

2019



ISSUE OVERVIEW

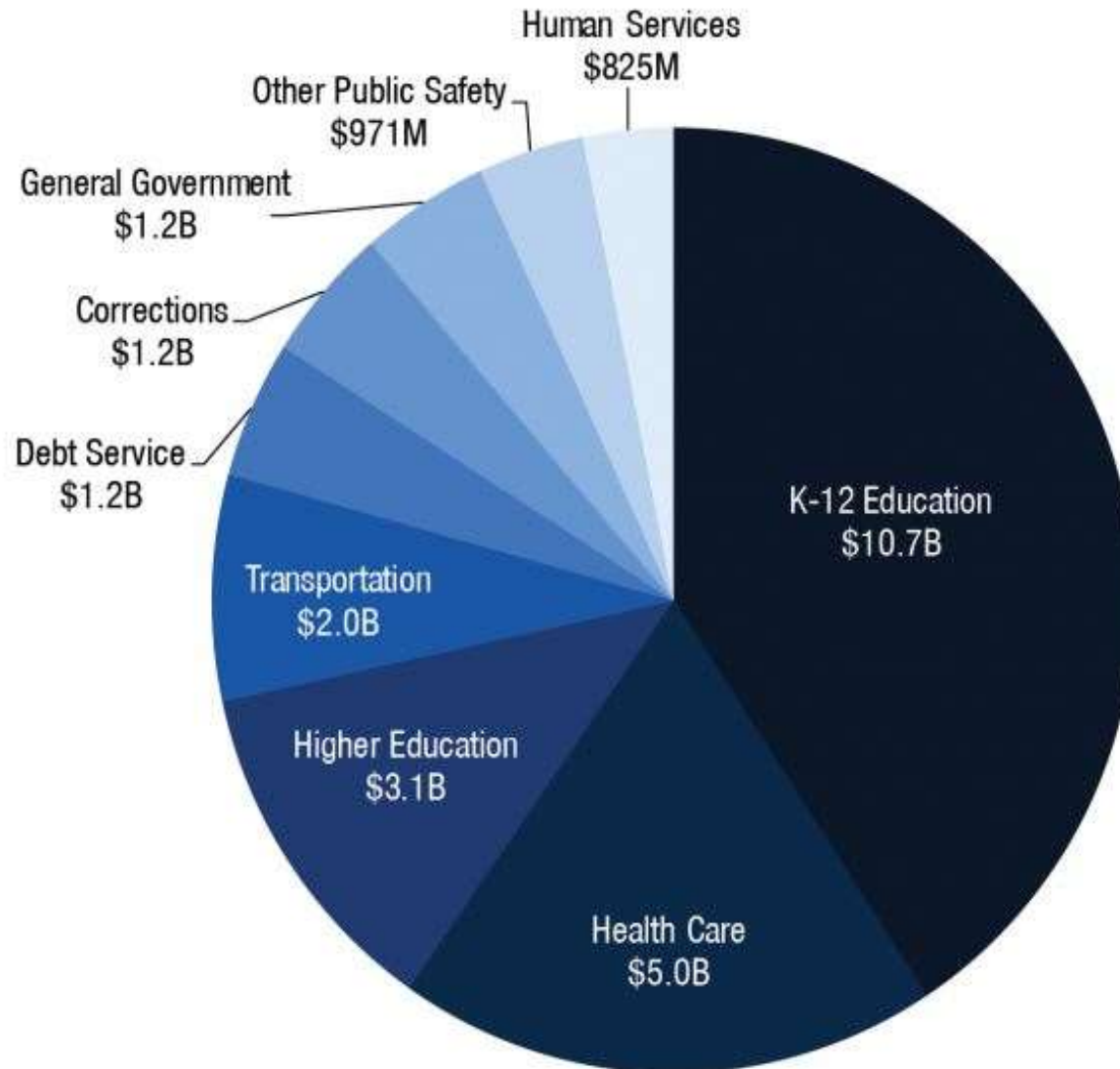


2020 Budget

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Education and Health Care Equal 70 Percent of State Budget

2020 Fiscal Year \$26 billion General Fund and Motor Fuel Funds Budget



EDUCATION ISSUES

What was Accomplished?



Education Funding Highlights

2020 Fiscal Year

We are pleased to report that under the 2020 FY budget, our Georgia educators will receive a much-deserved raise. Education plays a pivotal role in attracting new businesses as we work to better prepare Georgia's workforce through various partnerships, opportunities and initiatives.

- \$530 million to increase the state base salary schedule to provide a \$3,000 pay raise for certified teachers and certified employees effective July 1, 2019
- \$16.5 million in lottery funds to increase the salaries of certified Pre-Kindergarten teachers by \$3,000 and assistant teachers by 2 percent
- \$3.7 million to provide 2 percent and merit-based pay increases to state employees across the Department of Education
- \$2 million combined with \$1.5 million in existing funds to increase funds for facilities grants of up to \$100,000 each for charter schools
- \$1 million for additional high school counselors and programs for Title I schools
- \$100,000 for a two-year pilot to evaluate early reading programs for students with risk factors for dyslexia as prescribed by Senate Bill 48

Majority of New Dollars for Education Go to Teacher Pay Raises



Source: Georgia's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (HB 31), signed by governor

Education Funding Highlights

2020 Fiscal Year

Higher Education Funding

- \$376 million in bonds for the University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia
- \$88 million for the University System of Georgia and \$3.5 million for the Technical College System of Georgia
- \$15 million in lottery funds to raise the award amount for HOPE Scholarships by 3%
- \$3 million in lottery funds to increase the award amount for Zell Miller Scholarships
- \$3 million decrease in state general funds for Dual Enrollment and \$1,000,000 addition in lottery funds (Early HOPE program)
- \$1.8 million for the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership Expansion
- \$349,000 for three Aviation Maintenance Technician program instructors
- \$250,000 to increase funds for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at Georgia Tech with the Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (GA CATT) apprenticeship program



Active Duty Military Children



House Bill 59 allows parents or guardians on active duty to pre-enroll a student in a K-12 school when official military orders to transfer into or within the state of Georgia are received.

House Bill 59

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act



Senate Bill 60 creates the 'Jeremy Nelson and Nick Blakley Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act', which would require the Department of Education to develop and publish guidelines for dealing with cardiac arrest.

Senate Bill 60

Child Safety



Senate Bill 25 seeks to increase safety for students by clarifying that drivers must stop for school buses on roadways separated by a grass median, unpaved are, or physical barrier.

