



Senate District 15 – Session Update – Week Nine - 2016

Friday, March 12th, we completed day 35 of 40 legislative days. Day 40, or as we call it, Sine Die is quickly approaching. Sine Die is a Latin term that means “adjournment indefinitely”. Sine Die is the deadline for any legislators trying to pass bills this session. Once the clock strikes midnight on the 40th day, the 2016 session is officially over! With a looming deadline, we are in overdrive as we continue to work for the citizens of Georgia. Week nine was productive in the Senate as we passed a number of measures.

Operation of Watercraft while Under the Influence

House Bill 172 would alter the definition of “vessel” to allow the consumption of alcohol on a homemade or inflatable raft. This practice, known as tubing is a popular summertime activity enjoyed on Georgia rivers, was banned as an unintended consequence last session.

Prohibiting Payment for Unsolicited Goods

House Bill 697 would prohibit billing for goods upon the expiration of a trial period if the goods were provided free of charge. Consumers must provide consent to continue receiving the product before they can be charged by the provider.

Georgia Fire Fighters’ Pension Fund

House Bill 844 outlines the process for claims against the Georgia Fire Fighters’ Pension Fund. The bill also establishes that these claims are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

House Bill 751, the FY 2017 Budget, sets appropriates \$23.7 billion in state funding from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The largest state budget since the recession, the Senate increased funding for road projects and maintenance, public safety infrastructure, and a 3 percent raise for school employees.

Georgia Right to Try Act

House Bill 34, also known as the Georgia Right to Try Act, will allow terminally ill patients to access investigational drugs and treatment. The patient must provide written informed consent and healthcare providers are not required to cover treatment costs. Caregivers cannot be held liable for the injury or death of a patient undergoing investigational treatment.

Creating Permanent Parenting Plans

House Bill 52, would require a permanent parenting plan to be created at the end of all child custody orders. Current law states that a separate court order exclusively devoted to the parenting plan must be created.

Utility Service Vehicles Added to Move Over Law

House Bill 767 would add utility service vehicles to the list of vehicles covered by the “Move Over” law. The law already instructs drivers to change lanes or reduce speed when approaching stationary maintenance and recovery vehicles parked on the side of the road.

Pharmacy Shipping Methods

House Bill 886 would allow pharmacies to mail prescriptions to patients as long as they follow shipping methods approved by the manufacturer and the Food and Drug Administration.