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*Issue IX*

*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 32<sup>nd</sup> day of a 40-day session. Tuesday and Thursday of this week were noted as Committee Work Days and they were very busy days! We are in countdown mode to the last day of the session...we are in the single digits now. Our goals in the coming days of the session will be to watch for any substantive amendments made to bills that we are tracking. Furthermore, we watch for other bills that may be used as a vehicle to get controversial legislation passed. Some refer to this type of activity as zombie bills because they get a new life. While this is rare, it is always a possibility that we have to monitor. Next week promises to be just as busy as this week.

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

[HB 729—Ad Valorem Taxes](#), by Rep. Brett Harrell (R), Snellville, relates to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to repeal certain provisions relating to state ad valorem tax; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The bill was passed by the House with a vote of 172-0 on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The bill was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee. The bill was presented to the Senate Finance Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>. In the Senate Finance Committee, the bill was amended to include language on intangible taxes on extension, transfer, assignments, modification, or renewal of certain instruments. The bill states that the tax required shall be due on any portion of any instrument which is an additional advance of indebtedness secured by a previously recorded instrument, without regard to whether the original security instrument has been assigned.

[HB 1036—Fulton County; Superior Court](#), by Rep. Chuck Martin, (R), Alpharetta, provide for the clerk of the Superior Court of Fulton County to require that tax parcel identification number information be included on documents recorded in the real property records of said clerk; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. While crossover day has come and gone, this bill is a local bill and does not apply to the same rules and can still be voted on by the House.

[HR 1374—House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and Funding](#), by Rep. Brett Harrell, (R), Snellville, is a resolution creating the House Study Committee on Professional Licensing Boards Operations and Funding; and for other purposes. The Resolution was assigned to the Special Rules Committee.

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

[HB 121—Trust Powers Revision](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R), Dacula, was presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee did not take action on the bill as the members of the Committee had questions that the author of the bill needed to address before the Committee is willing to take action on the bill.

[HB 162—Setoff Debt Collection](#), by Rep. Betty Price (R), Roswell, was passed by the Senate with a vote of 53-0 on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Since the bill was amended in the Senate, the House must now agree to the changes that were made in the Senate before going to the Governor for signature.

[HB 381—Abandoned Mobile Home Act](#), by Rep. John Corbett (R), Lake Park, was presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Committee did not take action on the bill as members of the Committee had questions that the author of the bill needed to address before the Committee is willing to take action on the bill. The author of the bill will be working with Senators William T. Ligon, Jr. (R), Brunswick, and Brian Strickland (R), McDonough, on amendments to the bill.

[HB 775—Professions and Businesses](#), by Rep. Alan Powell (R), Hartwell, received a do pass motion by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

[HB 780—Financial Institutions](#), by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R), Monroe, was heard by the Senate Banking & Financial Institutions Committee on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Concerns with the parity provisions outlined within the bill were voiced by Georgia Watch and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. A motion to table the bill was made so that the author of

the bill and the Department of Banking and Finance can work with these two groups to come up with language that may be acceptable to all parties. Chairman William T. Ligon, Jr. committed to having another meeting next week to vote on this bill.

[HB 897—Georgia Power of Attorney Act](#), by Rep. Chuck Efstration (R), Dacula, received a do pass motion by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

[HB 938—Insurance](#), by Rep. Darlene Taylor (R), Thomasville, received a do pass motion by the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

[HR 1317—House Study Committee on Reforming Real Property Taxation](#), by Rep. Andrew Welch, (R), McDonough, received a do pass motion by the House Ways & Means Committee on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

[SB 2—The FAST Act – Fairness, Accountability, Simplification, and Transparency – Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed](#), by Sen. Mike Dugan (R), Carrollton, had another vote on the House floor and passed with a vote 160-5 on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Since the bill was amended in the House, the Senate must now agree to the changes that were made in the House before going to the Governor for signature. If the Senate does not agree to the changes in the amendment, then a conference committee will be assigned to see if a final resolution can be agreed to by all parties. The House's version of the bill is dramatically different from the version passed by the Senate.

[SB 194—Garnishments](#), by Sen. Jesse Stone (R), Waynesboro, received a motion do pass by substitute by the House Judiciary Fleming Subcommittee on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

[SB 301—Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act](#), by Sen. John Kennedy (R), Macon, received a motion do pass by the House Judiciary Kelly Subcommittee on March 5<sup>th</sup> and by the House Judiciary Committee on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

[SB 315—Computer Crimes](#), by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R), White, was heard by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee on March 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a heated debate on the bill with a number of opponents providing testimony at the meeting. No action was taken on the bill at the Committee meeting.

[SB 358—Establishment of Banking Improvement Zones](#)—by Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rnett (D), Marietta, was heard by the House Banks & Banking Committee on March 6<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken on the bill at the Committee meeting.

[SB 376—Identity Theft](#), by Sen. David Shafer (R), Duluth, was heard by the House Banks & Banking Committee on March 8<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken on the bill at the Committee meeting. The bill is scheduled for a vote in the Banks & Banking Committee on Monday, March 12<sup>th</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.

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