



LEGISLATIVE Update

March 15, 2019

General Assembly Overview

With the session winding down and Crossover Day in the rearview mirror, attention has shifted to bills that made it past the March 7th cutoff. Over the next weeks, both chambers will be quickly moving bills of importance through the legislative process to meet the Sine Die deadline set for April 2nd.

As pieces of legislation move through the committee process and onto the floor, the next three weeks will no doubt prove to be extremely busy under the Gold Dome. The set Adjournment Resolution provides for seven more legislative days and three built in committee work days to help in this effort.

Mainly through the efforts of GRA members CSX and NS, the bills GRA opposed did not make it past Crossover Day. Going forward, GRA will be focused on moving the surviving bills of support forward in hopes of landing on the Governor's desk for signing.

An Update on Bills of Interest to the GRA:

SR 19 and HR 37: The Creation of Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics. SR 19 sponsored by Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) and HR 37 by Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) have successfully moved out of their respective chambers to the other. On March 14th, SR 19 unanimously passed out of the House Transportation Committee. This version and attempts to bring together the interests of the House and Senate and establishes the roles of Chairman Tanner and Chairman Beach who will co-chair the commission. We anticipate this resolution will pass out the House with no issue and will serve as the vehicle for this initiative. **GRA Supports SR 19 and HR 37**

HB 189: Elimination of Diesel Fuel Tax. This matter will be added to the list of issues to be discussed by the Freight and Logistics Commission given the passage of SR 19. GRA will work diligently with the Governor's office, the commission, and legislative leaders to accomplish this important goal.

HB 190: Two Man Crew, HB 375: Rail Crossings, SB 96: Whistle Posts were all bills that GRA opposed this session. All three of these bills failed to make it through the committee process and therefore died on Crossover Day. The team at the Capitol is also working to oppose these ideas being added to other bills or being converted to urging resolutions.

In coordination with Governor Kemp's commitment to the support of Freight and Logistics, this week President Trump announced his plans to ask Congress for \$130 million in additional FY 2020 funds to deepen the Port of Savannah. President Trump's work along with Senator Isakson, Senator Perdue, Representative Carter, and others has resulted in a huge step towards broadening Georgia's logistical horizons and possibility of becoming the economic powerhouse of the country.

What to Expect Next Week

The General Assembly returns for Legislative Day 33 on Monday and then will take two committee days before ending the week with Days 34 and 35. The Senate is expected to pass its version of the 2020 budget and the conference committee process will begin.