



March 14, 2016

Georgia Legislative Update Legislative Days 32-35 (of 40)

- **2016 Day in Washington Supermarket Industry Fly-in**
- **Elections**
- **Petroleum Pipeline Info.**
- **Tax Exemption for Donated Food Passed Committee**
- **Relaxed Vaccination Requirements Bill Passed Committee**
- **Franchise/Franchisee Relationships Clarified**
- **Legislative Changes**

Today is Day 32 of the 40- day Georgia legislative session.

Imagine going to work today and seeing other people who are interviewing for your job? That's what happened last week when many legislators, including those in leadership, found out they would face opposition on May 24. There are a total of 49 sitting legislators with primary election opposition and 45 have general election opposition.

Georgia's legislators will be in session Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week and are scheduled to adjourn next Thursday, March 24th.

2016 Day in Washington

Year after year, supermarket industry executives from across the country come to Washington, D.C. for the annual Day in Washington Supermarket Industry Fly-in to meet with their elected officials in Congress. This is an important opportunity for supermarket operators to engage with their lawmakers and share the industry's position on how federal policies directly impact their businesses. The annual event is collectively hosted by the Food Industry Association Executives, the Food Marketing Institute, and the National Grocers Association each year.

When: *Tuesday, April 19th - Thursday, April 21st, 2016*

Registration Info.: [Click Here](#)

Schedule: [Click Here](#)

Hotel Info.: [Click Here](#)

Legislation Highlights

Elections

Legislative Leaders Facing Primary Challengers:

- Speaker Ralston
- House Majority Leader Burns
- Senate Majority Leader Cowser
- Sen Steve Gooch (Majority Whip)
- Sen Jeff Mullis (Rules Chair)
- Sen Charlie Bethel (Insurance Chair)
- Sen Jesse Stone (Judiciary Non-Civil Chair)
- Sen Brandon Beach (Economic Development Chair)
- Sen Frank Ginn (Natural Resources Chair)
- Sen John Wilkinson (Agriculture Chair)
- Sen Fran Millar (Higher Education Chair)
- Rep Terry England (Appropriations Chair)
- Rep Howard Maxwell (Regulated Industries Chair)
- Rep Sharon Cooper (House and Human Services Chair)
- Rep Tommy Benton (Human Relations & Aging Chair)
- Rep Greg Morris (Banks and Banking Chair)
- Rep Brooks Coleman (Education Chair)
- Rep Joe Wilkinson (Ethics Chair)
- Rep Tom Weldon (Juvenile Justice Chair)
- Rep Jimmy Pruett (State Planning & Community Affairs Chair)

- Rep Ed Rynders (Government Affairs Chair)
- Rep Tom Taylor (MARTOC)
- Rep John Yates (Defense & Veterans Affairs Chair)

Additionally, congressional candidates qualified for their respective seats.

Federal Races with Primary Opposition

- Senator Isakson faces 2 opponents
- 6 Republicans qualified for the seat held by retiring Congressman Westmoreland (District 2)
- Congressman Austin Scott (R, District 8)
- Congressman Doug Collins (R, District 9) faces 4 opponents
- Congressman Barry Loudermilk (R, District 11) faces 4 opponents
- Congressman Rick Allen (R, District 12)
- Congressman Tom Graves (R, District 14) faces 2 opponents

Transportation

[**HB 1036**](#), providing a moratorium (through June of 2017) on eminent domain for the construction of petroleum pipelines, passed committee by substitute. The bill: (1) prevents the department of Transportation from accepting any applications for any certificate of necessity or public convenience, (2) provides that no state officer, agency, department etc. may accept any application for or issue an approval, permit, or document necessary for the construction of a pipeline, and (3) sets up a State Commission on Petroleum Pipelines.

Tobacco

[**HB 899**](#), related to the Master Settlement Agreement, passed committee.

Food

[**HB 763**](#), extending the tax exemption for food donated to food banks and nonprofit agencies, passed committee.

Pharmacy

[**HB 886**](#), related to mail order pharmacy, passed the Senate. The bill now goes to the Governor.

[HB 1043](#) relaxing some of the requirements for vaccinating under a protocol agreement for health systems, passed Senate Committee.

General Business

[SB 277](#) related to franchisee and franchisor relationships, clarifying that the employee of the franchise is not considered an employee of the franchisor, passed the House. The bill now goes to the Governor for consideration.

[HB 402](#) related to worker's compensation discounts for certain work based learning placements for students, passed committee

Legislative Changes

18 Georgia legislators will not be returning to the capitol next year. [Click Here to See a List of Names.](#)

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