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Issue VIII

*Community Bankers Association of Georgia
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GENERAL COMMENTS

And just like that...crossover day is finished! The Legislature was in session Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week completing the 29th day of a 40-day session. There were 93 bills on the House Rules Calendar for this week. Plus, the House voted on the supplemental budget and the amendment from the Senate on the tax bill. There were 75 bills on the Senate Rules Calendar for this week. Activity this week was centered on votes within the respective House and Senate chambers and there was little time for committee meetings.

What does crossover day mean? Crossover day is the last day for legislation to pass the chamber in which it was introduced and transfer to the other chamber for consideration. Senate bills must pass the Senate and House bills must pass the House. Any bill that does not receive a vote in its initial chamber by Day 28 cannot move on in the legislative process and must be re-introduced the following year. In rare instances, a bill may be attached to another piece of legislation from the same Code section that was crossed over by the required time frame; however, this brings into play a process by which the bill must be reviewed and approved by both chambers. While this is rare, CBA will continue to monitor bills throughout the remainder of the session to make sure no controversial topics are introduced or added to other bills that would adversely impact community banks.

NEW LEGISLATION THAT WE ARE TRACKING THIS WEEK

[HB 826–Law Enforcement](#), by Rep. Geoff Cauble (R), Stockbridge, relating to general provisions regarding law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to provide that an alarm monitoring company may contract out the requirement of attempting to verify an alarm prior to requesting law enforcement to be dispatched to the location of the alarm; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The bill was assigned to the Regulated

Industries Committee. The bill was passed by the House with a vote of 167-0 on February 22nd. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee. We will continue to monitor this bill throughout the session.

[HB 987–Building and Housing](#), by Rep. Sam Park (D), Lawrenceville, is a bill to be entitled an Act to provide comprehensive state civil rights law protecting individuals from discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment; to amend Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 8 of the O.C.G.A., relating to fair housing, so as to prohibit discrimination in housing; to amend Title 10 of the O.C.G.A., relating to commerce and trade, so as to protect the right to equal enjoyment of and privileges to public accommodations; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 34 and Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., relating to labor and industrial relations generally and public officers and employees, respectively, so as to prohibit discrimination in private and public employment; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The bill was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. The bill did not crossover this session.

[HR 993–Business Courts](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstrotation, (R), Dacula, is a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to create a business court with state-wide jurisdiction; to provide for venue and uniformity of jurisdiction and powers; to provide for selection, terms, and qualifications of business court judges; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; to provide for related matters; and for other purposes. The resolution was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. The resolution was passed by the House with a vote of 142-25 on February 28th. We will continue to monitor this resolution throughout the session.

[HB 998–Judicial Council](#), by Rep. Wendell Willard, (R), Sandy Springs, relating to general provisions regarding courts, so as to establish within the Judicial Council the Office of Business Cases; to provide for the referral and acceptance of cases into such office from the superior and state courts; to provide for the appointment of special masters; to provide for rules and regulations of the Judicial Council in the administration and operation of the office; to provide for a fee; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The bill was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. This is the companion bill to [HR 993–Business Courts](#). The bill did not crossover this session.

[HR 1317—House Study Committee on Reforming Real Property Taxation](#), by Rep. Andrew Welch, (R), McDonough, creates a House Study Committee on Reforming Real Property Taxation; and for other purposes. The Resolution was assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. We will continue to monitor the activity of the Committee.

[HR 1319—House Study Committee on Expanding Georgia Law Prohibiting Discriminatory Wage Practices](#), by Rep. Deborah Gonzalez, (D), Athens, creates a House Study Committee on Expanding Georgia Law Prohibiting Discriminatory Wage Practices Based on Sex to Include Discriminatory Wage Practices Based on Race; and for other purposes. The Resolution was assigned to the Industry and Labor Committee. We will continue to monitor the activity of the Committee.

[SR 916—Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee](#), by Sen. John Albers, (R), Alpharetta, creates the Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee; and for other purposes. The resolution was assigned to the Finance Committee. We will continue to monitor the activity of the Committee.

[SR 929—Joint Study Committee on Cyber Security Legislation](#), by Sen. Bruce Thompson, (R), White, creates a Joint Study Committee on Cyber Security Legislation; and for other purposes. The resolution was assigned to the Rules Committee. Since the resolution did not make it to the Senate Rules Calendar before crossover day, it is expected that this will be a Senate only study committee. We will continue to monitor the activity of the Committee.

OTHER LEGISLATION WE ARE TRACKING THAT HAD ACTIVITY THIS WEEK

[HB 121—Trust Powers Revision](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstration (R), Dacula, was passed by the House with a vote of 170-4 on February 26th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB 410--Estoppel Letters](#), by Rep. Alan Powell (R), Hartwell, was passed by the House with a vote of 153-18 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB 441—Self-Settled Spendthrift Trusts](#), by Rep. Barry Fleming (R), Harlem, received a do pass motion by substitute by the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee on February 27th.

[HB 775—Professions and Businesses](#), by Rep. Alan Powell (R), Hartwell, was passed by the House with a vote of 172-0 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

[HB 818—Insurance](#), by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R), Gainesville, was passed by the House with a vote of 168-0 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.

