

DeKalb County School Board Legislative Update

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Memo – Legislative Update

Property Assessment and homestead bills currently in Georgia assembly

- [HB 264](#) – Revenue and taxation; handling of appeals of property tax assessments; revise certain deadlines and procedures
 - o Summary –
 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-5-311 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to creation of county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals, so as to revise certain deadlines and procedures for the handling of appeals of property tax assessments; to revise certain notice requirements and procedures; to revise provisions for certain automatic judgements; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status –
 - Senate Recommitted (1/8/2024) in Finance
 - Passed House last year
- [SB 349](#) – Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; setting of millage rates; revise provisions
 - o Summary –
 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to revise provisions related to the setting of millage rates; to limit the application of the freezing of the assessed value as a result of an appeal; to limit the application of a temporary reduction in the taxes owed when a taxpayer appeals to superior court and does not participate in the settlement conference; to provide for a statewide homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead is more than 3 percent from the adjusted base year value of such homestead; to provide for related matters; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, applicability, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status - Senate Finance Reported favorably by substitute (2/9/24)
- [HB 628](#) – Property; revise exemption for a debtor’s aggregate interest in real property or personal property
 - o Summary –
 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 44-13-100 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exemptions for purposes of bankruptcy and intestate insolvent estates, so as to revise the exemption for a debtor's aggregate interest in real property or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence, in a cooperative that owns property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence, or in

a burial plot; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- Status –
 - House Judiciary Favorably reported (1/25/24)
- [HB 1019](#) – Revenue and taxation; statewide homestead exemption from certain ad valorem taxes
 - Summary –
 - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to tax exemption, so as to increase the amount of a statewide homestead exemption from certain ad valorem taxes; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and automatic repeal; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - This will double the current state homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000.
 - Status –
 - Senate Read and Referred to Finance (2/9/24)
 - Passed house (2/8/24)

Speed Cameras

- [HB 348](#) – motor Vehicles; standard for signs warning of use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices; provide.
 - Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 14 of Title 40 of the O.C.G.A., relating to use of speed detection devices and red light cameras, so as to provide for standards for signs warning of the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices; to amend Title 15 of the O.C.G.A., relating to courts, so as to authorize district attorneys, solicitors-general, and prosecuting attorneys to enforce civil monetary penalties relative to the enforcement of laws regarding speeding in a school zone using recorded images; to amend Code Section 40-6-163 of the O.C.G.A., relating to duty of driver of vehicle meeting or overtaking school bus, reporting of violations, and civil monetary penalty for violations captured by school bus camera, so as to revise penalties for failure to pay a civil monetary penalty relating to illegal passing of a school bus; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - Status – House passed last year
 - Senate Recommitted (1/8/24) in Public Safety

QBE Formula

- QBE has been an issue for several years and while there have been several bills introduced that would help with basic education, none so far have moved.
 - [HB 3](#) – Support for Students Living in Poverty Act
 - [HB 32](#) – Quality Basic Education Act; no high school which receives funding shall participate in sports events that does not utilize instant replay in Championship games
 - [HB 111](#) – Quality Basic Education; pilot program to implement student based funding recommendations of the 2015 Education Reform Commission
 - [HB 177](#) – Quality Basic Education Act; prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention instruction is age appropriate

- [HB 367](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; provide up to \$500,000 in matching grants for home reading programs for students in kindergarten through fifth grade
- [HB 457](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; remove needs development rating from group of performance evaluation ratings; provisions
- [HB 527](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; inclusion of certain visual safety devices in minimum facility requirements; provide
- [HB 646](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; prohibit schools from using Native American names, symbols, or images as school mascots, logos, or team names
- [HB 712](#) – Quality Basic Education; calculation and distribution of funds to local units of administration for student transportation programs
- [HB 822](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention is age appropriate and medically accurate; provide
- [HB 899](#) – School Violence Reduction and Safety Act
- [HB 900](#) – Quality Basic Education Act; Refugee and International Students Equalization (RISE) program
- [HB 1027](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; half-credit computer science course shall be a high school graduation requirement; require in 2026-2027 school year
- [HB 1036](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; course of instruction in pregnancy, health, and human development for students in grades nine through 12; require
- [HB 1104](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; address mental health risks for student athletes
- [HB 1133](#) - Quality Basic Education Act; staff development; require training programs for local boards of education to include certain provisions

Retired Teachers Returning to work.

- no legislation yet amending the passed legislation in 2022 regarding retired teachers returning to work. We need to find a legislative vehicle

Abatements and Other Tax Diversions

- [SB 171](#) – Language to allow school district representation on any development authorities which have the power to grant abatements or other diversions from school districts of school taxes still does not appear to be in the bill.
 - Status- Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute (2/8/24)

Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS)

- Working on finding a sponsor
- Retirement bills need 2 years

Expediting of Permitting for School District Improvement Projects

- Looking for a legislative vehicle

Pay increase for DeKalb Board of Education Members

- Required ad for local bill currently running. We expect a bill to be dropped the week of February 18th.

House Education Bills

- [HB 51](#) - Education; local boards of education use vehicles other than school buses for transport of students; authorize
 - o Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to authorize local boards of education to use vehicles other than school buses for the transport of all students to and from school and school related activities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status –
 - Passed House Unanimously last year
 - Senate Recommitted (1/8/24)
- [HB 81](#) - Education; eligibility criteria for certain capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems; revise
 - o Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 20-2-262 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to low-wealth capital outlay grants to local school systems and criteria for eligibility, so as to revise the eligibility criteria for certain capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems; to provide for the authority of the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status –
 - Passed House Unanimously last year
 - Senate Recommitted 1/8/24
- [HB 338](#) - Student Technology Protection Act; enact
 - o Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for the inclusion of methods for the promotion of the safe and appropriate use of technology and responsible digital citizenship in the comprehensive character education program; to repeal a provision regarding applicability; to provide for implementation; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status –
 - House Passed Last year
 - Senate Recommitted (1/8/24)
- [HB 941](#) -Education; capital outlay funds may be used for educational facilities for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided by the school system; provide
 - o Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 20-2-260 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to capital outlay funds in elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that capital outlay funds may be used for educational facilities for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided by the school system; to provide that student projection counts may include pre-kindergarten; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
 - o Status – House Committee Favorably reported by substitute (2/6/24)
- [SB 233](#) - 'The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act'; establishment of promise scholarship accounts
 - o Summary - A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to provide for the establishment of promise

scholarship accounts to be funded by the state in the amount of \$6,000.00 per school year for each participating student; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

- Status – Passed Senate bipartisan, 6 votes short in the House. We expect to see it back up before the end of the session

