

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

February 12, 2021

We saw many more bills drop this week affecting FOP members. We are working to ensure legislation negatively impacting the FOP does not pass, and positive legislation the FOP is pushing does pass. As you'll find there are a large amount of bills that have been introduced that are anti-law enforcement, and we'll continue to fight for all of our members and law enforcement officers.

The FOP saw a 10% pay increase for juvenile corrections officers in the budget passed out of the House and Senate this past week, which is now in the Senate. As you'll see in the general introduction below, all state employees (outside of the University System) making below \$80,000 per year will receive a \$1,000 bonus as well - this is for all state employees.

Also, as far as Pay Parity is concerned, the FOP position is for the continuation of Pay Parity for all State Law Enforcement Agencies (GSP, GBI and DNR). Our government affairs team has spoken with several decision makers and no one is aware of further discussions at this time for additional money for ranks, education, etc at the Georgia State Patrol.

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! This is a huge deal, as this would have been an almost impossible year to pass the same thing.

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This week completed legislative days 13-16, with plans to convene for day 17 on Tuesday, February 16th. House Majority Whip Trey Kelley's bill [extending Georgia's existing COVID-19 liability law](#) for another year passed the House on Tuesday with a vote of 99-68. The House and Senate approved the [midyear budget](#) on Thursday (the only requirement of the Legislature during a legislative session), which calls for \$1,000 bonuses to 57,000 state employees making less than \$80,000 per year except University System employees (the Legislature has encouraged the University System to do the same, since the Legislature cannot provide this increase for University System employees), 10% raises to prison guards, and increased spending on public health care and education.

The Governor announced the same bonuses for Georgia's public school teachers last month. Both bonuses are being paid - directly or indirectly - from federal COVID-19 relief funds. Governor Kemp is expected to quickly sign the budget, which increases overall spending by \$654 million. Education saw the largest spending increase. There were fears that state revenue would plummet due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That didn't happen. In fact, state tax collections have increased 6.3% during the first seven months of the fiscal year.

Legislation extending daylight savings have been introduced in the House ([HB 44](#)) and Senate ([SB 100](#)).

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	Judiciary	Trey Kelley		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58959
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 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
HB 175	Crimes and offenses; aggravated strangulation by a peace officer; provide for the crime	Judiciary Non-Civil		William Boddie		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59097
HB 17	End Racial Profiling Act; enact	Judiciary Non-Civil		Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58802
HB 18	Police Accountability Act; enact	Judiciary Non-Civil		Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58803
HB 232	Criminal procedure; indictment or special presentment of a peace officer for a crime committed in the performance of his or her duties and the right to testify before a grand jury; repeal procedure	Judiciary Non-Civil		Derrick Jackson		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59106
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 18	Police Accountability Act; enact			Sandra Scott		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58803

HB 2	Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021; enact			Philip Singleton		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/58787
SB 76	Emergency Communications Authority; Next Generation 911 systems and services; provide		Regulated Industries and Utilities		John Albers	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59236
SB 84	Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; certain communications officers shall be eligible for membership in such fund; provide				John Albers	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59268
HB 313	Georgia State Law Enforcement Citizen Review Council; create	Public Safety and Homeland Security		Sam Park		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59355
SB 115	Drivers' Licenses; instructional course; educating drivers and the public on best practices to implement when interacting with law enforcement officers; provide				Randy Robertson	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59456
SB 121	Perjury; false statements made in police reports by law enforcement officers; expand the offense of perjury				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59483
SB 124	Arrest by Law Enforcement Officers; the duty to intervene; provide				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59482
SB 125	Arrest by Law Enforcement Officers; kinetic impact projectiles in the use of force; prohibit officers from using				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59487
SB 126	State Tort Claims; certain immunities from the actions of certain law enforcement officers; remove				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59489
SB 127	Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; basic and in-service training courses on post-traumatic stress disorder; establish				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59488
SB 128	Georgia Law Enforcement Citizen Review Council; create				Nikki Merritt	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59486
SB 129	Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; certain peace officers be equipped with audio and video recording devices for recording all activities while on duty; require				Harold Jones II	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59481
SB 130	Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; possession of certain property from the United States Department of Defense by certain local law enforcement agencies; prohibit				Sally Harrell	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59480

SB 131	Prosecuting Attorneys; appointment of a prosecuting attorney when the accused is a law enforcement officer charged with a felony or an act of family violence; provide				Harold Jones II	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59490
SB 132	Arrest by Law Enforcement Officers; use of force maneuvers that restrict blood or oxygen flow to the brain; prohibit officers				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59498
SB 134	Motor Vehicles and Traffic; policies that prohibit law enforcement officers from using race or ethnicity in determining whether to stop a motor vehicle; require				Sheikh Rahman	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59500
SB 135	Grand Jury, Crimes and Offenses, Procedure for Indictment; provision regarding no duty to retreat prior to the use of force; repeal				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59501
SB 136	Arrest by Private Persons; repeal the article in its entirety				Gloria Butler	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59492
SB 138	Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; standard by which state, county, and local law enforcement agencies engage in vehicular pursuits; provide				Gail Davenport	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59496
HB 368	Georgia Bureau of Investigation; primary law enforcement agency for investigating certain deaths; provisions	Public Safety and Homeland Security		Mandi Ballinger		https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59468