



Senate District 15 – Public Safety Update – 2018

School Security Study Committee

House Resolution 1414 was introduced in response to the number of recent school shootings across the nation. This resolution creates a study committee to explore what is needed to provide more school security while facilitating life-saving procedure responses. The committee is composed of nine members from the House of Representatives and they are meeting regularly until the final committee report is due for review by December. Their findings will greatly determine what legislation will be under review, in regard to school safety, during the 2019 session. You can follow this committee and their ongoing work by visiting the General Assembly website. Video archives are available, as is live stream coverage of committee hearings.

Distracted Driving

House Bill 673, prohibits an individual from physically holding or supporting a wireless telecommunication device, sending any text-based communication, watching a video or movie, or recording a video while driving. Drivers can use: voice text, use for navigation with a GPS system, and dash camera recordings. This law went into effect July 1, 2018.

Human Trafficking

House Bill 732 clarifies that any person who solicits or patronizes sexually explicit conduct from a sex trafficking victim will be charged with a felony.

Homeland Security

House Bill 779 creates the Board of Homeland Security. The 16-member board will be responsible for: advising the governor on the implementation of homeland security strategy by state and local agencies; developing a statewide homeland security strategy; and coordinating activities among and between local, state, and federal agencies.

Leasing Agreements

House Bill 834 allows a tenant to terminate a residential rental agreement without being penalty when the tenant or his/her minor child is a victim of family violence. The bill also outlines tenant documentation requirements of terminating such lease. This Code section only applies to rental or lease agreements entered on or after July 1, 2018.

Back the Badge Act

Senate Bill 160 broadens the offenses of aggravated assault on public safety officers. The bill also requires a mandatory sentence minimum of 10 years and maximum of 20 years for individuals whom discharge a firearm at a public safety officer.

The upcoming session will no doubt bring forward more public safety debate. If you have thoughts, questions or ideas regarding anyway you believe we can further our safety efforts through regulatory or legislative action, please feel free to contact our office. Many bills brought forth begin as simple ideas from our Georgia citizens! As always, it is an honor to serve you and our district on Capitol Hill. May God bless and keep you my friends.