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*Issue XI*

*Community Bankers Association of Georgia  
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## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

The Legislature was in session this week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday completing the 38<sup>th</sup> day of a 40-day session. Only two days remain for the legislature to vote on bills! Rules for getting bills out of committee and to the respective Rules Committee differ in the House and Senate. Today is the last day to get bills out of committees on the Senate side in order for the bills to be eligible for the Senate Rules Calendar. The Senate Rules Committee will meet on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to set the Senate Rules Calendar for the last two days of the session. The House Rules Committee will hold multiple meetings from now until Sine Die so there is still time for bills to be eligible to be placed on the House Rules Calendar. There have been lots of discussions within the hallways of the Capitol that indicate there are numerous bills being used as vehicles for other topics. Fingers crossed that bills we are tracking are not caught up in this process.

## **NEW LEGISLATION THAT WE ARE TRACKING THIS WEEK**

[HB 185–Probate Court](#), by Rep. Christian Coomer (R), Cartersville, is a “zombie” bill that was used as a vehicle for legislation in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The entire bill was gutted and language was inserted to establish the framework for a state-wide business court. This bill is the enabling legislation for [HR 993–Business Courts](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstration, (R), Dacula. The bill requires the Judicial Council of Georgia to create an Office of Business Cases in order to evaluate data for use with the state-wide business court; to create the Georgia Council on the State-Wide Business Court; to provide for its purpose, membership, chairperson, staff support, funding, meetings, quorum, duties, and powers; to provide for a sunset; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The bill received a motion do pass by substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

[HR 1613—Federal Government](#), by Rep. Sheri Gilligan (R), Cumming, is a Resolution urging the federal government to address the issue of data security breaches and enact a uniform national data breach law; and for other purposes.

### **OTHER LEGISLATION WE ARE TRACKING THAT HAD ACTIVITY THIS WEEK**

[HB 121—Trust Powers Revision](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R), Dacula, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 42-1 on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

[HB 327—Alternative Ad Valorem Tax on Motor Vehicles](#), by Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R), Bonaire, received a motion do pass by substitute by the Senate Finance Committee on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee removed the language on how used cars are valued. The substitute bill reverts back to how used cars are valued under existing laws. In addition, the substitute alters how the percentage of funds are distributed to local governments.

[HB 381—Abandoned Mobile Home Act](#), by Rep. John Corbett (R), Lake Park, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 53-0 on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Since the bill was amended in the Senate, the House must now agree to the changes made in the Senate before going to the Governor for signature.

[HB 410—Estoppel Letters](#), by Rep. Alan Powell (R), Hartwell, received a motion do pass by substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 21<sup>st</sup>. An amendment was made in the Senate Judiciary Committee that changed the amount that can be charged for a statement of account from \$250 as passed by the House to \$100 in the current version of the bill. The bill has been placed on the Senate Rules Calendar for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

[HB 441—Self-Settled Spendthrift Trusts](#), by Rep. Barry Fleming (R), Harlem. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the House agreed with a vote of 103-56 to the Senate substitute for the bill. The bill will now go to the Governor for signature.

[HB 780—Financial Institutions](#), by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R), Monroe, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 51-0 on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Since the bill was amended in the Senate, the House must now agree to the changes made in the Senate before going to the Governor for signature.

[HB 834—Landlord and Tenant](#), by Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R), Canton, has been placed on the Senate Rules Calendar for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

[HB 897—Georgia Power of Attorney Act](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R), Dacula, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 53-0 on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The bill will now go to the Governor for signature.

[HB 1036—Fulton County; Superior Court](#), by Rep. Chuck Martin, (R), Alpharetta, has been placed on the Senate Local Consent Calendar for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Senate adopted the Consent Calendar. Since the bill was amended in the Senate, the House must now agree to the changes made in the Senate before going to the Governor for signature.

[HR 993–Business Courts](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstration, (R), Dacula, received a motion do pass by substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since this Resolution is for a constitutional amendment, a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote in the Senate will be required if this bill is placed on the Senate Rules Calendar. The enabling legislation for this bill is outlined in [HB 185–Probate Court](#), by Rep. Christian Coomer (R), Cartersville.

[HR 1374—House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and Funding](#), by Rep. Brett Harrell, (R), Snellville, was passed by the House with a vote of 165-1 on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

[SB 2—The FAST Act – Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency – Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed](#), by Sen. Mike Dugan (R), Carrollton. The Senate voted on March 14<sup>th</sup> to disagree with the House substitute for the bill. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the House insisted on their position with the bill. A conference committee will be assigned to see if a final resolution can be agreed to by all parties.

[SB 194—Garnishments](#), by Sen. Jesse Stone (R), Waynesboro, was passed by the House with a vote of 154-2 on March March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

[SB 301–Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act](#), by Sen. John Kennedy (R), Macon, was passed by the House with a vote of 162-2 on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The bill will now go to the Governor for signature.

[SB 315–Computer Crimes](#), by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R), White, received a motion do pass by substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Full Committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

[SB 338–Administrative Procedures](#), by Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (R), Brunswick, has been placed on the House Rules Calendar for Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

[SB 432–Georgia Tax Credit Business Case Act](#), by Sen. John Albers (R), Alpharetta. The language from this bill was inserted into [HB 93—Sales and Use Tax](#), by Rep. John Corbett (R), Lake Park,. [HB 93—Sales and Use Tax](#) has been placed on the Senate Rules Calendar for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **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.

## Community Bankers Association of Georgia

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