



Georgia House  
Representative  
Jesse Petrea

Legislative Update  
One  
2019 General Session

Now that we have finished our fifth week of the Georgia General Assembly, bills are starting to move. Indeed, we passed several very important bills this week in the Georgia House. These bills are now on to the Senate. Some of this week's accomplishments include:

Passage of House Bill 23 to expand internet access in rural Georgia. This bill allows electric membership corporations (EMCs) and their affiliates to provide broadband services. Broadband is essential to almost every factor of economic development and this legislation is a tremendous step in the right direction to help spur economic development in rural Georgia.



With Representative John LaHood

Passage of House Bill 184 which would provide a pathway for deployment of small cell and 5G technology in public rights-of-way in Georgia. Over the past seven months, the House has worked with advocates, area experts and local authorities to craft a bill that would support the growing consumer-driven demand for high-

speed wireless access while also preserving the ability of our local governments to protect historic districts and community aesthetics. House Bill 184, or the Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act, would allow wireless service providers to install "stealthy" small-cell wireless towers throughout cities to offer greater wireless coverage. This groundbreaking technology would eventually deploy 5G streaming services to all of Georgia using small boxes that are attached to utility poles. HB 184 would create a streamlined permitting process for small cell technology. This legislation would allow our state to move forward deploying small cell wireless technology on a larger scale to further enhance economic opportunities across our state.



With Chairwoman, Lynn Smith  
Chair Natural Resources

Passage of House Bill 62, or "Margie's Law," to assist in the early detection and treatment of breast cancer. This bill would require mammography examiners to notify patients when dense breast tissue is found. While dense breast tissue is common and not always abnormal, it can make it more difficult to detect cancer through a mammogram and can increase the risk for breast cancer. Dense breast tissue is detected during annual exams in at least 40 percent of women over 40.

The House took up another very important measure this week to clarify existing law regarding when drivers can or cannot pass stopped school buses. SB 25 makes it clear that drivers can only pass a stopped school bus on the other side of the road when the roadways are divided by a grass median, unpaved area or physical barrier. Governor Kemp recognized that swift action was needed to resolve this issue and signed SB 25 into law on Friday, February 15, and the bill went into immediate effect to protect the lives of our children.

Over the last two years, the House has supported Georgia's

brave military service members and our veterans by passing 23 military-friendly bills. To build upon these efforts, we passed House Bill 25 to provide financial relief for active duty members of the U.S. military, Georgia National Guard or Georgia Air National Guard. This bill allows active service member in Georgia to terminate contractual obligations with a provider of subscription services like television, video and audio programming services; internet access services; or health spa or gym services. To qualify, service members must be on active duty and receive orders of deployment.



With Page of the Day, Amber Jones

Passage of House Bill 29, which allows the people of Skidaway Island to vote on self government. Sen. Watson and I remain neutral in this matter but believe absolutely in the right of the people to vote on this important decision. A referendum by the people is the process established in Georgia for city hood. On March 19, the people of Skidaway Island will vote their conscience. Once and for all, an issue that has been discussed for over 20 years will be put to rest. I encourage all residents to study the data and then vote yes or no as they see fit.

Finally, passage of House Bill 63 to allow health care providers to request exceptions to step therapy protocols to provide proper medication to patients when it is medically necessary. Currently, insurance companies in Georgia often use step therapy, which is a process that requires a patient to try and fail one or more medications preferred by their insurer before receiving coverage for the medication that their doctor originally prescribed. This process restricts a patient's access to quality care and prolongs ineffective treatments by preventing an individual from starting the treatment that their doctor thinks is best, and physicians cannot override this process. This bill would allow physicians to submit a step therapy exemption or appeal if the required prescription drug will cause an adverse reaction or physical or mental harm to the patient, is expected to be ineffective, the patient has tried the required prescription drug or the patient's condition is stable on a prescription drug previously selected by his or her practitioner.

As we are now extremely busy vetting bills, please contact me with any concerns on pending legislation. My Capitol email address is [Jesse.Petrea@house.ga.gov](mailto:Jesse.Petrea@house.ga.gov).

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative.

Jesse Petrea  
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With my beautiful mother,  
Jaki Petrea



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