

April 7, 2022, Issue 13

Sine Die!

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FAILED
BUT ARE LIKELY TO RESURFACE IN THE 2023 SESSION.

Ban on abortion pills by mail: There was not enough support in the Republican caucus to warrant the energy to pass it.

Expansion of medical marijuana licenses: This failed by a single vote so will surely be re-introduced next year. It would have expanded the number of licenses from three to six. Medical marijuana has been legal in Georgia for several years but with legal challenges from companies unable to obtain a license, no one makes it here and there is no place to buy it.

Legalized gambling: Several different pieces of legislation, a perennial effort by a group of long-serving lawmakers, tried but failed to pass. The final version would have added a referendum to the November ballot to let voters—and would-be punters—from deciding once and for all.

Limits on the film tax credit: The Senate tried to cap tax incentives at $900 million a year and make the credits non-transferable. The film industry is now worth $4 billion in Georgia and employs 75,000 people but the studios are usually based in California or New York. Republican leaders showed a willingness to penalize an industry often aligned with liberal politics.

Mandatory cash bail for all felony offenses: Judges would retain the right to set the bail amount but lose the discretion to waive bail and release an accused on their own recognizance.

Lawmaker Pay: Pay for Georgia's 180 House members and 56 senators would have risen to 50% of the state median household income, up to about $30,000, under a constitutional amendment proposed by House Resolution 842.