

**Peachtree Government Relations
Post-Session Report (May 2026)**

With the 2026 legislative session in the rear view mirror, we now have clarity as to which legislation was enacted, which was vetoed, and what the study committee landscape is shaping out to be. Governor Kemp's 40-day veto period concluded on Tuesday, May 12th and he signed several bills, including the FY 2027 budget. The Governor's line-item vetoes within the FY 2027 budget can be found at [this download link](#). Aside from the state budget's vetoes, the Governor vetoed twelve pieces of legislation that made it to his desk. The link to the Governor's official veto statement with justifications can be found [here](#), but these are the bills that did not make the cut:

- **HB 14:** Establishes Georgia Music Office
- **HB 376:** Tax credits for historic properties
- **HB 519:** Tax credit to mirror federal work opportunity tax credits
- **HB 1070:** Tax credit for Class III railroad track maintenance
- **HB 1077:** Extends sunset tax exemptions for fine arts performances/museums
- **HB 1192:** Requires DCH/DHS funds to be maintained in separate accounts
- **HB 1409:** Requires implementation of DFCS report system
- **SB 23:** Allows ERS and TRS to invest up to 10% of funds in real estate
- **SB 59:** Increases cap on Reforestation Tax credit by \$50 million
- **SB 204:** Strengthens existing cause of action law gun owners may bring against local government attempts to impose limitations
- **SB 478:** Increases sales tax revenue from outdoor recreation equipment
- **SB 579:** Revises rules for issuance of red emergency light permits

This upcoming Tuesday (May 19th), Georgians will cast their ballots for their respective party's primary. Over 500,000 people have already voted early and many races are expected to advance to a runoff election taking place on June 16th. PGR will send out a report detailing the key primary results as soon as they unfold.

On Tuesday, May 13th, Governor Kemp called General Assembly members back to the Gold Dome for a special session beginning on Wednesday, June 17th. His memo outlined that lawmakers must address the issue of modifying the state's voting districts for the 2028 elections, a move that several other states across the country have already made. The second goal outlined by the Governor was to work on changes to the state's electoral and ballot process in response to a 2024 law about paper ballots and QR codes. The special session is expected to last a maximum of two weeks, ending on Wednesday, July 1st.

Property Tax Legislation Signed by Governor Kemp (SB 33)

After HB 1116 failed this past session, the General Assembly passed an entirely amended SB 33, with property tax language from the former HB 1116. *Governor Kemp signed this legislation into law on May 11th, 2026.* Key details of SB 33 include:

- Creates the LHOST, a 1 percent sales tax, to be split between counties and cities for property tax relief for homesteaded properties. To adopt the LHOST, a Local Act is required with a following local voter referendum. The LHOST is in addition to other local sales tax but an alternative to the FLOST.
- Makes the floating homestead exemption established in HB 581 (2024 session) mandatory for all local governments, including cities, counties, and school systems. This exemption limits rises in taxable value of homesteaded property to an annual rate of inflation.
- As a result of the HB 581 homestead exemption, all local governments are eligible to pursue a FLOST. FLOST revenues would also be shared between cities and counties to provide

general property tax relief.

- Revises the dates which a special election may be held on a local government's increase in revenue. This change will impact the available dates for SPLOST and TSPLOST elections.

Study and Special Committee Assignments (Post-2026 Session)

House Study Committees

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Community Health and Healthcare Oversight (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Community Health and Healthcare Oversight will evaluate Georgia's overall healthcare landscape to improve access, strengthen patient protections and identify practical policy solutions to enhance outcomes, efficiency and accountability across the state.
- Chairman: Rep. Mark Newton
- Members: Reps. Debbie Buckner, Lee Hawkins, Anissa Jones, Rob Leverett, Derrick McCollum, Billy Mitchell, Alan Powell, Devan Seabaugh, and Darlene Taylor

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Criminal Post-Conviction Litigation (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Criminal Post-Conviction Litigation will examine Georgia's post-conviction legal framework to protect constitutional rights, reduce delays and improve the efficiency of the state's justice system.
- Chairman: Rep. Stan Gunter
- Members: Reps. Clint Crowe, Chuck Efstrotation, Bill Fincher, Scott Holcomb, Soo Hong, Rob Leverett, and Tyler Paul Smith

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Education Performance Metrics and Workforce Stability (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Education Performance Metrics and Workforce Stability will evaluate Georgia's education evaluation measures to strengthen accountability, improve student success and strengthen teacher recruitment and retention.
- Chairman: Rep. Bethany Ballard
- Members: Reps. Omari Crawford, Sandy Donatucci, Leesa Hagan, Scott Hilton, Karen Lupton, Chuck Martin, Phil Olaleye, Carmen Rice, and Deborah Silcox

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Local Government Taxation, Funding, and Budgeting (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Local Government Taxation, Funding, and Budgeting will evaluate Georgia's local funding mechanisms to strengthen transparency,

ensure fairness for hardworking taxpayers and increase fiscal accountability for local governments.

