



LEGISLATIVE Update

February 19, 2019

General Assembly Overview

Last week proved to be a very active time under the Gold Dome. The General Assembly moved a multitude of bills through the legislative process as the session quickly picked up pace. Matters of interest to the GRA were among some of the issues addressed last week. On Thursday, February 14th Mark Middleton, Craig Camuso (CSX), and Conner Poe (Norfolk Southern) were asked to make a presentation concerning the importance of Georgia's rail industry to the House Transportation Committee. The presentation highlighted the economic impact of freight movement across the state and provided a comprehensive breakdown of Georgia's rail system. The presentation was met with resounding bipartisan support from members of the committee. House Transportation Committee Chairman Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville) along with committee members from all areas of the state specifically thanked Mr. Camuso and Mr. Poe for their strong support and communication in local communities.

An Update on Bills of Interest to the GRA:

HB 189: Elimination of Diesel Fuel Tax. HB 189 is the GRA's top priority for the 2019 Legislative Session. As mentioned in the previous legislative update, this bill was assigned to the Ways and Means committee. Since then, it has been referred to the Sales Tax subcommittee chaired by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire). We expect HB 189 to be addressed in subcommittee in the coming days. Middleton P.A. will continue to keep a close eye on this as it moves forward through the committee process.

SR 19 and HR 37: The Creation of Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics. SR 19 was passed by the Senate last week with a 54-0 vote. Since then, it has moved to the House where it was referred to the Transportation committee. The most recent version of the resolution passed by the Senate creates a

commission composed of nineteen individuals and thoroughly breaks down the responsibilities of said commission. HR 37 was reported favorably by the Transportation committee on Friday, February 15th and is expected to be voted on by the body in the coming week.

HB 190: Two Man Crew. HB 190 has not made any progress since its assignment to the House Transportation committee on February 8th. Expect to see this bill on the agenda for an upcoming House Transportation meeting.