Senate Bill 25

Healthcare



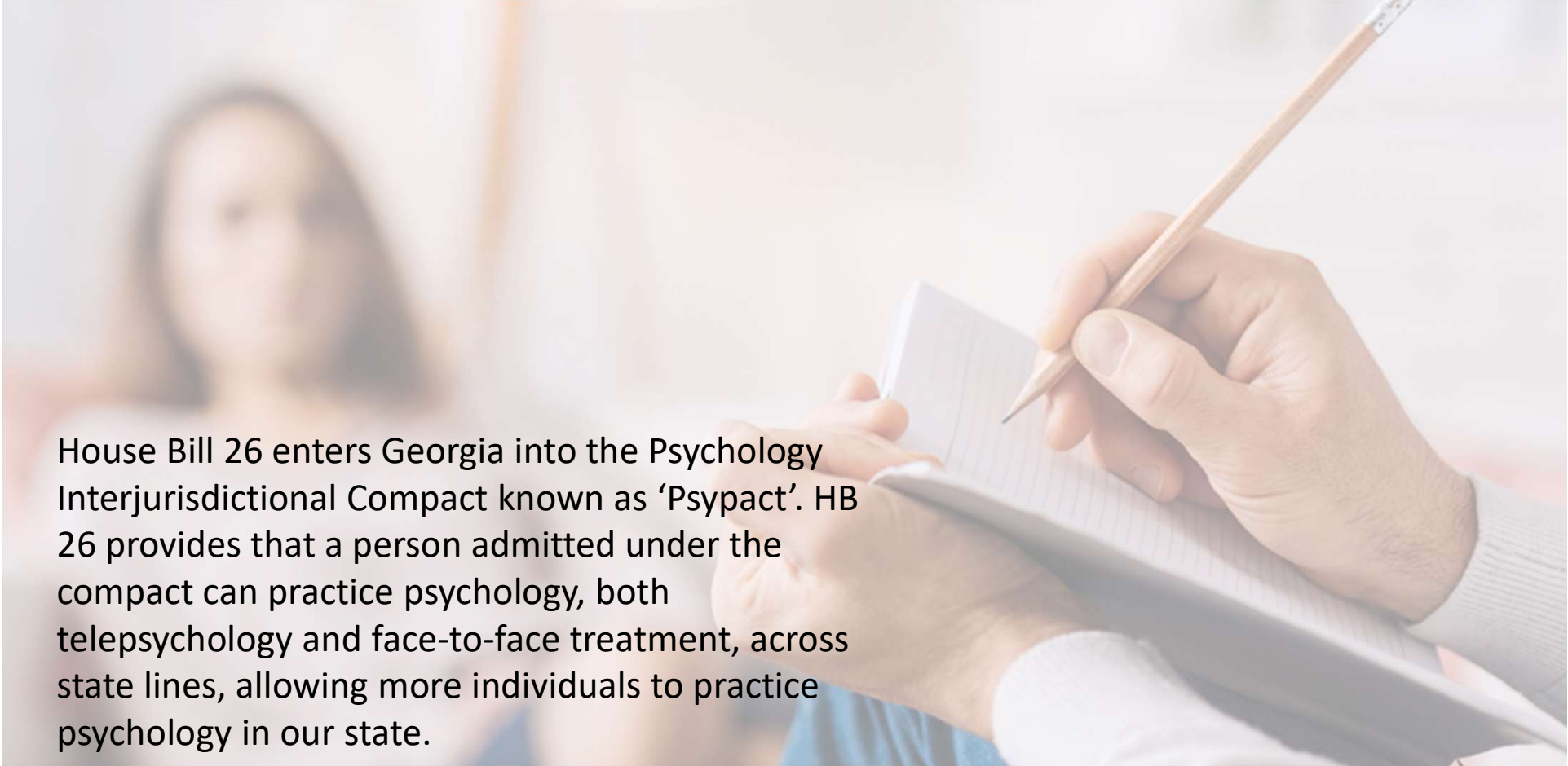
2019 Initiatives

Healthcare Budget Highlights

- \$107 million in combined state and federal funds for growth in Georgia's Low-Income Medicaid program based on projected need. A \$35 million increase in general funds will be matched by \$72 million in federal funding under the state's 67.3 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).
- \$64 million in combined state and federal funds for growth in the state's Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid program based on projected need.
- \$7.6 million to grow the state's behavioral health crisis bed capacity
- \$500,000 for a Center of Excellence on Maternal Mortality at the Morehouse School of Medicine
- \$1 million to screen, refer and treat maternal depression in rural and underserved areas
- \$250,000 to fund a new grant program for hospital upgrades in rural counties with populations below 35,000 residents
- \$250,000 to increase funds for Mercy Care Health Systems to provide mental and primary health care services to the uninsured
- \$50,000 to expand comprehensive treatment, prevention, and recovery support services for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder

2020 Fiscal Year

Psypact



House Bill 26 enters Georgia into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact known as 'Psypact'. HB 26 provides that a person admitted under the compact can practice psychology, both telepsychology and face-to-face treatment, across state lines, allowing more individuals to practice psychology in our state.

