



**SHAW
BLACKMON**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



2017

Legislative Session



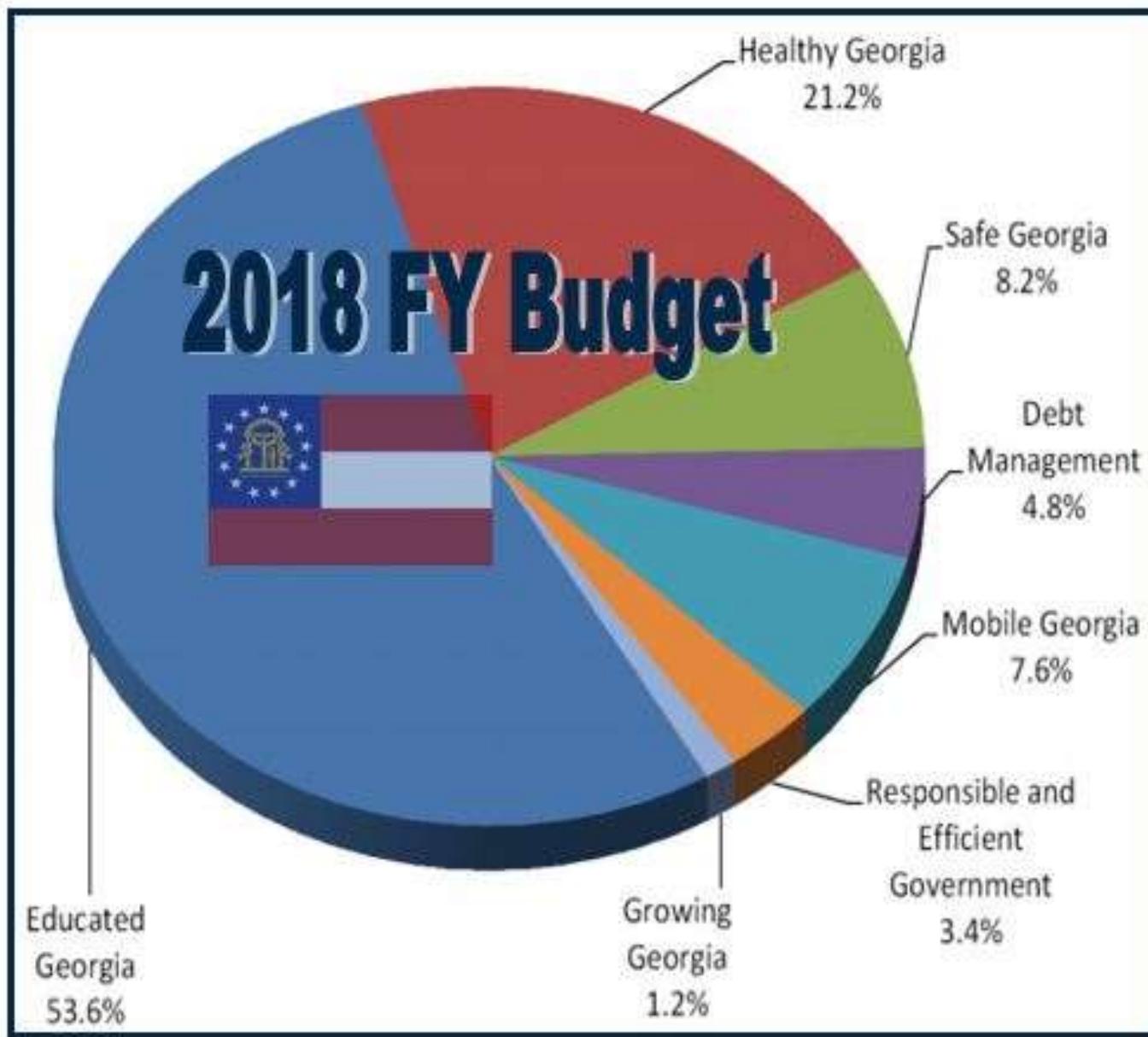
Issue Overview



2018 Budget

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Components of the State Funds Budget: FY18



EDUCATION ISSUES

What was Accomplished?



