



## Senate District 15 – Session Update – 2018

### Senate Action

#### **Public Safety**

House Bill 79, helps to strengthen Georgia's privacy laws. HB 79 requires law enforcement agencies, obtaining license plate information through automated license plate recognition systems, destroy unused data after 30 months. Currently, there is no limit to how long law enforcement agencies can save this data. Agencies would only be allowed to keep and share the information beyond 30 months if the data is part of an ongoing investigation. Further, the bill imposes penalties for unlawfully sharing this information, and most importantly, captured license plate data would be exempt from open records requests. This bill now heads to Governor Deal for his final Signature.

#### **Establishing the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation, Inc.**

House Bill 422 allows the Veterans Service Board to establish the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation, Inc. as a nonprofit foundation. The bill also outlines the foundation's duties, governance and funding.

#### **Screening Department of Revenue Employees**

House Bill 816 permits the Department of Revenue (DOR) to fingerprint and require criminal background checks as a condition of employment for all employees and prospective employees after January 1, 2019. Further, DOR contractors and subcontractors with access to confidential information are also subject to the required background checks.

#### **Limiting Restrictions on Agricultural Burning**

House Bill 885 amends the Georgia Air Quality Act by limiting state regulatory powers relating to the controlled burning of agricultural tracts or parcels of land greater than five acres for agricultural operations. This would apply so long as the burning is consistent with federal regulations and limited to vegetative material.

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### **Newborn Placement Signs**

House Bill 513 requires signs to be placed at certain medical facilities, fire and police stations to indicate where a mother can leave a newborn child.

### **Designating Perinatal Facilities**

House Bill 909 allows the Department of Public Health to develop a voluntary system to designate hospitals with suitable maternal and neonatal care as perinatal facilities. Hospitals would be able to apply for designations beginning in 2019.

### **Paternity Test Orders**

House Bill 344 allows individuals who are involved in the enforcement of child support to order a paternity test from the Department of Human Services.

### **Establishing the Rural Health Innovation System**

House Bill 769 establishes the Rural Health System Innovation Center within the State Office of Rural Health. The bill allows an exemption to be made regarding the certificate of need in certain cases. Further, the legislation creates a grant program to incentivize physicians to practice in rural areas and it also increases a tax credit on donations to rural hospitals while making the remote order entry process for pharmacies easier.

### **The Employment First Act**

House Bill 831 creates the Employment First Georgia Council to adopt an employment policy for individuals with disabilities. HB 831 also works to provide awareness and education of the Employment First Policy.

### **Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons**

House Bill 844 renames the Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons to the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing. HB 844 also creates a task force to make recommendations for improvements in literacy for adolescent deaf individuals. Further, the bill requires the Georgia Technology Authority to establish a data-sharing process to be used to provide early educational intervention for deaf children.