House Bill 26

Margie's Law

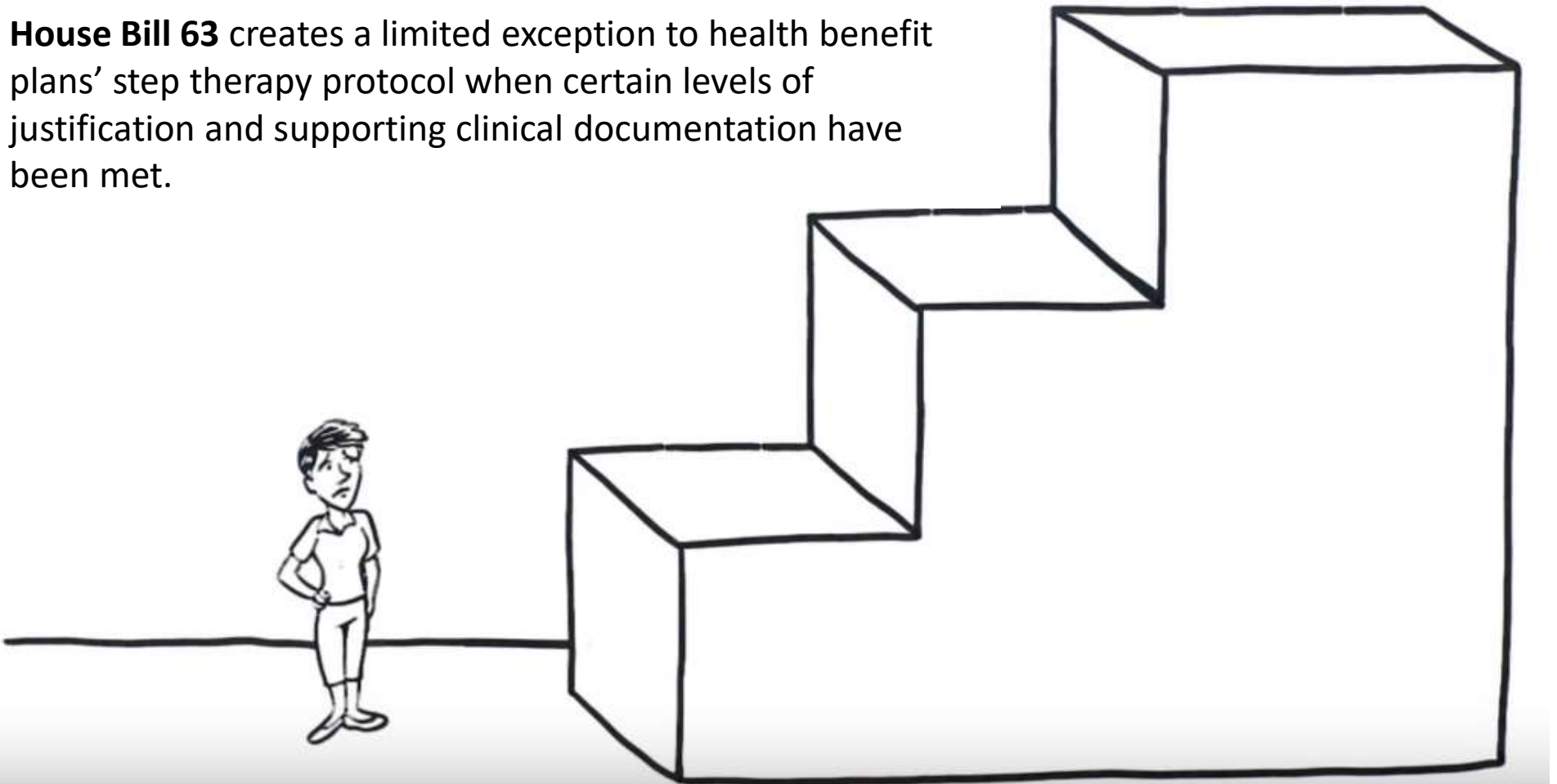


House Bill 62, also known as, 'Margie's Law' would require that a health care facility notify a patient whose mammogram showed 'dense breast tissue' as finding such may indicate cancerous cells. The bill also stipulates that healthcare professionals should encourage patients to seek further testing.

House Bill 62

Step Therapy Protocol

House Bill 63 creates a limited exception to health benefit plans' step therapy protocol when certain levels of justification and supporting clinical documentation have been met.



House Bill 63

Genetic Counselors Act

House Bill 166 establishes the 'Genetic Counselors Act', which requires any individual engaged in the practice of genetic counseling in this state to be licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Genetic counseling is a process to evaluate and understand an individual's risk of inherited medical conditions.



House Bill 166

CON Revisions

House Bill 186 revises Certificate of Need (CON) requirements, extends the Rural Hospital Tax Credit, and creates the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination. For CON reform, the bill does the following: (1) increases the capital threshold for new, expanded or relocated clinical facilities to \$10 million, and removes CON approval requirement for non-clinical space upgrades and renovations; (2) revises the definitions of “health care facility”, “primary campus”, and “remote hospital location”; (3) allows CTCA to become a “general cancer hospital”; (4) changes requirements to the CON application process; and (5) increases transparency through new reporting requirements. Further, this bill prohibits non-profit hospitals from renewing or holding medical use rights. Finally, HB 186 creates the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination, which is tasked with connecting state resources, functions, reports, and agencies for improved health care service infrastructure.



House Bill 186

Combating Viruses



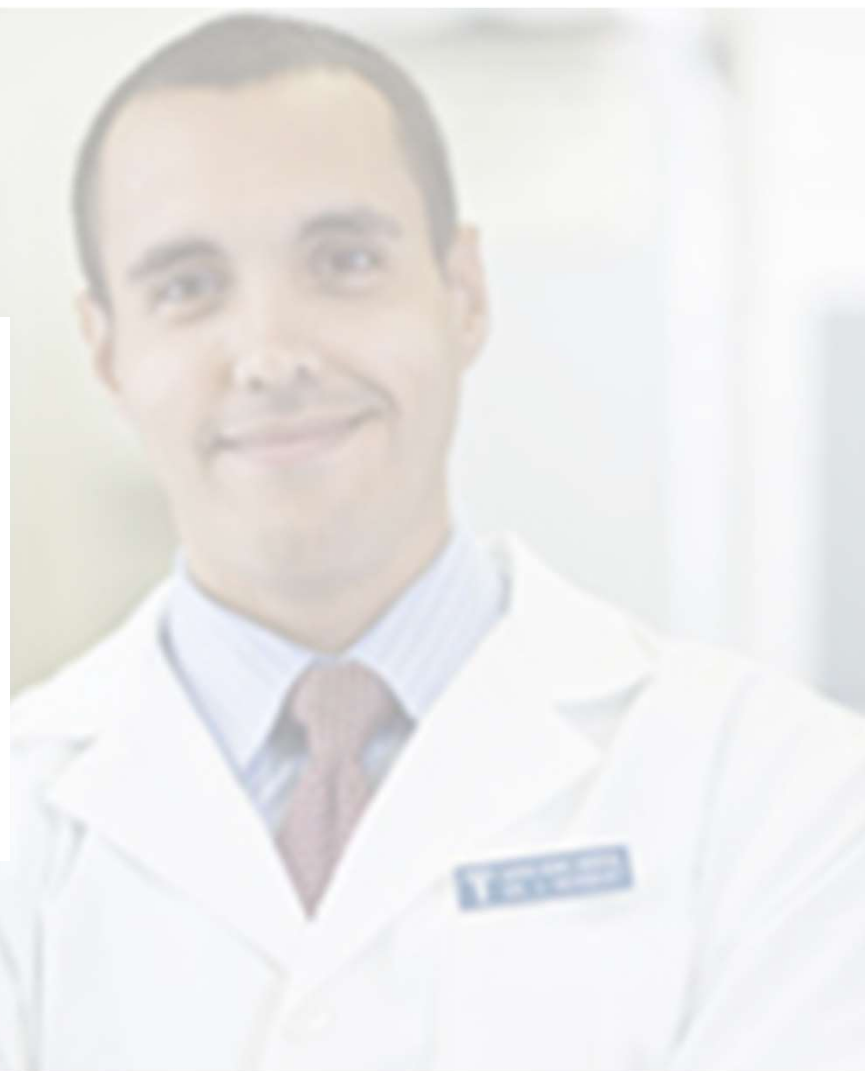
House Bill 217 provides civil and criminal immunity to employees and agents of state registered for the possession, distribution, or exchange of syringes, needles, and supplies as part of a program intended to cut down on the spread of viruses transmitted through needle use.



House Bill 217

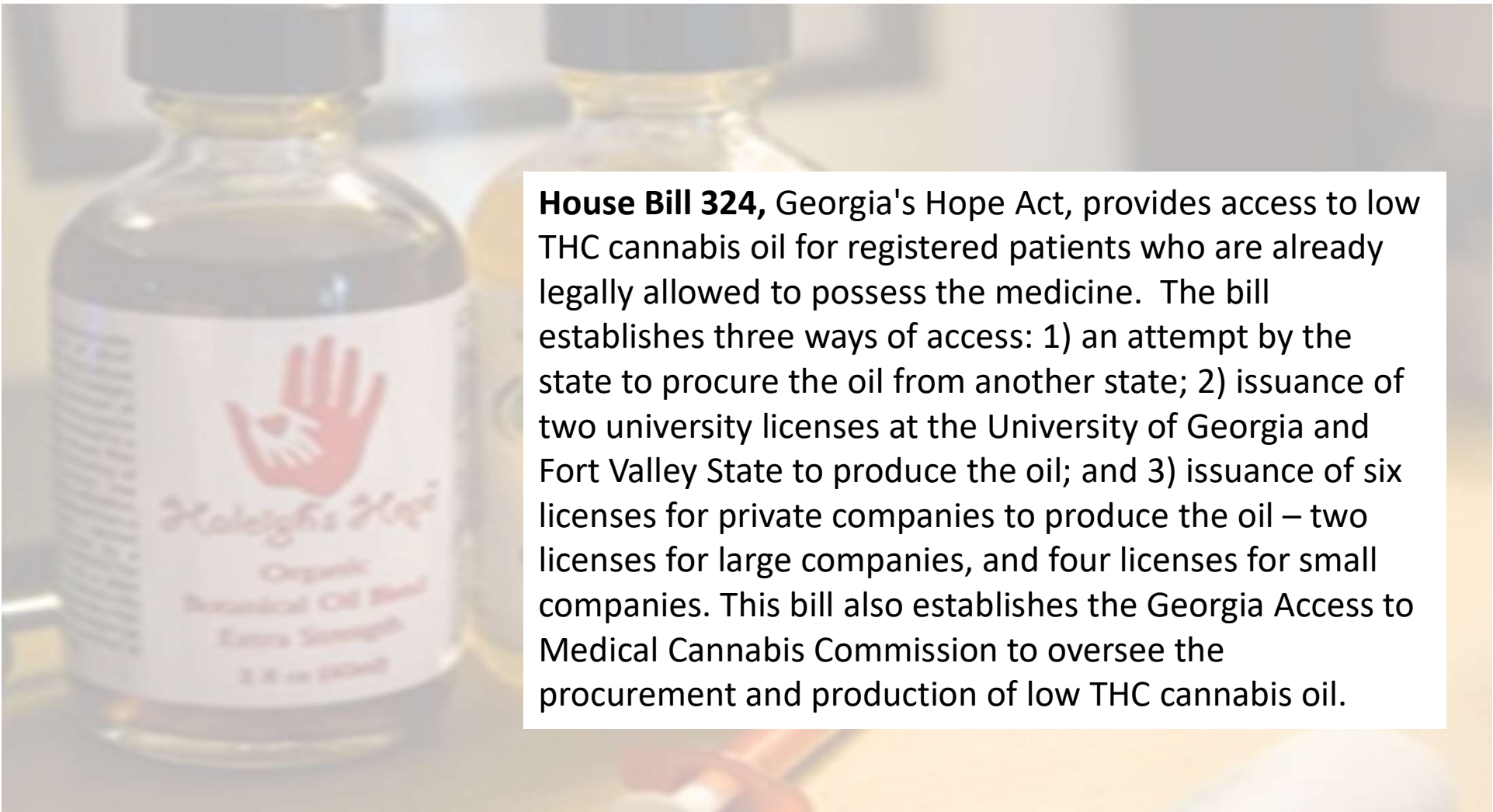
Pharmacy Transparency

House Bill 323 will increase transparency by requiring pharmacy benefits managers to report the number of rebates they retain and what they transfer to patients. Further, any rebate received by a pharmacy benefits manager may not be applied against the patient's cost of medication and will not increase the dispensing pharmacy or other dispenser practice's cost of participation.



House Bill 323

Georgia's Hope Act



House Bill 324, Georgia's Hope Act, provides access to low THC cannabis oil for registered patients who are already legally allowed to possess the medicine. The bill establishes three ways of access: 1) an attempt by the state to procure the oil from another state; 2) issuance of two university licenses at the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State to produce the oil; and 3) issuance of six licenses for private companies to produce the oil – two licenses for large companies, and four licenses for small companies. This bill also establishes the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission to oversee the procurement and production of low THC cannabis oil.

House Bill 324

Patients First Act

Senate Bill 106, also known as the 'Patients First Act', authorizes Governor Kemp to pursue waivers from the Federal Government that would improve access to care for uninsured Georgians who make up to 100% of the federal poverty level, and lower insurance premiums for all Georgians covered by private health care plans.



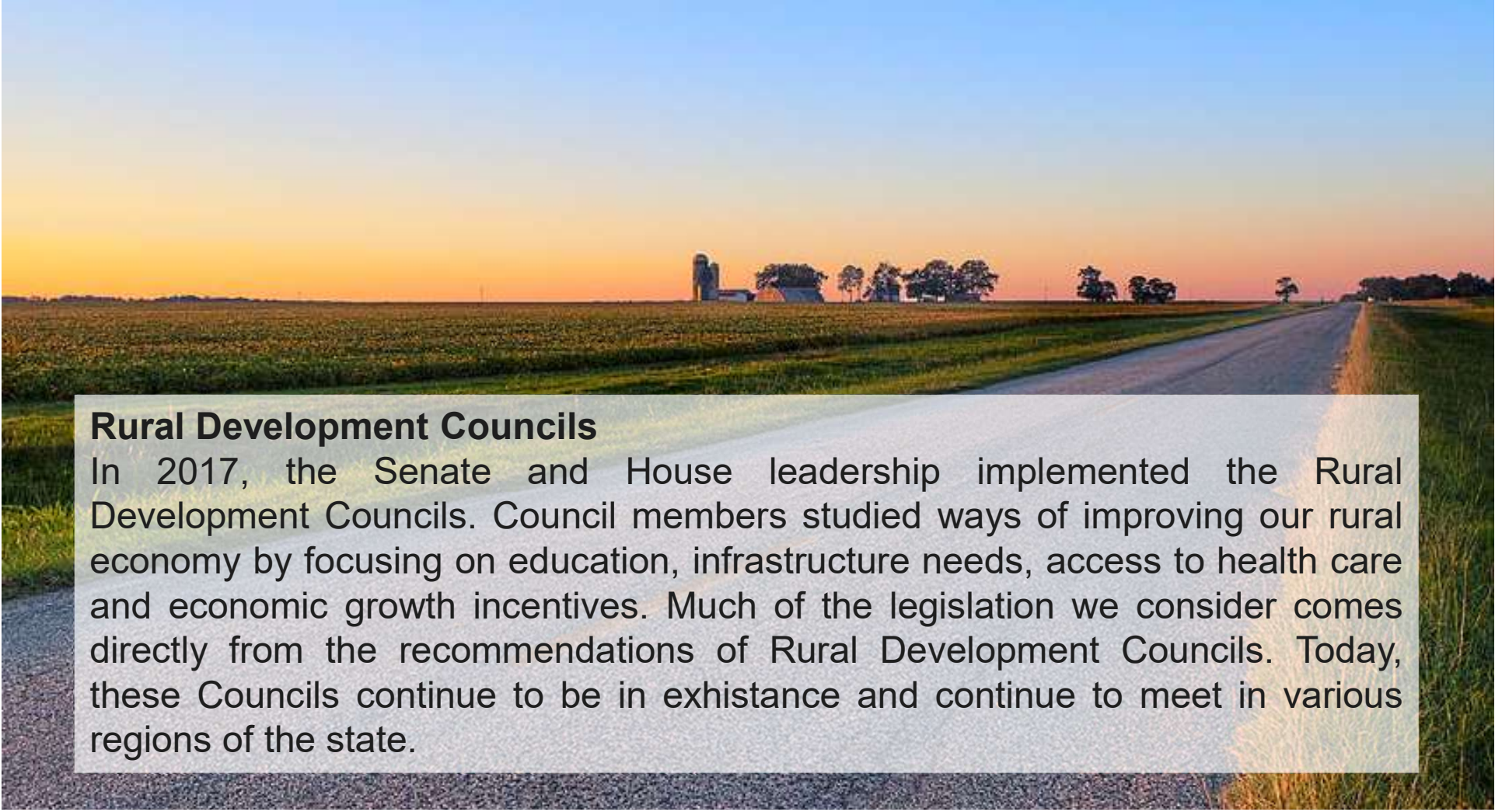
Senate Bill 106

Rural Revitalization



2019 Initiatives

Rural Development Council

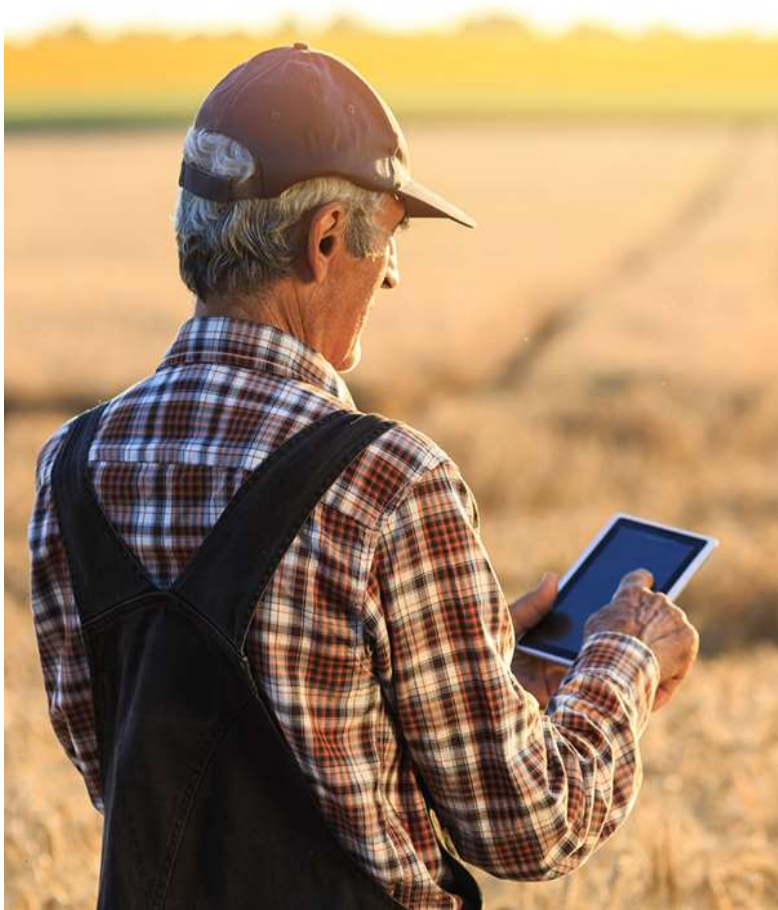


Rural Development Councils

In 2017, the Senate and House leadership implemented the Rural Development Councils. Council members studied ways of improving our rural economy by focusing on education, infrastructure needs, access to health care and economic growth incentives. Much of the legislation we consider comes directly from the recommendations of Rural Development Councils. Today, these Councils continue to be in existence and continue to meet in various regions of the state.

2019

Rural Broadband Access




Senate Bill 2 allows EMC's to provide broadband services, while prohibiting the cross subsidization of the EMCs broadband services and its natural gas or electricity services. Further, the bill also prohibits EMC's disconnecting a user's gas or electric service for their failure to pay for the broadband service, and vice versa.

House Bill 213 allows for the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp and hemp products in Georgia. The bill further provides for colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia to conduct research on hemp, including the development of new hemp varieties, seed development, and consumer uses. The Department of Agriculture will provide oversight of all compliance and regulation. The passage of HB 213 will further grow Georgia's number one industry, agriculture, by providing farmers another crop to rotate into their planting.

