



The Capitol Report

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The longest legislative session in modern Georgia history ended last week. After several years of attempting to pass a transportation funding bill the General Assembly passes HB 277. GRA remained neutral on the legislation as it exempted diesel fuel from the extra penny sales tax. SB 520 sponsored by Chairman Jeff Mullis creates an Intermodal Division within the GA DOT. The complete list of bills of interest to GRA is below.

[HB 277](#) Smith 129th To enact the "Transportation Investment Act of 2010". The bill will allow regional referenda on whether to impose a one cent sales tax to fund transportation projects. **The bill specifically excludes from the new tax the sale or use of any type of fuel used for off-road heavy-duty equipment, off-road farm or agricultural equipment, or locomotives.** It also exempts all items exempt from the current statewide sales tax, including raw materials and machinery used in manufacturing and the sale or use of energy used in manufacturing.

[HB 1023](#) Graves 12th an Act to enact the Jobs, Opportunity, and Business Success Act of 2010; to amend Title 14 , relating to corporations, partnerships, and associations, so as to provide for a period of time for the waiver of certain filing fees otherwise charged in connection with such entities; to amend Title 34, **relating to labor and industrial relations, so as to provide that, for a period of time, employers who hire persons receiving employment security benefits shall be entitled to a credit against employer contributions;** to amend Title 48, the "Georgia Public Revenue Code," so as to provide that a portion of net long-term capital gains shall be excluded from state taxable income of corporations and individuals.

[HB 1135](#) Roberts 154th an Act to amend, relating to contracting powers of the Department of Transportation, so as to authorize **the department to enter into multiyear contracts subject to certain terms and conditions;** to provide that any such contract shall terminate at the close of each fiscal year and may be renewed only by positive action of the department. *Senate Transportation*

[HB 1186](#) Roberts 154th an Act to amend Chapter 5 of Title 48 relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to **provide for an ad valorem tax exemption for certain public-private transportation projects;** to provide that certain public-private transportation projects shall not constitute special franchises; to provide for a referendum, applicability, and effective dates; to provide for automatic repeal under certain circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws.

[HB 1405](#) O'Neal 146th an Act to amend Title 28, so as to create the **2010 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure;** to state legislative findings and intent; to make provisions relative to legislative procedure for consideration of legislation recommended by the council and the special joint committee.

[SB 305](#) Mullis 53rd an Act to amend Code Section 32-2-81 relating to use of the **design-build method of implementation of transportation projects,** so as to increase the percentage of projects that may be contracted for using the design-build method.

[SB 520](#) Mullis 53rd to amend Code Section 32-2-41 , relating to the powers of the commissioner of transportation and the divisions within the Department of Transportation, so as to **provide for an Intermodal Division within the department.**