Transparency



House Bill 139 promotes transparency within our public-school systems by requiring the Department of Education to post certain school-level budget and expenditure information, excluding information made confidential by law, on its website. Under this bill costs of: materials; salary and benefit expenditures; professional development; facility maintenance and small capital projects; new construction or major renovations; annual budget; annual audits; per student expenditures, and findings of irregularities or budget deficits by the Department of Audits will be available for public view.



House Bill 139

Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation



House Bill 237 allows the establishment of the Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation.

The foundation may receive donations to provide grants to public schools for the improvement of student achievement.

Funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process.

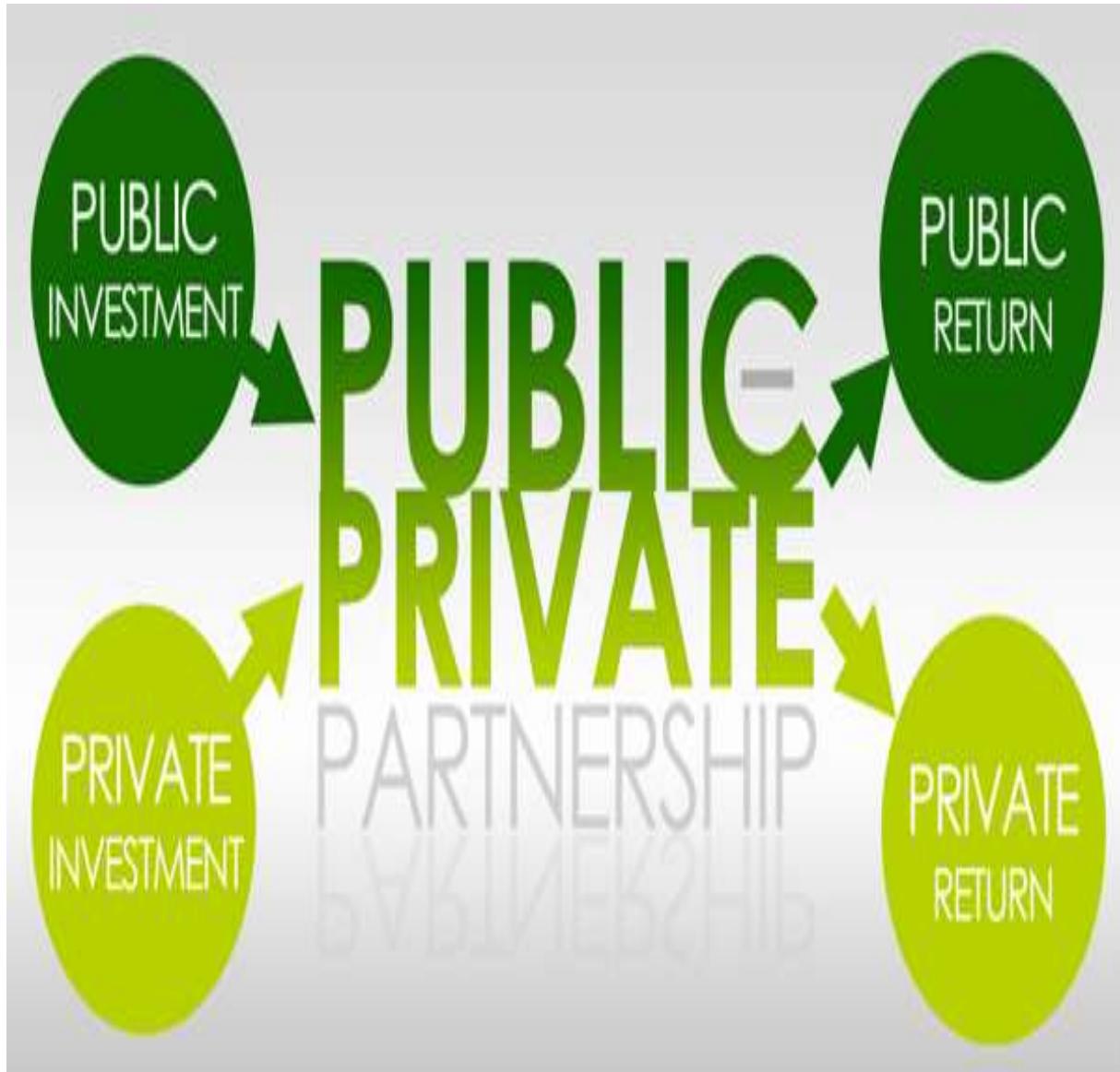
House Bill 237

Turnaround District

House Bill 338 creates an alternative “Turnaround” school system which will support and provide assistance for the lowest-performing schools which receive below a 60 on the statewide accountability system for three consecutive years. Turnaround eligible schools are schools that have performed in the lowest 5% of schools in the state, according to the statewide accountability system.



House Bill 338



House Bill 463 allows the Department of Early Care and Learning to incorporate a non-profit corporation which will aid the department in promoting public-private partnerships between businesses, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, local school systems, public schools, as well as, early care and education programs.

House Bill 463

Dual Enrollment



DUAL

Senate Bill 211 ensures dual-enrollment students are not penalized by local school systems for taking collegiate coursework while still in high school. Under the bill, no school system can exclude a dual-enrolled student from eligibility for class valedictorian or salutatorian.



CREDIT

Senate Bill 211

PUBLIC SAFETY



Commitment to Citizen Safety



Senate Bill 160

Senate Bill 160, Back the Badge Act of 2017, 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.

