



Senate District 15 — Session Update — 2021

I am pleased to announce that we passed a few bills in the Senate Chamber that will benefit veterans. Committees continued to hold hearings and vote on legislation as well. As always, it is my pleasure to bring you the highlights from the week so you may remain informed citizens of Georgia.

It is a great honor to tell you that the Senate passed Senate Bill 87, also known as the “Senator Jack Hill Veterans’ Act,” this week. SB 87 would benefit service-disabled veterans by allowing Georgia taxpayers to make contributions on their income tax returns to a qualified service disabled veterans benefit association, if they so desire. SB 87 had strong bipartisan support, as my fellow members and I all wish to serve and honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for this country. I co-signed SB 87 and fully support it as it makes its way through the remainder of the legislative process. The Senate also passed Senate Bill 88 this week. SB 88 is a part of Governor Kemp’s teacher pipeline legislation, and it includes an important provision for veterans. SB 88 would support a pathway for veterans of the armed force to become certified teachers in the state of Georgia. After heroically serving our state and country, Georgia should assist its armed force veterans in their transition to new careers. SB 88 would help open doors for veterans to become teachers, and it also has my full support.

The Senate Ethics Committee, of which I am a member, held important meetings and votes this week. Many election reform bills have been referred to the Ethics Committee, and this week the committee passed five of those bills: Senate Bill 67, Senate Bill 89, Senate Bill 40, Senate Bill 184 and Senate Bill 188. SB 67, which may see a full Senate vote next week, pertains to absentee ballot identification requirements. I am a firm believer in protecting Georgia citizens’ privacy and right to vote. I want to ensure all Georgians that desire to vote are able to do so and this will be my driving force in how I vote on these election reform bills.

Also this week, the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee had a hearing on Senate Bill 30, a bill I co-sponsored. SB 30 would allow for pari-mutuel horse racing in Georgia. The bill would create a Georgia Horse Racing Commission and be the first step in making Georgia a horse racing state. I believe SB 30 would help the economy and increase rural jobs in Georgia. I will keep you informed of its progress and am eager to provide you with more details soon.

COVID-19 Update

State leadership recently announced the launch of four state-operated mass vaccination sites in Bibb, Dougherty, Fulton, and Habersham counties. With operations beginning on February 22, these sites are strategically located near minority communities and will aim to administer 22,000 vaccines per week.

As of last week, Georgia has administered 1,606,000 vaccines, 82% of the total shipment. Georgia will begin receiving 198,000 first doses of the vaccine from the federal government next week. As the state's weekly allocation continues to expand, more state-operated sites are being planned.

To pre-register for appointments at the mass vaccination sites, please visit myvaccinegeorgia.com.
To view vaccination locations, please visit dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine.