2017 Legislative Update
FY 2018 Data Conference

August 31, 2017
Policy Division
Georgia Department of Education
Tracking a Bill Through the Georgia General Assembly
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**IDEA**
Legislator sees need for a new law or changes in existing law and decides to introduce a bill.

**DRAFTING**
Legislator goes to Office of Legislative Counsel. There, attorney advises legislator on legal issues and drafts bill.
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INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING
Legislator files a bill with the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate. On legislative day after filing, the bill is formally introduced and begins a two-year cycle. In chamber, the bill’s title is read during period of first readings. Immediately after first reading, presiding officer assigns bill to a standing committee.
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SECOND READING

In the House only, on the next legislative day, Clerk reads bill’s title (second reading) in the House chamber, although actual bill is now in committee. In the Senate, second reading comes after bill is reported favorably from a committee.
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COMMITTEE ACTION
Bill is considered by a committee. Author and other legislators may testify at the committee. If controversial, public hearings may be held. Final committee action is reported in a written report. Committee options are:
✓ Recommend Bill or Resolution **Do Pass**;
✓ Recommend **Do NOT Pass**;
✓ Recommend **Do Pass with changes** (amendments or substitutes);
✓ Hold Bill.

House Ed Committee Chair: Brooks Coleman 97th District
Senate Ed Committee Chair: Lindsey Tippins 37th District
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THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

Clerk or Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills favorably reported from committee.

✓ Legislation which was second read the day before is placed on a calendar in numeric order for floor action prior to the Rules Committee meeting to choose bills for consideration.

✓ After a certain point, set by rule, the Rules Committee meets and prepares a Rules Calendar for the next day’s floor consideration from bills on General Calendar.
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✓ The presiding officer (Speaker of the House, Lt. Governor) calls up bills from the Rules Calendar for floor action in order as they appear on this calendar.

Once presiding officer calls bill up from Rules Calendar, Clerk or Secretary reads bill’s title (third reading). Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting. After debate, main question is called and members vote. If bill is approved by majority of total membership of that chamber, it is sent to the other chamber.
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TRANSMITTAL TO OTHER CHAMBER

Bill is passed if:
✓ If second chamber passes bill, it is returned to chamber where bill was introduced.
✓ If first chamber rejects changes and second chamber insists, a conference committee may be appointed.
✓ Committee report must be accepted by both chambers to move forward.
GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE/VETO

Governor may sign bill or do nothing, and bill becomes law.

Governor may veto bill, which requires two-thirds of members of each house to override.
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**LAWS**
Laws enacted at the session are printed in the Georgia Laws series. Also, it is incorporated into the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Law becomes effective the following July 1, unless a different effective date is provided in the bill or upon signature of the Governor.
Georgia General Assembly

- House of Representatives 180 members
- Senate 56 members
Legislative Summary 2017

• 2056 Bills and Resolutions Introduced
• 88 Education Related Bills and Resolutions Introduced
• 30 Education Related Bills and Resolutions that Crossed -Over
House Bill 139

• Would require transparency and accuracy of financial information at the local school system and school levels for traditional and charter schools. DOE must make available on its website specified school system information and school site budget and expenditures.

• No later than October, 2018
House Bill 139

• “The Department shall make available on its website the following school site........”
  • School Level Expenditure and Budget Information

• “The Department shall make available on its website the following school system........”
  • System Level Expenditure and Budget Information

• “Each public school which maintains a website shall post in a prominent location on its website a link to where:
  • The financial efficiency ratings
  • School and school system expenditure and budget information referenced above
House Bill 148

- Creates unique student identifiers for children of military personnel
- Language in this bill was eventually attached to House Bill 139
House Bill 154

• Would allow licensed a dental hygienist to perform basic treatment without a dentist being present

• Georgia has one of the lowest rates of dentist per capita in the country

• Direct Supervision—means that a licensed dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedure is being performed by the dental hygienist, and before dismissal of the patient, examines the patient.