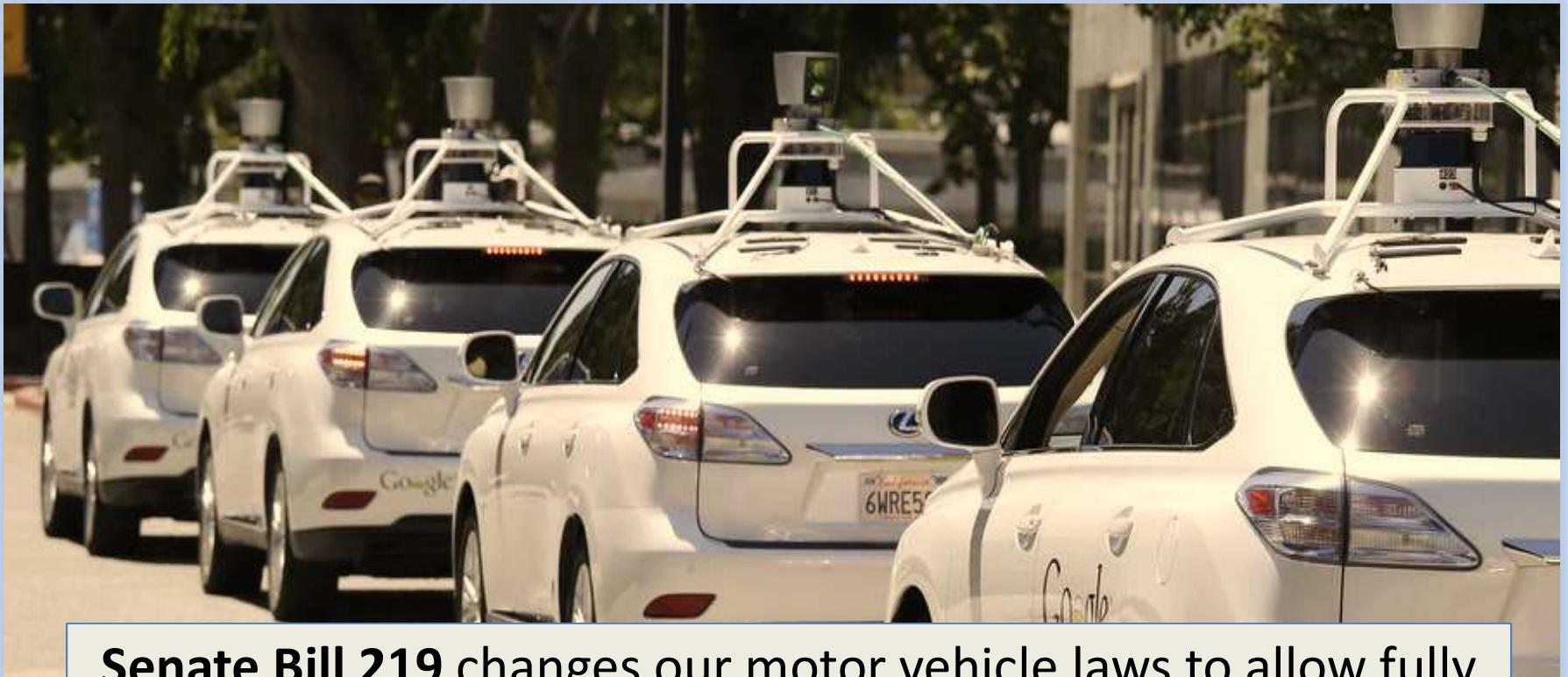
Arrest Alternative

Senate Bill 176 offers citizens a lower cost alternative to arrest and incarceration when an individual fails to appear in court for a non-serious traffic violation.



Senate Bill 176

Self Driving Car



Senate Bill 219 changes our motor vehicle laws to allow fully autonomous vehicles to operate on Georgia's roadways.

