

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE







## HB – 137

Raises Bid Threshold for State and  
For Local Government

### Current Law:

Requires state agencies, counties, municipalities, and school systems to provide public notice and public procurement for public works construction projects over \$100,000

### New Law:

Raises limit to \$250,000 so construction projects valued at less than \$250,000 do not have to be publicly procured

## STATE OF GEORGIA



### Contractor License

Name

COMPANY NAME

License No

XX-00000-XX

Expiration

00/00/0000

## HB 579 General Contractor Licensing

- Creates 45 day “grace period” allowing for renewal after expiration of license
- Licensing Board not required to verify college transcripts to determine if postsecondary education requirement is met – can verify through “other reliable means”

# SB 68 – Tort Reform

- Limits ability of plaintiff to suggest value of non-economic damages like pain and suffering
- No longer required to file an answer to a suit if you file a motion to dismiss
- Limits recovery of attorney's fees
- Seat belt rule
- No recovery for damages paid by insurance
- Creates tort of negligent security so claims are limited



## HB 92 – Changes to Law that Limited Increases in Assessed Values for Homestead Exemption Property

Legislation passed last year to restrict annual assessment increases on homesteaded property to the rate of inflation, voters approved constitutional amendment

Bill allowed local governments a one time opportunity to opt out

HB 92 allows local bodies to rescind their decision to opt-out at any time by April 30, 2025, for tax year 2025 and by March 1 of each year for tax years 2026 to 2029.

Includes incentive for school districts that do not opt out – sales tax rebates for construction materials used for capital outlay projects

Those that do opt out must include in every ad valorem property tax bill they issue a notice “in bold print” that informs the resident that the body has decided to opt out of the exemption and a telephone number they can call if they have concerns about that decision.

# HB 233

- Companies operated or owned wholly or in part by “foreign countries of concern” cannot bid or propose on state contracts
- Includes prohibition on contracts through 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Applies to all goods and services but specifically mentions computers, printers, connecting cables, and interoperable videoconferencing services
- Scrutinized countries are set by federal law and include: China, Russia, Venezuela, North Korea, Iran, and Cuba





## Income Tax Refund

### HB 112

Creates one time tax refund for those who filed for tax years 2023 and 2024

Single/married filing jointly = \$250 refund

Head of Household = \$375

Married filing jointly = \$500



## Lower Income Tax Rates

Accelerates tax cuts originally approved in 2022, reducing the income tax rate for individuals and corporations from 5.39% to 5.19% for 2025.

If certain financial benchmarks are met, the rate would fall to 4.99% by 2027 — two years ahead of the original schedule



# HB 340

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Bans cellphones and other personal electronic devices during the school day for students in grades k-8



# HB 241

Sets maximum fee that lenders or merchants can charge for use of electronic payment at \$5

Can only charge fee if they provide a direct payment option (check, cash, or money order) in which no convenience fee is imposed





# HB 233

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Creates a property tax exemption and income tax credit for timber lost to Hurricane Helene





Prohibits Car Booting  
Companies from  
paying a property  
owner for the right  
to boot cars

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HB 551





# HB 67

## Amended FY 25 Budget

BOR	Design and construction for the Translational Research Building - Health Sciences Campus, Augusta University	\$99,800,000
TCSG	One College and Career Academy	\$3,000,000
DOE	Georgia School for the Deaf auditorium renovation and addition, Cave Spring	\$6,570,000
GBI	Design of the Central Crime Lab, Dry Branch, Bibb County	\$5,000,000
AG	Renovations and repairs to the Atlanta Farmers Market, Forest Park	\$32,401,741
DNR	Major improvements and renovations at Brasstown Valley Resort and Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge	\$9,000,000
GWCC	Planning and engineering for development of International Plaza and expansion	\$10,000,000
DPS	Design, construct and equip a new State Patrol facility for post 19, Swainsboro	\$2,500,000
LIB	Construct Pelham Carnegie Library, DeSoto Trail Regional Library System	\$3,000,000
BOR	Design Student Support, Engagement, and Wellness Facilities, Savannah State University	\$6,500,000

# HB68 – FY 26 Budget

BOR	Design, construction, equipment, and associated demolition for the Space Science and Robotics Facility - Main Campus, Columbus State University	\$12,200,000
BOR	Design, construction, and equipment for the Skiles Critical Infrastructure Renewal and Upgrade, Georgia Institute of Technology	\$20,000,000
BOR	Design for Science and Ag Hill Modernization, Phase IV Biological Sciences - North Wing), University of Georgia	\$2,100,000
BOR	Design, construction, and associated demolition for the Water Tank Replacement, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	\$2,900,000
BOR	Design and construction for the Building B - Roof Replacement, Georgia Gwinnett College	\$3,800,000
TCSG	Design and construction for Building B Simulated Training Hospital renovation and expansion at Georgia Piedmont Technical College	\$9,550,000
TCSG	Design and construction for Automotive Building Expansion at Gwinnett Technical College, Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Count	\$8,640,000
TCSG	Design and construction for Building A Renovation Phase II, Lagrange, Troup County	\$11,450,000
GVRA	Design, construction, and equipment to renovate the Georgia Hall kitchen and dining room and Roosevelt Hall auditorium and stage at Roosevelt Warm Springs	\$7,487,711
DCS	Design and construct a new facility for the Columbus Day Reporting Center and Field Office	\$6,200,000
DOD	Site improvements and renovations for six readiness centers, statewide	\$12,000,000
GBI	Region 10 Investigative Office and Crime Scene Garage, Conyers	\$3,800,000
GPSTC	Design and construction of a new Basic Law Enforcement Training building, Forsyth	\$15,921,103
GPSTC	Construction of a new Department of Public Safety Training building and range, Forsyth	\$13,442,000
DNR	Construction of a consolidated Region 2 office, Gainesville, Hall County	\$13,600,000

# HB 233

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- Brunswick Stew is Official State Stew
- Cornbread is the Official State Bread





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