro Atlanta, while the second would be located outside of the metro region. Those in support of the legislation believe that these resorts will bring additional revenue and economic development to Georgia, while increasing educational funding. Those against the measure fear that crime levels and gambling addictions will eventually end up causing the state more money in the long run. It should be noted that these two measures are alive and well in the legislative process. There is no doubt that they will return full steam ahead during the 2018 session.

### **Medical Cannabis Oil Expansion**

The House and Senate reached a compromise in regards to the expansion of Medical Cannabis Oil. Senate Bill 16 expands our current medical cannabis law by adding six more medical conditions to those whom would be allowed to apply for the THC oil registry. The additional conditions are as follows: Tourette’s syndrome; autism spectrum disorder; Epidermolysis Bullosa; Alzheimer’s disease; AIDS; and those who are in a hospice program. Other provisions of the bill are as follows:

- Patients may possess cannabis oil with a maximum of 5 percent THC and a maximum amount of 20 fluid ounces.
- Registration requirement with the Georgia Department of Public Health after physician recommendation.
- Exemption from prosecution in Georgia for possession of medical cannabis oil that has been legally obtained in another state and meets the state requirements.
- Reciprocity regarding medical cannabis registration cards of other states, as long as the medicine in such a person’s possession complies with Georgia’s laws.

House Resolution 36, which would have allowed a statewide ballot question, in an upcoming election for the state to oversee and regulate the in-state cultivation of marijuana for medical use failed to move forward, but will be under consideration in 2018. It will be interesting to watch this issue, which will be an ongoing discussion within the General Assembly for years to come.

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## Senate District 15 – Session Update – 2017

### **Upskirting Legislation**

Legislation aimed at closing a privacy law loophole passed each chamber in the form of House Bill 104. If signed into law by Governor Deal, it will be illegal for an individual to film or take pictures under another's clothing in a public place. While it seems, this should already be law, last Summer a Georgia appellate court ruled that current privacy code did not address this issue specifically, making it apparent the General Assembly needed to formally update privacy law.

### **Campus Carry**

In the final hours of the legislative session, we passed House Bill 280, Campus Carry, on a party line vote. The legislation is a slightly different version of the bill that Governor Deal vetoed last year; however, proponents of the measure claim that concerns of the Governor have been addressed. The legislation allows those 21 years and older with a Georgia weapons carry license to carry concealed weapons on campus. This year's bill expands areas on campus where guns are prohibited which includes, preschool or day-care centers and offices where disciplinary proceedings are conducted, among others. It still bans firearms at sporting events or student housing, including fraternities and sororities, which was also in last year's bill.

All bills passed are now under consideration by Governor Deal. As the Governor retains his executive Veto, no measure is considered law until he lends his final signature to the bill. As we continue through the year, I will update you monthly on issues important to our district and state. Thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to serve as your voice under the Gold Dome. If you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.