Senate Bill 219

Military and Veterans



Service Support

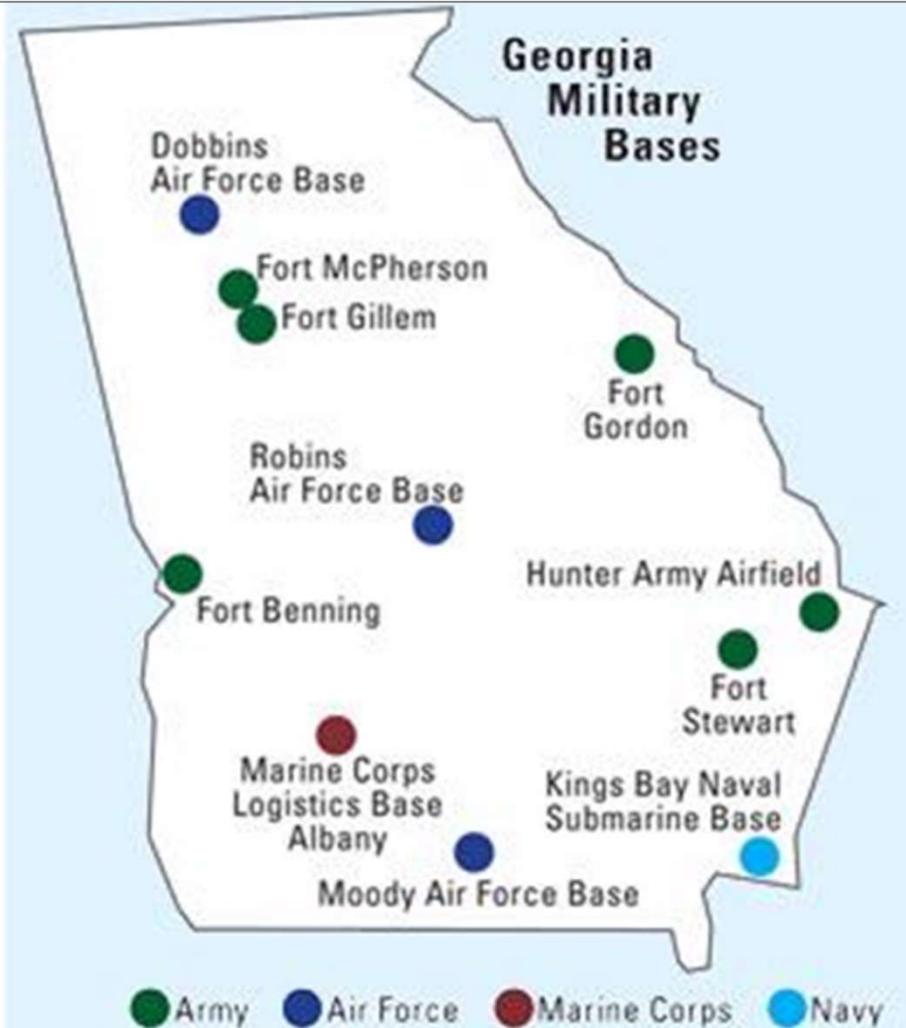


Expedited Certificates

House Bill 245 requires the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to allow military spouses to qualify for temporary certificates, certificates by endorsement, or expedited certificates when moving to Georgia.

House Bill 245

Community Grant Program



House Bill 470 allows the Department of Economic Development to administer a grant program to provide assistance to military communities. Grant amounts will be determined case-by-case and communities will be eligible if it is found the money will assist in furthering positive relationships between military installations and surrounding communities, while assisting in efforts to defend the success of a military installation from a federal review or closure.

