

## Special Session Report

Last week, legislators came back to the Capitol a little earlier than usual. Governor Deal called a special legislative session for the purpose of amending the budget to allot funds for Hurricane Michael relief. While the main goal for this week long session was to send more funds for those affected by the storm, legislators saw this as an opportunity to take up a few other pieces of legislation...

## Legislation

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### HB 1eX: The FY 2018 Budget

The amended budget includes a \$270M increase to cover disaster relief funds. This includes \$205,882,632 in state general funds and \$64,943,645 in motor fuel funds. Per HB 170 (the original budget passed during the 2018 legislative session), \$4,374,200 of the state general funds are set aside for transportation purposes. And \$69,332,055 to pay the state match for federal disaster assistance funding for expenses related to damages and operating costs associated with Hurricane Michael. This amended budget passed and like other bills during session, it will go to the Governor's desk for approval.

### HB 4eX: Tax Credits for Timber

This bill comes from the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Jay Powell. This bill would create a tax credit for those who's livelihood depends on the timber industry - this is particularly for those in South Georgia who were severely affected by the storm. This allows for the credit to cover up to 100% of the timber casualties. This bill passed and will go to the Governor's desk for approval.

### HB 5eX: Jet Fuel Tax

This bill is from the Governor's office and eliminates the collecting of sales and use tax on jet fuel. This bill is being pushed by Delta, the main beneficiary of this legislation. However, it's been the subject of major scrutiny ever since last session. This bill allows the tax break to continue until June 1, 2019. This bill met with some pushback but ultimately passed. Now, this bill will go to the Governor's desk for approval.

# Study Committee Reports

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## School Safety Study Committee:

The Senate School Safety Study Committee heard from a range of speakers including students, teachers, parents, school officials, local and state law enforcement, emergency services personnel, and state agency officials, and also received and reviewed written commentary and suggestions submitted by attendees at its meetings held across the state. The list of recommendations span several pages (<https://bit.ly/2FyKWHQ>) but the highlights are:

- Requiring all schools to conduct individual safety assessments
- Increase communication between schools and local law enforcement for quicker response time
- Add safety structures to existing schools and build new schools with emergency situations in mind
- Focus on crisis prevention with more resources going towards school resource officers, mental health professionals, and training for all school personnel.

The House also had a School Safety Study Committee but they have not released their final report yet.

## House Transit Governance and Funding:

The House Transit Governance and Funding committee has met all over the state to examine the new plan for transit systems in urban and rural areas. This committee has heard from transportation professionals and the consulting agency, Deloitte, to establish new methods for successfully integration new transit plans into existing systems. While they have not released their final report, we expect that the recommendations will be completed within the end of the year.

# Election

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On Friday, November 16, Stacey Abrams officially declared Brian Kemp the winner of the gubernatorial race. While she never truly "conceded", in the traditional sense, she will continue her political career with the Fair Fight Georgia federal lawsuit and political action committee, or PAC.

However, with Interim Secretary of State Robin Robyn Crittenden certifying all the election results, it is clear Brian Kemp is the next Governor of Georgia. On Monday, November 19, Kemp announced his transition team. Among those helping Kemp move into his new role are:

- **Chief of Staff:** Tim Fleming
- **Senior Advisor:** Jeremy Brand
- **Transition Director:** David Dove
- **Budget:** Harold Reynolds, Lorri Smith, Kelly Farr, Greg Dozier, and Krisit Fuss
- **Appointments:** Chuck Harper, Lisa Durden, Rick Desai, Robert Finch, Allen Fox, Yovany Jerez, Anh Lee, Jim Lientz, Allen Poole, T. Dallas Smith, Shawnzia Thomas, and Rev. Rochard White
- **Government Relations:** Alec Poitevint, Tricia Pridemore, Bob Barr, Craig Lesser, Jay Lin, Vic Reynolds, and Jay Roberts
- **Policy:** Mark Middleton, Joy Hawkins, Laura Gammage, Jose Perez, Ben Hames, Mark Hamilton, Brian Marlowe, Rev. Abraham Mosely, Cole Muzio, Tom Ratchford, Tom Price, Ellen Wiley, and Virginia Galloway

## Legislative Leadership

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In addition to state-wide race, the legislature also elect internal leadership.

In the House:

- Speaker of the House: David Ralston
- Speaker Pro-Tem: Jan Jones
- Majority Leader: John Burns
- Majority Whip: Trey Kelley
- Majority Caucus Chairman: Matt Hatchett
- Minority Leader: Bob Trammel
- Minority Whip: William Boddie
- Minority Caucus Chair: James Beverly

In the Senate:

- Speaker Pro-Tem: Butch Miller
- Majority Leader: Mike Dugan
- Majority Whip: Steve Gooch
- Majority Caucus Chair: John Kennedy
- Minority Leader: Steve Henson
- Minority Whip: Harold Jones
- Minority Caucus Chair: Gloria Butler