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Sine Die!

Voting Rights and Election Integrity

SB441 was the bill that finally passed late on Monday. The provision gives the GA Bureau of Investigation (GBI) stronger police power over elections.
Under this version of the bill, the GBI can initiate investigations of all allegations of election fraud or other infractions that put election results in doubt. Previously, the Secretary of State had the discretion to call in the GBI when he or she deemed it necessary. This potentially turns every election investigation into a criminal investigation even though a tiny percentage of them are ever proven and most of those are due to simple human error. In the last election where allegations of voter fraud, ballot tampering and absentee ballot shenanigans flew, the GBI found no proof of any of it. None. The new state budget allocates $580,000 to pay four GBI agents to investigate election-related cases. The legislation omits the sweeping changes the earlier HB1464 included but eliminates the mandate for employers to allow employees two hours off work to vote during early in-person voting, in addition to allowing time for employees to vote on Election Day.