Senate Bill 2 & House Bill 213

GA AG Marketing Authority



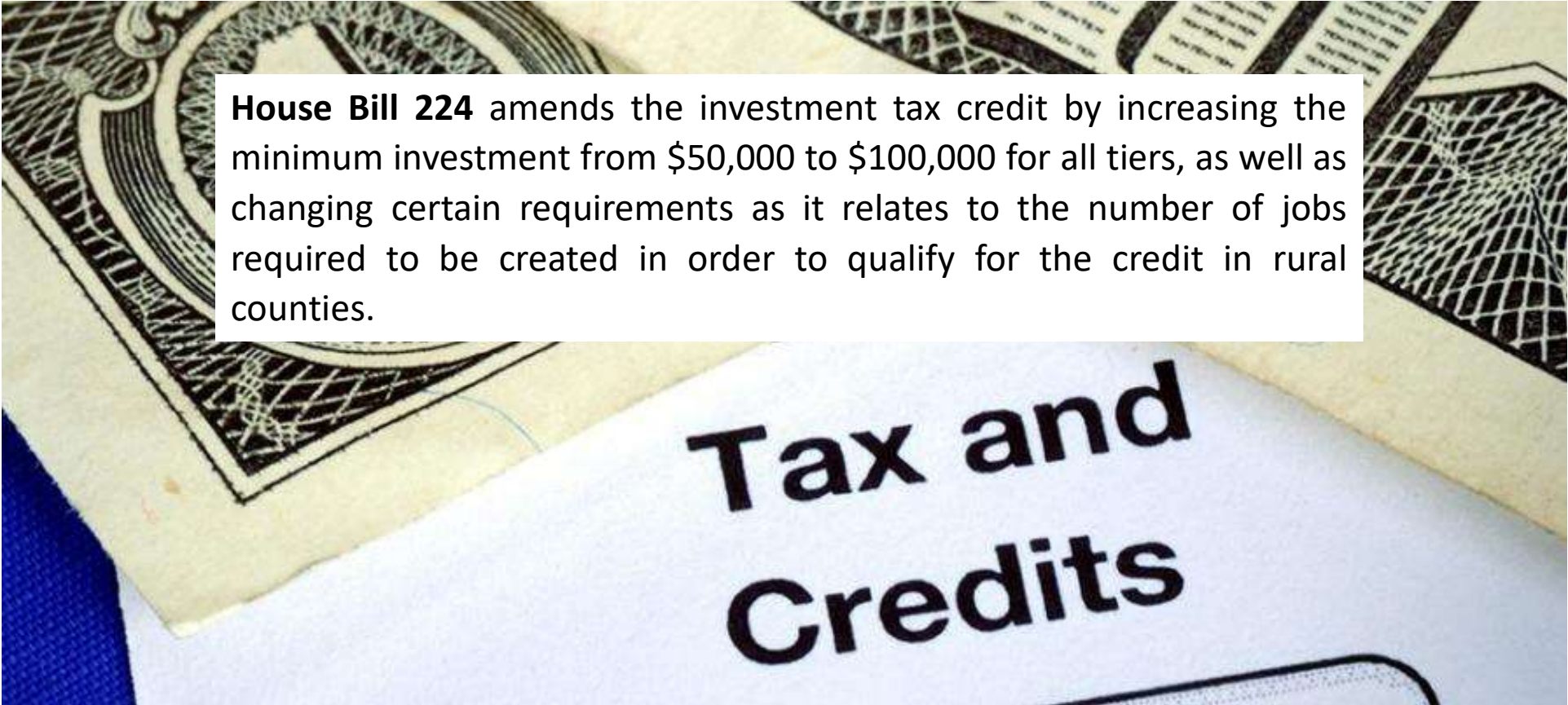
House Bill 455 creates the Georgia Agricultural Marketing Authority and lays out its governing structure. This authority is charged with providing facilities and activities to promote the agricultural community's products to agribusiness entities and the public.

House Bill 455



2019 Tax Reform Efforts

Rural County Tax Credit

The background of the slide features a close-up of a US dollar bill on the left, showing intricate patterns and the number '100'. To the right, a white document with the title 'Tax and Credits' in bold black font is visible. The text of House Bill 224 is overlaid on a white rectangular box in the center.

House Bill 224 amends the investment tax credit by increasing the minimum investment from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for all tiers, as well as changing certain requirements as it relates to the number of jobs required to be created in order to qualify for the credit in rural counties.

House Bill 224

Habitat for Humanity Exemption



House Bill 344 exempts Habitat for Humanity and their affiliates statewide from the ad valorem tax on lots that are donated to them, provided they use such properties for Habitat purposes.

House Bill 344

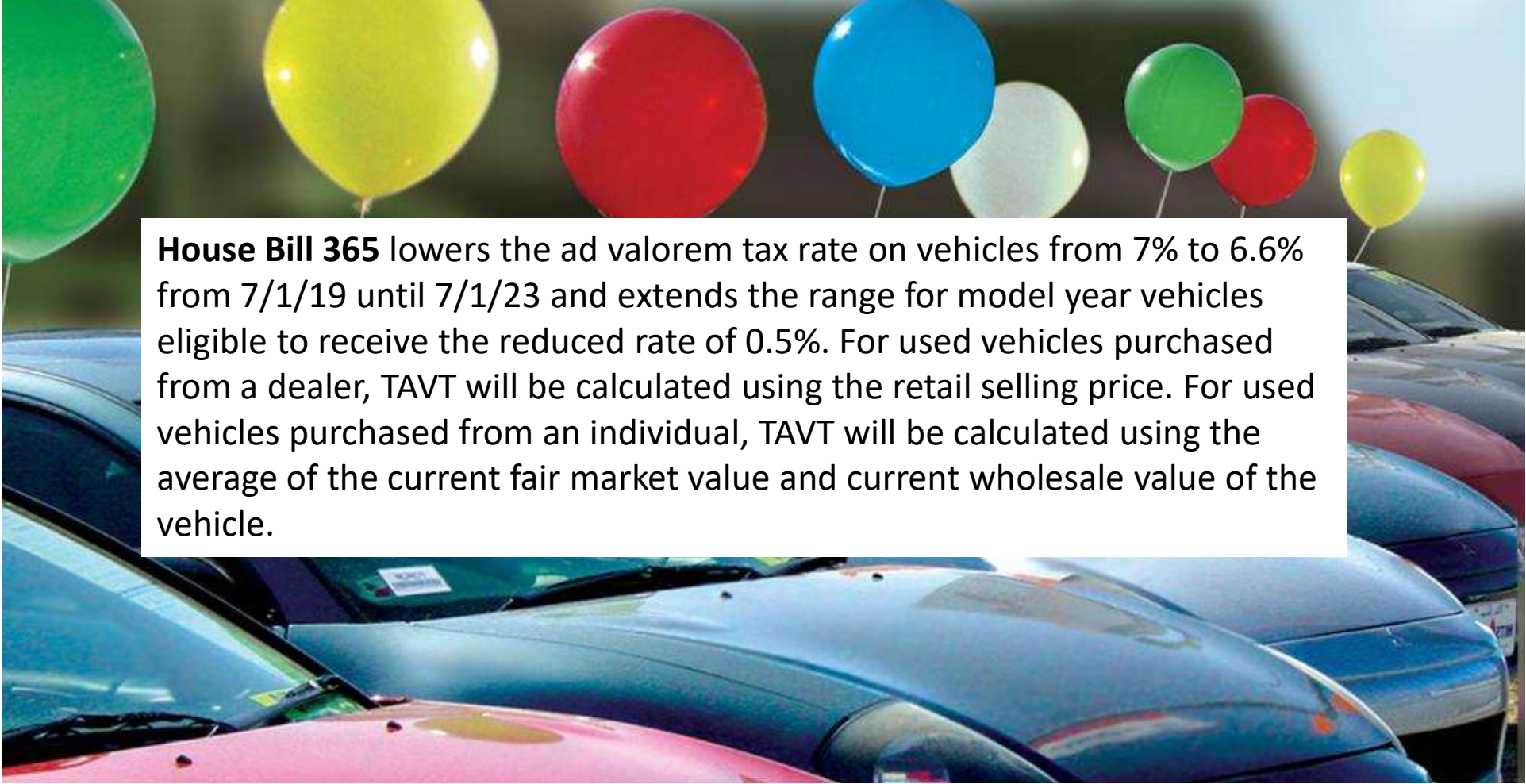
Deposit Placement Programs



Senate Bill 157 would allow small banks serving as depositories of county and school funds to participate in deposit placement programs.