House Bill 470

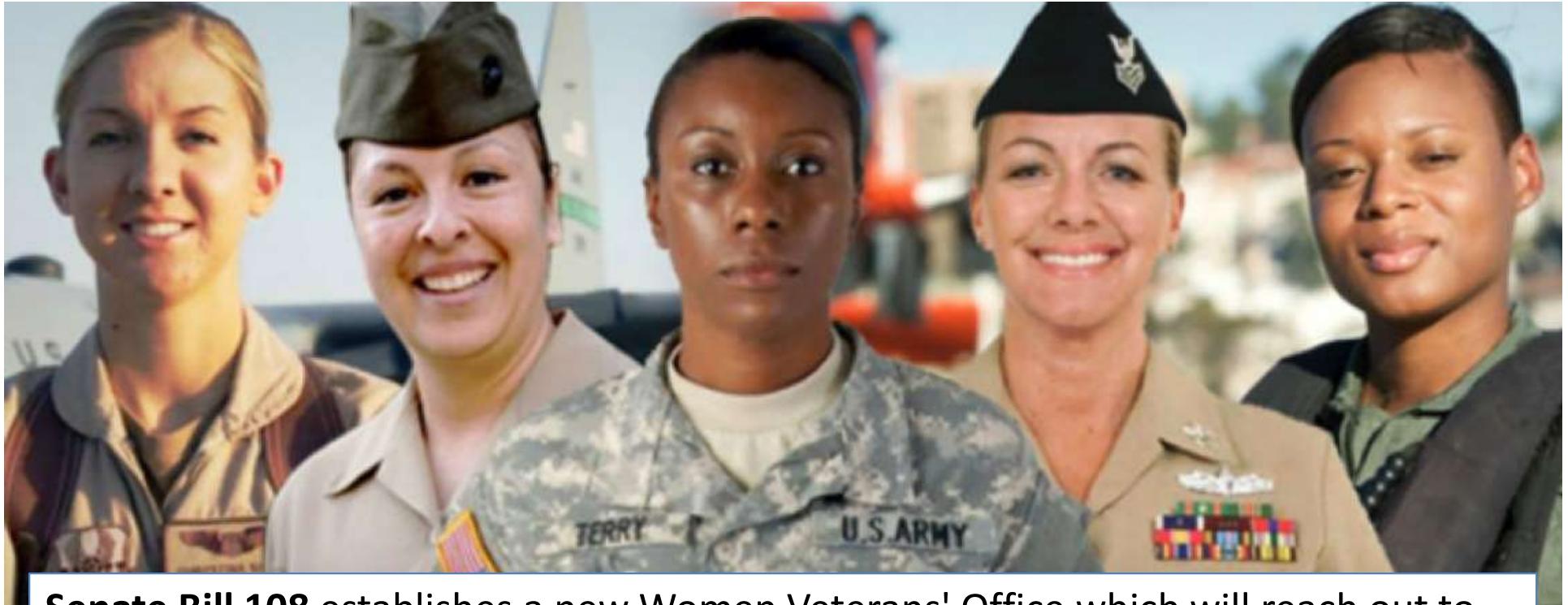
Disabled Vet Assistance



House Bill 196 includes the original HB 209 that amends Georgia code relating to homestead exemption by qualified disabled veterans. The bill allows disabled veterans who receive a final determination of disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs containing a retroactive period of eligibility, or their surviving spouse or minor children, to receive a refund of up to three years of ad valorem taxes paid during the retroactive period.

House Bill 196

Women Veterans' Office



Senate Bill 108 establishes a new Women Veterans' Office which will reach out to female veterans improving awareness of eligibility while conducting assessments of the specific needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services.

