

**The following bills passed in the 2022 session. The Governor has through May 14<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills.**

**HB 385**, the Return to Work bill, is not what many wanted but it is a start. A short window is opened from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 to allow 30-year veterans to return to work in specific areas. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 517** increased the amounts donors can give to student scholarship organizations so they can give vouchers to private schools and the donor can get a dollar-for-dollar income tax credit. The state is now willing to forego \$120 million in income taxes to fund this. Insurance companies can now use donations to take care of at least part of their insurance premium taxes. It also added some of the recommendations of the Department of Audits. Effective July 1, 2022; increase in tax credits effective January 1, 2023.

**HB 997** will give a statewide ad valorem exemption on timber equipment if the voters approve it in November. Effective January 1, 2023 if approved by voters.

**HB 1084**, the "divisive concepts" bill, became even more divisive when it was amended with the requirement for an executive oversight committee for GHSA (or any other high school association that fits the description) and leaves it up to them to address the question of transgender participation in girls' sports. It requires a local board complaint resolution policy by August 1, 2022 and details a complaint and appeals process. HB 1084 was strongly supported by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2022

**HB 1178** is the Parents' Bill of Rights and a Governor's priority. It requires a policy or regulation to deal with complaints and appeals. Most of the language is already in law in one place or another. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 1215** is a charter school bill but includes provisions school districts need to be aware of. All districts are required to have a universal, streamlined transfer process and to allow students to transfer to a charter without penalty. No idea what penalty there could be to a student. If you have local charters, you will have to calculate the funding twice a year. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 1283**, the recess bill, passed again for the first time since Gov. Kemp vetoed it in 2019. Local boards can no longer prohibit it in the unlikely case that any board did. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 1292** allows students who are participating in 4-H events to be counted present. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 1303** extends an elementary agricultural education program to all districts if you're willing to fund it and hire an agricultural education teacher to teach it. Effective July 1, 2022.

**HB 1461** requires cities to notify school districts impacted by annexation to notify them in a verifiable way that the effort is underway. Effective July 1, 2022.

**SB 152** adds "courage" to the pledge to the state flag. Any curriculum materials with the pledge would need to be updated. Effective July 1, 2022.

# GEORGIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"WE BELIEVE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION"

**SB 220** is a two-fer. First, it requires a financial literacy course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, that it be a graduation requirement, allows it to be part of an existing course, and requires the Professional Standards Commission to do some work around the requirement. Second, it creates a Georgia Civics Commission that will be repealed December 31, 2028.

**SB 226** addresses the possible distribution of harmful materials to minors. It requires a local board policy by January 1, 2023 and a model policy from the Department of Education by September 1, 2022. It includes a complaint and appeal process. Effective July 1, 2022.

**SB 337** suspends compensation to public officers when indicted for a felony. When reinstated, the public officer would get back pay. Effective July 1, 2022.

**SB 345** prohibits state and local governments from requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to enter a facility or receive a service. It will be repealed June 30, 2023. Effective July 1, 2022.

**SB 514**, the Unmask Georgia's Students Act, requires that any policy/regulation/rule requiring students to wear masks to include a parental opt out. It is repealed June 30, 2027. This was also one of Gov. Kemp's initiatives. It has been signed and has been effective since March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 588** requires all local board meetings to be open to the public unless otherwise allowed by law. The only thing new in this bill is a requirement that local boards adopt rules of conduct for meetings by October 1, 2022 and adopt them annually by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Attendees could be removed only according to those rules. Effective July 1, 2022.

## Study Committees

**HR 650** creates a House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction.

**SR 650** creates a Senate Study Committee to Review Education Funding Mechanisms.

**SR 802** creates a Senate Study Committee on Transparency in High School Athletic Associations.