Senate Bill 157

TATV Tax Rate Lowered



House Bill 365 lowers the ad valorem tax rate on vehicles from 7% to 6.6% from 7/1/19 until 7/1/23 and extends the range for model year vehicles eligible to receive the reduced rate of 0.5%. For used vehicles purchased from a dealer, TAVT will be calculated using the retail selling price. For used vehicles purchased from an individual, TAVT will be calculated using the average of the current fair market value and current wholesale value of the vehicle.

House Bill 365



Public Safety



2019 Initiatives

Safe Schools

A red apple is positioned on the right side of the image, resting on a stack of books. The background is dark, and the text 'SAFE SECURE SCHOOLS' is displayed in a large, white, distressed font on the left.

SAFE SECURE
SCHOOLS

House Bill 12 requires that schools to post signs containing the toll-free number to report incidents of child abuse in a visible, public area of the school.

House Bill 12

Tenant Protection

House Bill 346 seeks to out the bad actors in the residential lease community by affording tenants the right to file a claim for retaliation when they feel they have been dispossessed for filing a complaint against a landlord regarding the living conditions of their residence.



LEASE
AGREEMENT

(Landlord's Name)
In the City of
as the "Landlord"

House Bill 346

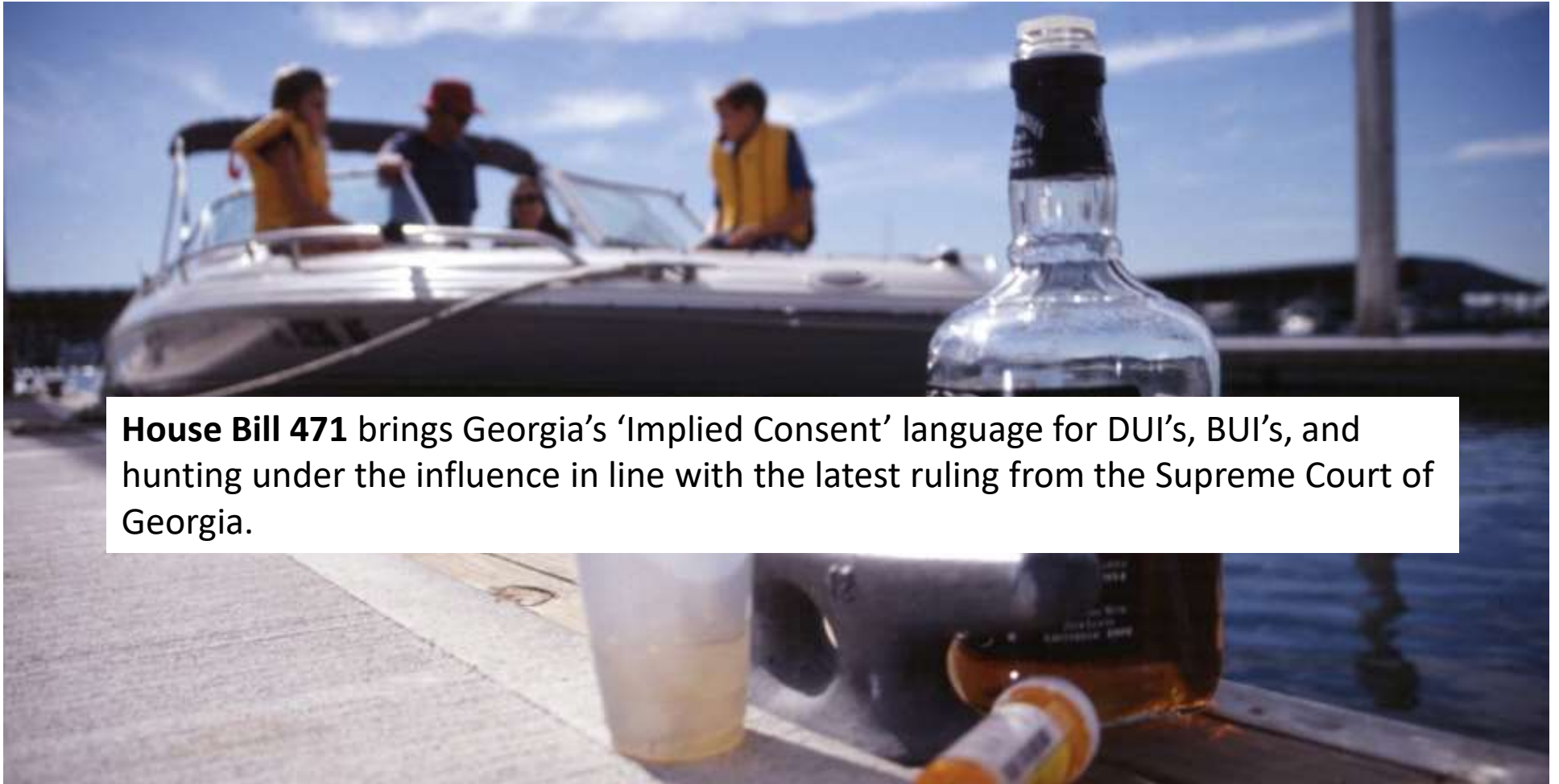
Human Trafficking

House Bill 424 adds the offenses of trafficking persons for labor or sexual servitude, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, and pandering to the list of offenses defined as criminal gang activity. Further, this bill cleans up current evidentiary requirements.