Senate Bill 108

Healthcare Initiatives



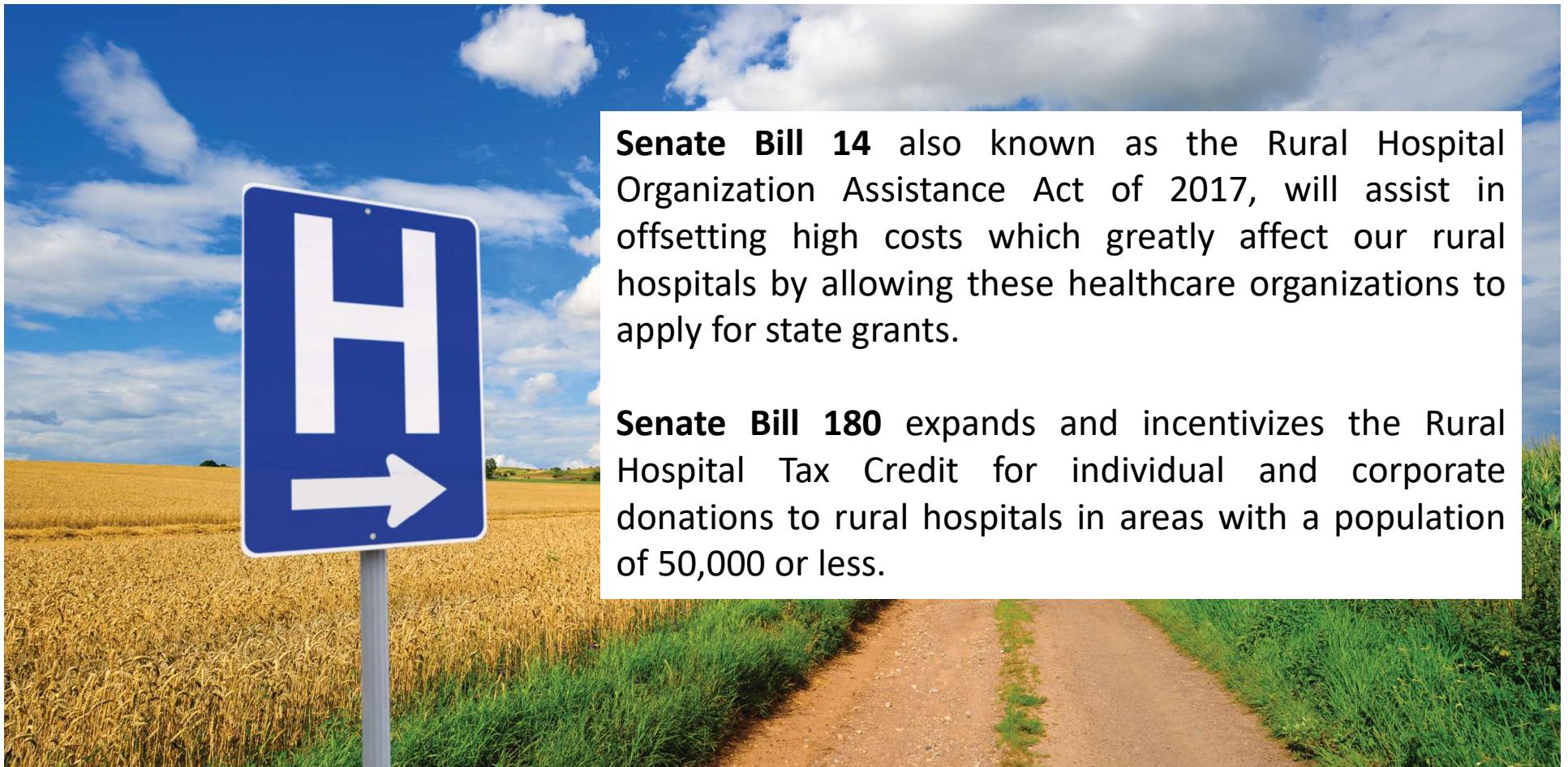
Expanded Licensure Dental Assistants



House Bill 154 expands the role of licensed dental hygienists, making care more accessible throughout the state. The bill authorizes licensed hygienists to perform dental screenings and certain duties without the supervision of a dentist.

House Bill 154

Rural Healthcare



Senate Bill 14 also known as the Rural Hospital Organization Assistance Act of 2017, will assist in offsetting high costs which greatly affect our rural hospitals by allowing these healthcare organizations to apply for state grants.

Senate Bill 180 expands and incentivizes the Rural Hospital Tax Credit for individual and corporate donations to rural hospitals in areas with a population of 50,000 or less.

