



LEGISLATIVE Update

February 3 2017

2017 General Assembly Kicks Into Gear

This was a busy week under the Gold Dome as bills were filed and committee meetings kept legislators busy. Also, a handful of important bills began to move to the House and Senate floor for consideration.

The Senate passed SB 70, which extends the hospital provider fee that is used to fund the state's Medicaid program. The House passed the FY '17 Amended Budget.

The House and Senate both saw legislation to allow casino gambling through 'Destination Resorts' that would be established by a constitutional amendment and the enabling bill.

The Legislature was in session Monday through Thursday for days 9 through 12 of its 40-day session. The House and Senate passed a final adjournment resolution that schedules Crossover Day (Day 28) for March 3 and Sine Die (Day 40) on March 30.

GRA Legislative Tracking

- SB 89: The 'Right Track Act' championed by Senate President Pro Tem David Shafer (R-Duluth) is the GRA's primary agenda item. This bill, which received a unanimous "Do-Pass" recommendation by the Senate Transportation Committee on Thursday, creates a freight rail program that can be funded in future years to fund projects of importance to our industry and state. The bill now goes to the Rules Committee for consideration to be placed on the Senate calendar for a vote by the Senate.
- SB 6 and HB 160: Each of these bills, SB 6 by Senator Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) and HB 158 by House Transportation Chair Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) creates a mechanism for the study of a statewide transit plan. It is expected that freight rail will be addressed as well. GRA will monitor these bills, which are likely to be merged into a single act.

What to expect next week:

- Next week, the legislature is in recess on Monday and will be in session Tuesday through Friday.
- GRA will be working to get SB 89 on the floor for passage by the Senate.