• General Supervision means that a licensed dentist has authorized the delegable duties of a licensed dental hygienist but does not require that a licensed dentist be present when such duties are performed.
• School districts that provide information to parents and guardians of students in grades 6-12 on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues must provide information on influenza vaccine(s) and the recommendations issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Center for Disease Control.
House Bill 198

• “The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall develop and make available the information about meningococcal meningitis disease and influenza and its vaccine their respective vaccines to local school systems as required in an efficient manner that shall include posting the information on its website”.
House Bill 224

- Would allow school aged children of military personnel to attend any public school within the local school system in which the military personnel resides, or school system in which the military base the parent is stationed at is located.

- Annual notification to parents is required (electronic or other reasonable means).

- Assuming space is available and parents are responsible for transportation
House Bill 237

- Establishes a Public Education Innovation Foundation Fund with $5,000,000 cap
- To fund innovative grants in critical needs schools
- The Foundation shall report to the Department of Revenue.
- Competitive grants with priority to be given to lowest 5% of schools
- Applicable to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.
House Bill 338

• Failing school plan where Chief Turnaround Officer is appointed by the State Board. Consequences for long term failing schools including, but not limited to local board removal based on lack of performance.

• State Board must prepare an annual report detailing schools receiving unacceptable rating for one or more consecutive years. This is an annual report due no later than December 31 of each year.

• Report will be provided to Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, Chairmen of Education Committees in House and Senate, to the Education Turnaround Advisory Committee.
House Bill 338, Study Committees

- Creates a Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process
- Creates a Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a Leadership Academy
House Bill 437

• Agricultural Education Advisory Committee
• State Superintendent has 3 appointees (not members of the General Assembly)
• Director of Ag. Ed. For DOE shall report annually to the commission regarding the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of the Ag. Ed. Program of the Division
Senate Resolution 95

• Constitutional amendment proposal requiring SPLOST proceeds to be shared between local school systems.

• “When a county school system has one or more independent school districts located within such county, the school district or combination of school districts that has a majority of the students enrolled within the county based on the latest full-time equivalent count, shall be authorized to call for a referendum to impose, levy, and collect a sales and use tax for educational purposes of such school districts conditioned upon approval by a majority of the qualified voters residing within the limits of the county voting in the referendum.”
Senate Bill 149

• School Resource Officer (SRO) Training
• Recommends 40 hours of specialized training
• Defines “school resource officer” as:
  “A peace officer whose primary employment or assigned duties with a law enforcement unit is assignment to a public elementary school or secondary school.”
Senate Bill 186

• Clarifies HOPE scholarship eligibility for students who earn high school diplomas through dual enrollment coursework.
• House Bill 331 (Caregiver Consent Bill) was attached
• Allows for a one year caregiver “affidavit”
• Gives the named caregiver consent for educational services and for the student to participate in extra-curricular activities.
House Bill 331

- House Bill 331 (Caregiver Consent Bill) was attached to Senate Bill 186
- Allows for a one year caregiver “affidavit”
- Gives the named caregiver consent for educational services and for the student to participate in extra-curricular activities.
Senate Bill 201

- Would allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members
- Employer means any entity which employs 25 or more employees including the State of Georgia.
- Immediate family member means an employee’s child, spouse, grandchild, grandparent, or parent or any dependents as shown in the employee’s most recent tax return.
- This Code section shall be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2020, unless extended by an Act of the General Assembly.
Senate Bill 211

• Requires the SBOE to conduct comparability study on the concordance of nationally recognized academic assessments for grades 9-12, as well as comparability of current end-of-course assessments.

• The study shall initiate no later than 07/01/2017 and provide the study to the State Superintendent, Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, Chair of Senate and House Education upon completion.
Senate Bill 211
House Bill 114 was attached

• “SB 211 directs Georgia’s existing ESSA Assessment Working Committee to pursue maximum flexibility for state and local assessments under federal law”.

• Requires local school systems to include students participating in Move On When Ready (MOWR) in Val/Sal determinations.

  “This shall not apply to a high school student who moves into the local school system after his or her sophomore year and has not taken any courses on site at the participating eligible high school.”
Did **NOT** PASS

- House Bill 273  The Recess bill
- House Bill 28  Drinking Water Bill
- Senate Bill 29  Drinking Water Bill
Local Board Policy Manual: Teacher and Student Handbooks

• Always have your board attorney review policy and regulation changes before you publish and implement the changes.
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