Senate Bill 14 . Senate Bill 180

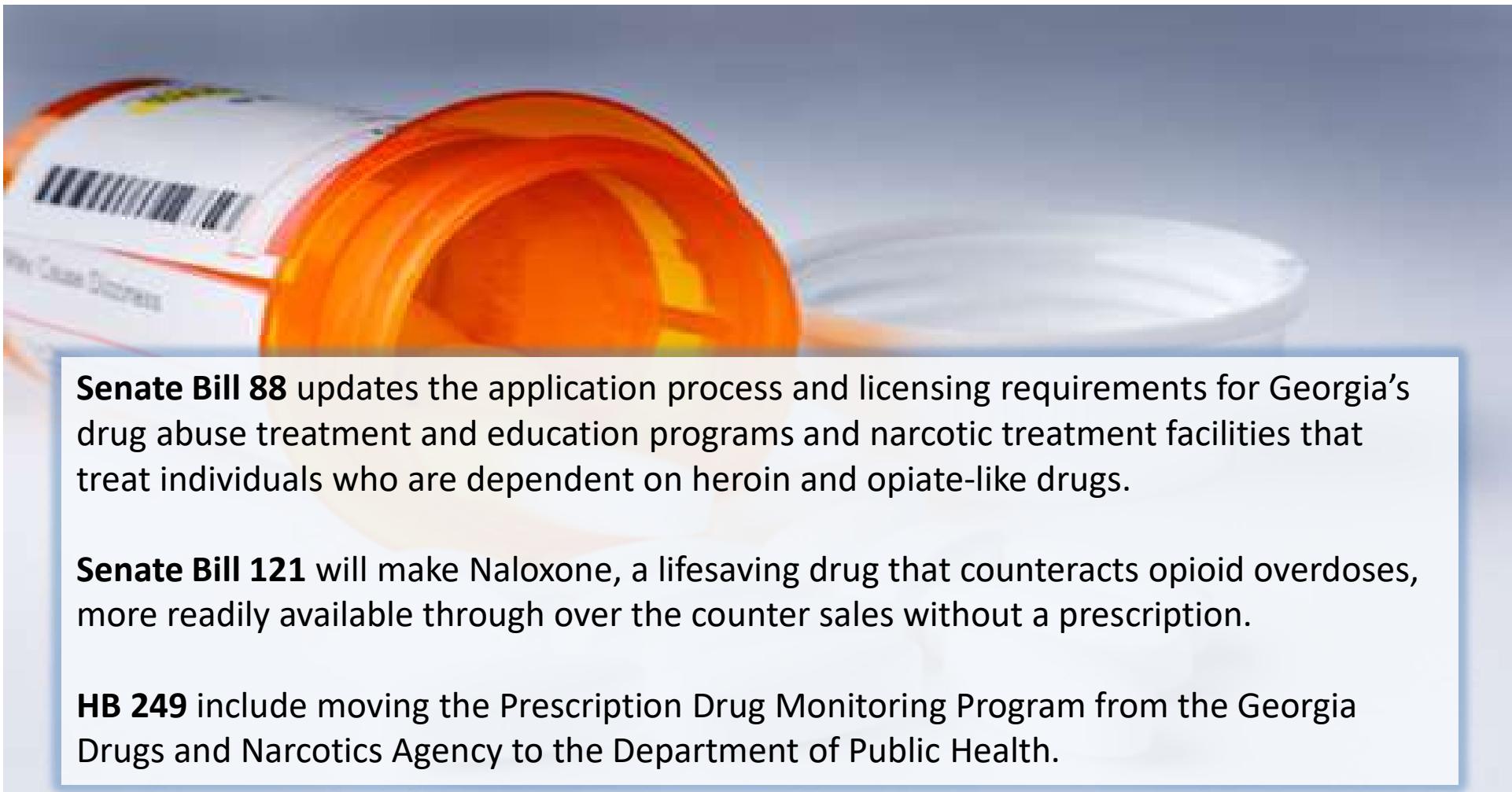
Medical Cannabis Oil Expansion

Senate Bill 16 expands Georgia's medical cannabis oil program by adding six illnesses to the list of qualifying medical conditions. The bill also allows patients to legally possess a maximum of 20 fluid ounces of cannabis oil with a maximum of 5 percent THC.



Senate Bill 16

Drug Abuse Prevention



Senate Bill 88 updates the application process and licensing requirements for Georgia's drug abuse treatment and education programs and narcotic treatment facilities that treat individuals who are dependent on heroin and opiate-like drugs.

Senate Bill 121 will make Naloxone, a lifesaving drug that counteracts opioid overdoses, more readily available through over the counter sales without a prescription.

HB 249 include moving the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program from the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency to the Department of Public Health.

Senate Bill 88 . Senate Bill 121 . House Bill 249

Drug Abuse Prevention



Senate Bill 206, known as, Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act, would require health insurance plans in Georgia to cover the cost of hearing aids for children 18 and under.

Senate Bill 206

Bills of Interest



Rural Development Council



House Resolution 389 creates the House Rural Development Council to identify the challenges and economic development opportunities in our rural communities.

House Bill 389

Pro-Small Business



Senate Bill 85 will allow craft breweries and spirit distilleries to sell limited amounts of products directly to their visitors, which are currently only available through distillery tours.

Senate Bill 85

Expanded Privacy Laws



Senate Bill 104 requires government entities to post the human trafficking hotline notice inside some government buildings. The bill also criminalizes the use of any devise to secretly observe, photograph, videotape, film or record underneath or through a person's clothing, where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Senate Bill 104

Fire Fighter Cancer Coverage



House Bill 146 requires fire departments to provide adequate insurance coverage for firefighters who have served 12 consecutive months on duty and are disabled and unable to continue to work as a result of career causing cancer.

House Bill 146

Spaceport Camden



House Bill 1 minimizes the tort liability for space flight activity operators when a participant is injured during space flight operations and a written waiver was signed, except in the case of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. Under this bill, Georgia law would also govern any lawsuit pertaining to space flight activities.

House Bill 1