

### **HB 134 - Excluding meetings relating to cybersecurity contracting and planning from open meeting requirements**

By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)

HB 134 excludes meetings relating to cybersecurity contracting and planning from open meeting requirements and exempts from public inspection any document or plan relating to cybersecurity devices, programs, or systems. No vote from an executive session meeting in which a cybersecurity contract was entered into shall be binding upon an agency until a subsequent vote is taken in an open meeting.

### **HB 282 - Ad valorem tax on qualified timberland property**

By: Rep. Steven Meeks (178th)

House Bill 282 amends Article 13 of Chapter 5 of Title 48, relating to ad valorem taxation of qualified timberland property. The bill allows an applicant to declare a tract of land as contiguous even if the tract is divided by a county boundary, public roadway, public easement, public right-of-way, natural boundary, land lot line, or railroad track. The bill also specifies that the qualified timberland property manual shall include appraisal instructions stating that the market approach to valuation will constitute 50 percent of the value and the income approach to valuation will constitute 50 percent of the value. The commissioner of the Department of Revenue is to accept a parcel map drawn by the county cartographer or Geographic Information System technician and signed by the county board of assessors and the qualified owner, a legal description of the property, a plat of the property, or a written legal description of the property delineating the meets and bounds and measured area. With respect to certifying bona fide production of trees, the qualified owner is not required to submit a simple Forest Management Plan.

### **HB 306 - Corporations may hold shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication**

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)

House Bill 306 allows the board of directors of corporations and non-profit corporations to hold annual and special shareholder meetings wholly or partially by means of remote communication unless otherwise provided by the corporation's by-laws or articles of incorporation. When authorized by the board, shareholders and holders of proxies may participate in, be deemed present for, and vote at a shareholder meeting remotely if the

corporation implements reasonable procedures to verify that those present and voting at a shareholder meeting are in fact shareholders or holders of proxies; and provide shareholders and holders of proxies a reasonable opportunity to participate in such meeting and to vote on matters. When a shareholder or holder of a proxy votes or takes other action remotely, the corporation must maintain a record of such vote or action.

### **SB 185 - Revenue and Taxation**

By: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)

Senate Bill 185 establishes that all questions of law related to taxation decided by a court or the Georgia Tax Tribunal shall be made without deference to determinations or interpretations of the Department of Revenue. This requirement shall have no effect on the judicial standard of deference accorded to rules promulgated pursuant to the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.'

### **HB 553 - Allow participation in hearings by electronic communications**

By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)

HB 553 amends the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act' to allow for administrative law hearings, which were previously permitted to be conducted by telephonic communication, to be conducted using broader electronic communication means. The Office of State Administrative Hearings may require the electronic filing of documents and to serve any party electronically unless the law requires alternative means of service. Records of hearings may be made available and transferred by electronic means. The bill also adds the Department of Community Health as a "reviewing agency" under Code Section 50-13-41(d).

### **HB 119 - Allows chiropractors to jointly own professional corporations with physicians.**

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)

### **HB 234 - Self-funded Healthcare Plan Opt-in to the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act**

By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)

House Bill 234, known as the 'Self-funded Healthcare Plan Opt-in to the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act,' allows self-funded healthcare plans to annually elect to participate in the 'Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act.' Any participating healthcare plan must elect to participate starting on January 1 or the first day of its plan year and must provide notice to the commissioner of the Department of Insurance at least 30 days before

the effective date. The Department of Insurance must maintain a list on its website of all self-funded healthcare plans that have chosen to participate. The commissioner can remove any participant that fails to comply with the 'Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act.'

### **HB 157 - New charter for Town of Mount Airy**

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th)

House Bill 157 provides a new charter for the town of Mount Airy.

### **HB 801 - Reconstitute and reestablish the Stephens County Board of Elections and Registration**

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th)

House Bill 801 reconstitutes and reestablishes the Stephens County Board of Registrations and Elections. The board will be composed of five members, three of whom shall be at-large members selected and appointed by the county governing authority. Two members are appointed by the governing authority of the county from nominations from each of the county executive committees of the political parties whose candidates for governor in the last general election received the largest and second-largest number of votes in the county. The bill will not become effective and will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2021, if a bill to abolish the current board is not approved during the 2021 Session.

### **HB 802 Stephens County**

By: Rep. Chris Erwin (28th)

House Bill 802 abolishes the Stephens County Board of Registrations and Elections on June 30, 2021.