

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

January 29, 2021

The FOP saw a 10% pay increase for juvenile corrections officers in the budget passed out of the House this week.

The FOP has already seen legislation addressing law enforcement, and we are working as we speak to ensure negative legislation the FOP does not want doesn't pass and positive legislation the FOP is pushing does pass.

[HB 69](#) from Representative Kendrick removes certain immunities from the actions of certain state officers or employees, provides that certain state officers or employees shall be liable when causing the deprivation of certain rights, waives sovereign immunity, revises limitations on amounts of damages, and provides that certain local law enforcement officers may be subject to lawsuit or liability. It is currently in the House Judiciary Committee.

We expect and have already seen more legislation like this throughout the legislative session.

As a reminder, Senator Albers bill, SB 249, related to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund and helping our members a great deal passed both Chambers and was signed by the Governor in 2020!

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Legislative days 6-8 took place this week with plans to pick back up for day 9 on Monday, February 1st. Public Health and Education have been a focus during budget discussions, and both Chambers are looking to move quickly on passing the [midyear budget](#) in the event a break is necessary again due to COVID-19.

Representative Trey Kelley introduced a bill ([HB 112](#)) this week that would extend limits on COVID-19-related lawsuits against businesses and health care providers. A similar bill passed last session but is set to expire July of this year. This bill would extend the lawsuit protection until July 2022.

The Senate Finance Committee reported favorably this week on [SB 6](#), the "Tax Credit Return on Investment Act of 2021" which seeks to provide an independent analysis of the state's tax breaks currently in place. We will continue to work with committee members on this.

As always, Thrash-Haliburton is diligently watching and working to stop any detrimental legislation to our industry and push the legislation we support. Our governmental affairs team continues every day to work on, look out for and answer requests, needs and interests, as we act at the direction of the group's leadership.

2021-2022 Regular Session

This is the first year of the two-year (2021-2022) biennial session. As a reminder, any bills introduced this year will be considered “alive” for the 2022 legislative session. We are monitoring the following legislation, and watchful for any bills that may impact our industry.

Bill	Summary	House Comm	Sen Comm	House Sponsor	Sen Sponsor	Link
HB 112	Torts; provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend applicability for one year	Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System		Trey Kelley		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58959
HB 18	Police Accountability Act; enact			Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58803
HB 69	State government; certain immunities from actions of certain state officers or employees; remove	Judiciary		Dar'shun Kendrick		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58885
HB 2	Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021; enact			Philip Singleton		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58787
HB 15	Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act; enact	Public Safety and Homeland Security		Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58800
HB 21	Crimes and offenses; unlawful conduct during 9-1-1 call to include bias motivations in calling or otherwise contacting 9-1-1; revise	Judiciary Non-Civil		Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58806