



**Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Report January 29, 2021
Days 5-8**



Jimmy A. McDonald
GHCC General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs

The McDonald Firm, LLC
4480 South Cobb Dr. Suite 252H
Smyrna, Georgia 30082
jmcDonald@themcdonaldfirm.net

Lawmakers gathered this past week to continue to tackle issues under the Gold Dome and many have introduced pieces of legislation that we will monitor to ensure that our member's interests are protected. Below is our weekly report of legislative days five through eight that contains new bills that have been filed and assigned to committees.

Immigration:

This past week Representative Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton) introduced [HB 120](#) which would allow some DACA recipients in the state of Georgia to pay-instate tuition rates at universities and technical colleges if they meet certain requirements. Those requirements include:

- Having graduated from a High School or obtained a GED in the state of Georgia,
- Has independently established and maintained domicile in this state since January 1, 2013, or is the dependent child of a parent who has established and maintained domicile in this state since January 1, 2013,
- Has not reached the age of 30 before submitting an initial application for admission.

This bill does prevent DACA recipients from receiving in-state tuition rates from any of Georgia's research institutions such as Georgia State, Georgia Tech, Valdosta State University, and the University of Georgia. This bill has bipartisan support as four republicans and two democrats have co-sponsored it. The legislation has been assigned to the House Higher Education Committee.

[HB 190](#) by Representative Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta) outlaws privately operated detention centers in the state. This bill was referred to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.



Business:

[HB 112](#) by Representative Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown), amends multiple Code sections to extend COVID-19 liability protections for one year after the August 5, 2020 effective date of the original legislation. This bill was referred to the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System.

[HB 181](#) by Representative Marvin Lim (D-Norcross) requires employers to provide newly hired employees with copies of all notices the employer is required to post in the workplace. This bill was referred to the House Industry and Labor Committee.

[HB 183](#) by Representative Marvin Lim (D-Norcross) allows claims of violations of the Fair Businesses Practices Act to be brought in a representative capacity. This bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

[HB 147](#) by Representative Heath Clark (R-Warner Robins) permits individuals licensed in other states to receive a license by endorsement if the individual: establishes residency in the state, holds a current license to practice the occupation in another state prior to relocating and the other state has substantially similar requirements to obtain a license, is in good standing in the other state, and passes an examination to demonstrate knowledge of the laws and rules and regulations, of the state-specific to practice. This bill was referred to the House Regulated Industries Committee.

Horse Racing and Gambling:

[HR 30](#) by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) calls for a Constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to provide for the licensing of destination gambling resorts in the state. This resolution was referred to the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

[SB 30](#) by Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) provides for pari-mutuel horse racing in the state. Specifically, the bill creates the Georgia Horse Racing Commission to administrate the licensing and regulation of a maximum of three equestrian facilities. Each facility must be at least 125 miles from the closest facility. All equestrian facilities must hold races on at least 60 days a year. The bill also sets forth a competitive bid process for the award of the equestrian facility licenses. This bill was referred to the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

[HB 86](#) by Representative Ron Stephens (R-Lyons) seeks to grant authority to the Georgia Lottery Corporation to establish and regulate a sports betting lottery game in Georgia. The bill stipulates that sports betting may be made on mobile platforms operated by licensed entities. Each license is to be awarded in a competitive bidding process through the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Each applicant for licensure must pay a \$50,000 nonrefundable application fee along with an annual \$900,000 licensure fee. Each licensee is required to pay a monthly 16 percent tax on its gross revenue. All taxes collected from these licensees will be deposited in the



Lottery for Education Account in the state treasury. The bill was assigned to the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

Housing:

[HB 184](#) by Representative Marvin Lim (D-Norcross) prohibits renters of property to be used as a dwelling from falsely characterizing the dwelling as meeting standards or containing certain characteristics. This bill was referred to the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Transportation:

[HB 100](#) by Representative Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) provides a tax credit for motor fuel and compressed natural gas for vehicles owned for public transport. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Healthcare:

[SB 46](#) by Senator Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge) grants the ability to administer vaccines to EMS workers. The expanded allowance applies only to vaccines for illnesses for which there are declared public health emergencies. Additionally, the bill removes the exemption for children under 18 to register with the statewide vaccination registry for vaccinations administered as a result of a declared public health emergency. This bill was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Local Government:

[HB 150](#) by Representative Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe) prohibits local governmental entities from adopting policies that prohibit the connection or reconnection of any utility service based on the source of energy or fuel. This bill was referred to the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee.

Elections:

[SB 29](#) by Senator Jason Anavitarte (R-Dallas) requires photo ID verification for absentee ballot requests. This bill was referred to the Senate Ethics Committee.