- Chairman: Rep. Chas Cannon
- Members: Reps. Victor Anderson, Shaw Blackmon, Josh Bonner, Mike Cheokas, Matt Dubnik, Robert Flourney, Trey Kelley, Chuck Martin, Lauren McDonald III, Yasmin Neal, and Mitchell Scoggins

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on the Impact of Online Platforms on Georgia Youth (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on the Impact of Online Platforms on Georgia Youth will evaluate the effects of online platforms on minors to strengthen safety protections, address mental health concerns and promote age-appropriate access to online content.
- Chairman: Rep. Rob Clifton
- Members: Reps. Debra Bazemore, Beth Camp, Johnny Chastain, Lydia Glaize, Tangie Herring, Jan Jones, Todd Jones, Brad Thomas, and Anne Allen Westbrook (plus Mr. Shawn Conroy, Consumer Protection Division, Georgia Attorney General's Office)

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Transportation Infrastructure and Vehicle Regulation (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Transportation Infrastructure and Vehicle Regulation will evaluate Georgia's transportation networks and regulations to improve efficiency, streamline utility right-of-way coordination, control costs and strengthen safety statewide.
- Chairman: Rep. Rick Jasperse
- Members: Reps. Matt Dubnik, Jutt Howard, Marvin Lim, Lauren McDonald III, Don Parsons, Holt Persinger, Brian Prince, Gary Richardson, and Vance Smith

Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Youth Exposure to Kratom and Retail-Available Substances (link to study committee page [here](#))

- The Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Youth Exposure to Kratom and Retail-Available Substances will evaluate the impact of these products on minors to strengthen protections, reduce access and create healthier outcomes for Georgia's youth.
- Chairman: Rep. Rick Townsend
- Members: Reps. Michelle Au, Dar'shun Kendrick, Danny Mathis, Steven Meeks, Jordan Ridley, and Tyler Paul Smith

House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumers' Access to Prescription Medications ([HR 948](#), link to study committee page [here](#))

- The House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications will study and evaluate the policies and practices of pharmacy benefits managers and rising drug costs.
- Chairman: Rep. Ron Stephens

- Members: Reps. Debbie Buckner, Matt Hatchett, Lee Hawkins, and Butch Parrish

Senate Study Committees

As of Thursday, May 14th, Senate Study Committees have not been officially designated nor have committee assignments been made.

Senate Study Committees that passed this session but have yet to be assigned:

- [SR 432](#) - Senate Higher Education in Prison Study Committee
- [SR 533](#) - Senate Study Committee on Enhancing Public Safety and Civic Health
- [SR 545](#) - Senate Paid Student Teaching Study Committee
- [SR 553](#) - Senate Study Committee on Funding for Charter School Capital Improvements
- [SR 610](#) - Senate Study Committee on Improving and Increasing Recycling
- [SR 771](#) - Senate Study Committee on Adoption and Permanency Affordability
- [SR 789](#) - Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence
- [SR 888](#) - Senate Parent Accountability for Student Success Study Committee
- [SR 890](#) - Senate Study Committee on Protecting Free and Fair Markets in Georgia
- [SR 925](#) - Senate Study Committee on a Museum of African American History and Culture of Georgia
- [SR 927](#) - Senate Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications Study Committee
- [SR 952](#) - Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee
- [SR 978](#) - Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Funding
- [SR 1048](#) - Senate Mileage Based User Fee Study Committee
- [SR 1049](#) - Senate Study Committee on Acquiring and Management of Lake Lanier
- [SR 1051](#) - Senate Study Committee on Comprehensive Services and Long-term Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities

Joint Study Committees

Joint Study Committee on Evaluating Escalating Costs in Georgia's Foster Care System ([SR 662](#), link to study committee page [here](#))

- Chairman: TBD
- House Members: Reps. Beth Camp, Brent Cox, Katie Dempsey, Joseph Gullett, Mary Margaret Oliver, and Esther Panitch
- Senate Members: TBD

Joint Study Committee on Generational Sustainability of Family Farms ([HR 1416](#), link to study committee page [here](#))

- Chairman: TBD

- House Members: Reps. Robert Dickey, Jaclyn Ford, David Huddleston, and Angie O'Steen
- Senate Members: TBD