



## Senate District 15 – Session Update – 2018

### Senate Action

#### **New Baiting Regulations**

House Bill 275 equalizes baiting practices across the state. Further, this bill removes the current prohibition on hunting in wildlife management areas without a permit.

#### **Reconstituting the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority**

House Bill 354 would reconstitute the Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority (GIMTCA) as a public corporation of the state. The bill also outlines GIMTCA's responsibilities, membership and provides authorization to facilitate economic growth in the state's import and export markets.

#### **Creditable Service for Law Enforcement**

House Bill 135 would allow certain law enforcement officers to buy creditable service through the Employees' Retirement System. Under HB 135, the qualifying law enforcement officers added to the list are Department of Driver Services investigators and any criminal investigator or K-9 handler with the Department of Corrections.

#### **Local Government Authorities**

House Bill 257 would require a local government authority to register with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) annually on the due date of their annual report to receive any allotment of state funds. The bill also prohibits local authorities from acquiring any debt or credit until they have filed the annual report with DCA.

#### **Continuing State Financial Aid for Private Colleges**

House Bill 432 would allow students attending schools that have transitioned into a not-for-profit status to receive tuition equalization grants and the HOPE scholarship if the school has been accredited within the last five years.

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### **Exempting Organized Militia Activity**

House Bill 309 will exempt the state from being held liable for losses resulting from organized militia when engaged in federal or state training or activities.

### **Waiving Administrative Collection Fees**

House Bill 162 gives the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) discretion when charging administrative fees. Further the bill requires that the AOC provide quarterly payments to the courts to which the debts are owed. HB 162 also requires an administrative court to place a fee of no more than \$20 per debt.

### **Donation Receptacle Regulations**

House Bill 475 establishes regulations for placement and collection of outdoor donation receptacles placed on private property. Under the bill owners of receptacles must regularly empty and maintain the appearance around the receptacles.

### **Governor's Action**

Thus far, Governor Deal has already signed many measures into law. Among those bills receiving the Governor's favorable consideration was House Bill 159, which updates our states adoption code for the first time in 30 years. Governor Deal has also signed the amended 2018 fiscal year budget into law, which dictates state spending through the completion of Georgia's current fiscal year, ending June 30 of 2018.