[HB 834—Landlord and Tenant](#), by Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R), Canton, was passed by the House with a vote of 166-0 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB 866—Commerce and Trade](#), by Rep. Scot Turner (R), Holly Springs, was passed by the House with a vote of 168-1 on February 26th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee.

[HB 897—Georgia Power of Attorney Act](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstration (R), Dacula, was passed by the House with a vote of 169-0 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB 938—Insurance](#), by Rep. Darlene Taylor (R), Thomasville, was passed by the House with a vote of 167-5 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.

[SB 2—The FAST Act – Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency – Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed](#), by Sen. Mike Dugan (R), Carrollton, had a vote on the House floor and failed with a vote of 66-106. The House passed a motion to reconsider the bill 129-33. The House may take up another vote on the bill at any point during the remainder of the session.

[SB 358—Establishment of Banking Improvement Zones](#)—by Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (D), Marietta, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 52-1 on February 28th. The bill was assigned to the House Banks & Banking Committee.

[SB 376—Identity Theft](#), by Sen. David Shafer (R), Duluth, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 51-0 on February 26th. The bill was assigned to the House Banks & Banking Committee.

[SB 432—Georgia Tax Credit Business Case Act](#), by Sen. John Albers (R), Alpharetta, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 53-0 on February 26th. The bill was assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

LEGISLATION THAT *DID NOT* CROSS OVER THIS SESSION

[HB 12 – Money Transmission Transactions](#), by Rep. Jeff Jones (R), Brunswick.

[HB 27 - Foreclosure Cure Act](#), by Rep. Billy Mitchell (D), Stone Mountain.

[HB 66—Money Transmissions Transactions](#), by Rep. Jeff Jones (R), Brunswick.

[HB 82—Personal Information; Notice Required When Data Released to Unauthorized Persons](#), by Rep. Sheri Gilligan (R), Cumming.

[HB 120—Notary Public Revisions](#), by Rep. Andrew Welch (R), McDonough.

[HB 122—Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R), Dacula.

[HB 353—Title Pawn](#), by Rep. Brett Harrell (R), Snellville.

[HB 417—Abandoned Motor Vehicles](#), by Rep. Wendell Willard (R), Sandy Springs.

[HB 456—Acquisition and Loss of Property](#), by Rep. Debra Bazemore (D), Riverdale.

[HB 459—Illegal and Void Contracts](#), by Rep. Sam Teasley (R), Marietta.

[HB 488—Discrimination in Housing, Public Accommodations, and Employment](#), by Rep. Stacey Evans (D), Smyrna.

[HB 499—Georgia Personal Data Security Act](#), by Rep. Sheri Gilligan (R), Cumming.

[HB 523—Industrial Loans](#), by Rep. Brian Strickland (R), McDonough.

[HB 676—Property](#), by Rep. Paulette Rakestraw (R), Hiram.

[HB 689—Funeral Expenses](#), by Rep. Rick Williams (R), Milledgeville.

[HB 745—Landlord and Tenant](#), by Rep. Scott Holcomb (D), Atlanta.

[HB 748—Community Association Transparency and Protection Act](#), by Rep. William Boddie (D), East Point.

[HB 773—Motor Vehicles](#), by Rep. Alan Powell (R), Hartwell.

[HB 902—Georgia Small Consumer Finance Loan Act](#), by Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R), Powder Springs.

[SB 71—Bankruptcy Exemptions](#), by Sen. Jesse Stone (R), Waynesboro.

[SB 86—Foreclosure Confirmation Waiver Prohibition](#), by Sen. Jesse Stone (R), Waynesboro.

[SB 120—Property Deeds](#), by William Ligon, Jr. (R), Brunswick.

[SB 134—Save, Earn, Win Act](#), by Sen. David Shafer (R), Duluth.

[SB 187—Assessments Against Lot Owners](#), by Sen. Donzella James (D), Atlanta.

[SB 198—Industrial Loans](#), by Sen. Elena Parent (D), Atlanta.

[SB 213—Banking Improvement Zones](#), by Sen. Joshua McKoon (R), Columbus.

[SB 299—Recording of Deeds](#), by Sen. Frank Ginn (R), Danielsville.

[SB 345—Identity Theft](#)—by Sen. Jennifer Jordan (D), Atlanta.

[SB 374—Community Association Transparency and Protection Act](#), by Sen. Donzella James (D), Atlanta

[SB 464—Taxes and License Fees](#), by Sen. Michael Williams (R), Cumming,

[SB 465—Interest and Usury](#), by Sen. Ellis Black (R), Valdosta

FINAL COMMENTS

For a recap of key legislative issues throughout the session, please follow CBA's weekly *Legislative Updates* sponsored by **James-Bates-Brannan-Groover-LLP**, CBA's General Counsel, and provide us with any feedback or questions that you may have. You can also review legislation that we are tracking on our [website](#). If you have any questions before or during the session, please contact [Rob Braswell](#) or [Lori Godfrey](#) by email or by calling the CBA office at (770)541-4490 / (800)648-8215. We continue to welcome and appreciate comments and input from community bankers regarding specific legislation and legislative issues.

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