



2016 Legislative Update  
Week 2 – January 22, 2016

The Georgia General Assembly completed the second week of the 2016 Session today. This marked the eighth day of the 40 day legislative session. The Legislature will reconvene on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and will be in session through Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. A new adjournment resolution was adopted confirming March 24 as Legislative Day 40 - click on the following link for the extended legislative schedule: [http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/HR\\_1114.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/HR_1114.pdf).

This past week was highlighted by Governor Deal's amended FY16 and FY17 budget presentation to the joint House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Following the Governor's remarks, the Committees began work on the Amended FY16 Budget and we expect this bill to go before the House as early as next week. They will then turn their attention to the FY17 measure.

House Bill [779](#) by Representative Kevin Tanner was introduced this week. This bill regulates the use of drones in the state of Georgia. Drones are increasingly being used by both businesses and hobbyists. The bill seeks to promote the responsible use of drones while protecting the privacy rights of citizens. Hearings on this legislation are expected to commence next week.

The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will hold a hearing on Monday on Senate Bill [264](#) by Senator Brandon Beach. This bill is the "enabling legislation" which sets forth the legal and regulatory framework in the event a Constitutional Amendment legalizing pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing in Georgia is approved. This Committee passed the Constitutional Amendment last year and both measures are expected to go before the full Senate soon.

The House will begin considering House Bill [722](#) to allow the cultivation of marijuana in Georgia to be used for medical purposes. Representative Allen Peake of Macon is the lead sponsor of the bill and over 100 House Members have signed on to the legislation.

Finally, the GeorgiaLink team was honored at a reception last night hosted by James Magazine which recently announced that for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have been named the "Top Lobbying Firm" in Georgia. See the attached photo. We are proud of this honor and again want to thank our clients for their support and confidence in us.

For detailed information on specific legislation visit: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx>

*The Regional Business Coalition of Metropolitan Atlanta (RBC) is an organization of over a dozen of the largest and most active Chambers of Commerce throughout the*

*metro Atlanta region. RBC member chambers represent over 15,000 member companies who employ millions of metro Atlanta residents. The RBC's primary goal is to represent the interests of RBC Chamber members on regional public policy issues impacting our transportation, water and air quality and to advocate for solutions that improve metro Atlanta's quality of life and economic vitality.*