

**2021  
LEGISLATIVE  
UPDATE**



# Bills By the Numbers

854 House Bills – 225 Passed

85 Local Legislation

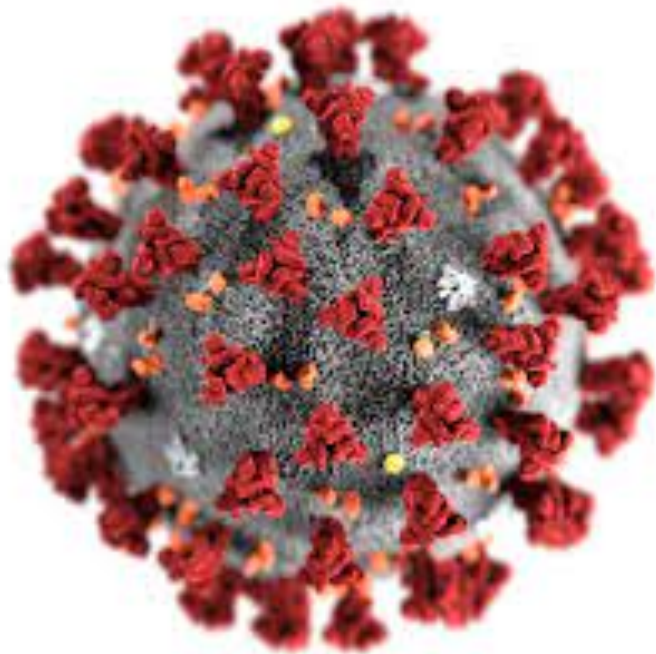
321 Senate Bills – 96 Passed

23 Local Legislation

567 House Resolutions

343 Senate Resolutions

# HB 112 – Covid Liability



- No entity, or individual shall be held liable for damages in an action involving a COVID-19 liability claim unless the claimant proves that the entity, or individual showed gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional infliction of harm.
- Applies to causes of action accruing until July 14, 2022

# HB 98– Virtual Meetings

Authorizes virtual meetings of state government bodies during emergencies

Requires virtual meetings to allow for public participation if meeting is a public hearing

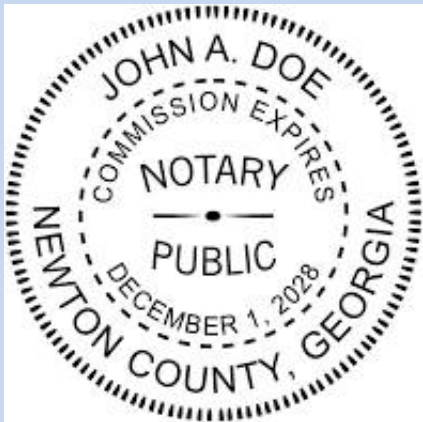


# SB 168 – Electronic P&P Bonds

Requires state to accept electronic signatures and seals on bid, payment, and performance bonds provided they comply with the state's e-signature law



# HB 334 Remote Notarization



- Specifically authorizes remote notarization where online notary is physically located in the state and a remotely located individual can communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound
- Authorizes an electronic in person notarization process (notary “stamp” is electronic”)

# HB 307 – Telehealth Act



- Authorizes healthcare professionals to provide telemedicine services from their homes.
- Makes it possible for patients to receive telemedicine services without first requiring an in-person visit.
- Prohibits separate deductibles for telemedicine visits
- Requires virtual visits to be as thorough and consistent as with an in-person visit.

# Citizens Arrest





Current Law:

17-4-60. Grounds for arrest

A private person may arrest an offender if the offense is committed in his presence or within his immediate knowledge. If the offense is a felony and the offender is escaping or attempting to escape, a private person may arrest him upon reasonable and probable grounds of suspicion.

HB 479 – Citizen's Arrest

# HB 479 – Citizen's Arrest

- New Law allows owners of retail or food service establishments to detain individuals if they have reasonable grounds to believe the individual has committed or attempted to commit theft
- Also allows licensed private detectives to detain individuals when needed “for purposes of performing his or her duties”



## House Bill 94 – Porch Piracy

- Creates Crime of Porch Piracy - stealing 3 or more packages from 3 or more dwellings or addresses
- Felony punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or, in the discretion of the trial judge, as for a misdemeanor

# House Bill 150 – Fuel Choice

- Bill prohibits local governments from adopting regulations which would prevent the connection to a particular type of energy or fuel in residential or commercial properties





# HB 146 Paid Parental Leave

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Creates paid parental leave  
for employees of the state  
and local school boards

Applies after birth or  
adoption of child

Provides 120 hours of paid  
parental leave over a 12  
month period



## SB 85 – Hazing

Hazing is a crime in Georgia

Expands definition of hazing to include “coercing a student to drink or eat anything any subjects the student to a likely risk of vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness”

Requires schools to create systems for reporting hazing

# HB 208 – Swearing In Day

- Creates New State Holiday
- The second Wednesday of February of each year is designated as 'National Swearing-in Commitment Day' in Georgia
- NOT a paid Vacation Day : (

# SB 100 – Daylight Savings

- Observe daylight savings time year round as the standard time of the entire
- Effective only if the United States Congress amends Federal Law to authorize states to observe daylight savings time year round





# HB 511 Dedication of Taxes and Fees to Separate Funds

- Constitutional Amendment passed last November
- Allows General Assembly to dedicate a tax or fee revenue for the public purpose for which the taxes or fees were imposed.
- HB 511 codifies the process of dedicating fees.





Revises definition of “innkeeper” to ensure that companies like VRBO and Air B&B pay the state’s \$5 per night hotel tax



## HB 317 – Hotel Tax

# **SB 33**

## **Human Trafficking Tort**

- Human Trafficking is already a crime under Georgia Law
- Allows victims to sue perpetrators for tort of Human Trafficking
- Also gives Georgia Attorney General authority to sue perpetrators





# HB 465 False Alarm ???



- Restricts local governments from penalizing alarm companies unless the alarm company failed to verify the alarm
- Local governments cannot penalize alarm companies for errors made by the home owner or business owner

# HB 534 – Street Racing

- Creates crime of organizing drag race
- Allows for license suspension for those ticketed for drag racing
- Creates other penalties for drag racing



# HB-286 – Police Funding

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Prohibits local governments from cutting police budgets by more than 5% in a year or more than 5% over a five year rolling period



# SB 236 – Cocktails to Go

- Allows Restaurants to sell mixed drinks to go
- Drinks must be in a sealed container (no straw holes)
- Can't be delivered by third party (no Uber Eats)
- Must be placed in locked trunk or behind last seat if car doesn't have a trunk



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