House Bill 424

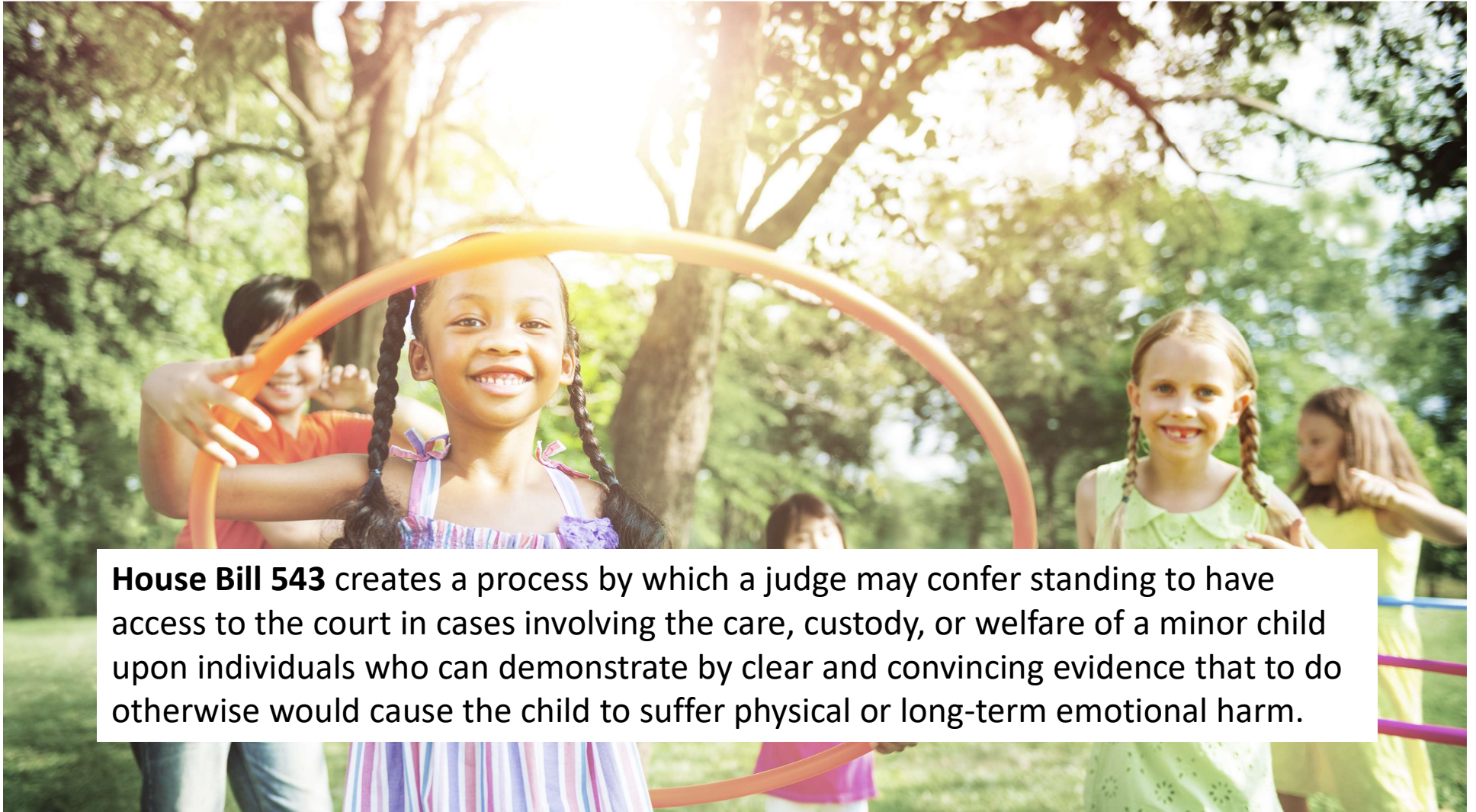
Boating Under the Influence



House Bill 471 brings Georgia's 'Implied Consent' language for DUI's, BUI's, and hunting under the influence in line with the latest ruling from the Supreme Court of Georgia.

House Bill 471

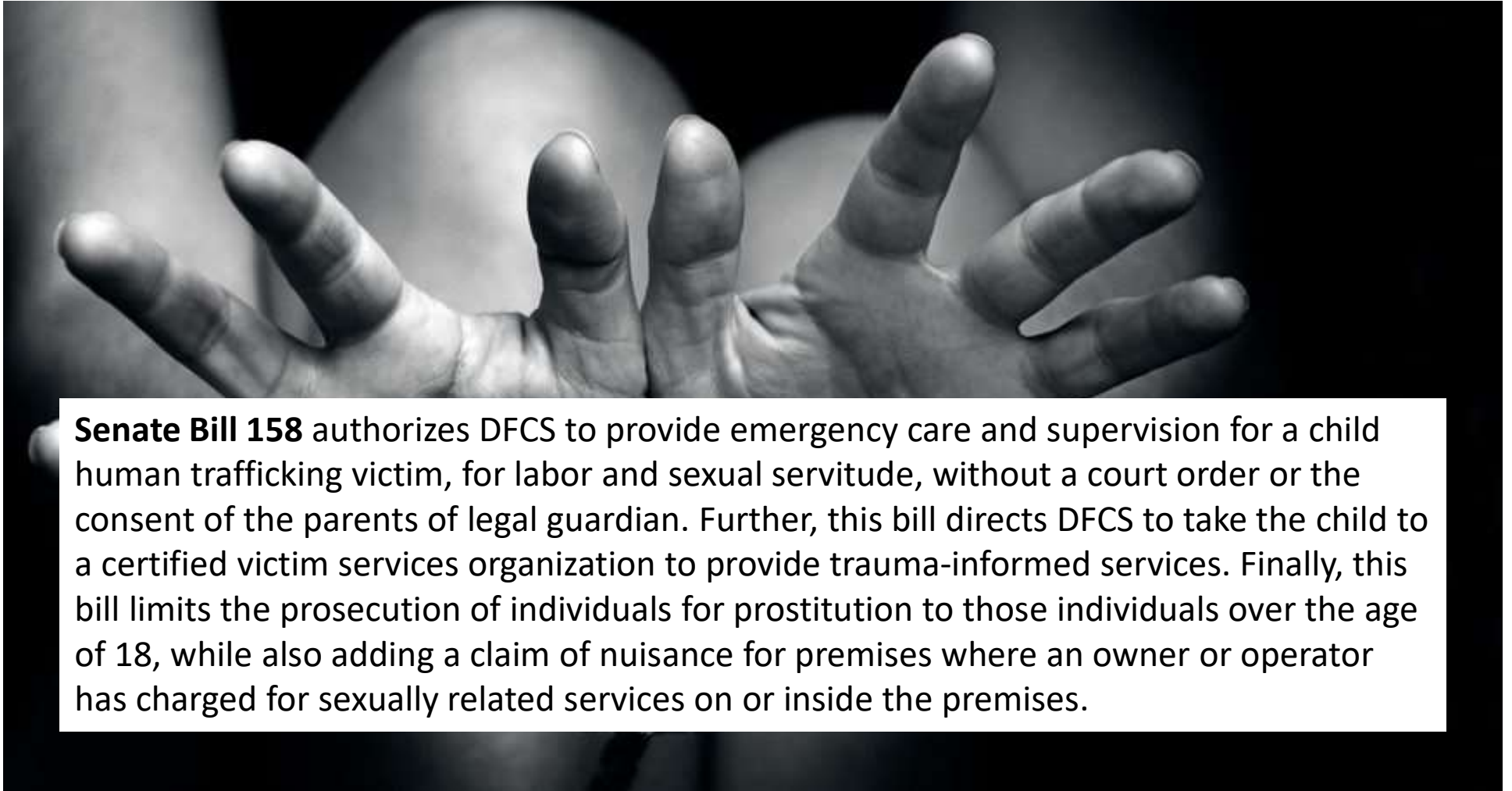
Child Welfare



House Bill 543 creates a process by which a judge may confer standing to have access to the court in cases involving the care, custody, or welfare of a minor child upon individuals who can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that to do otherwise would cause the child to suffer physical or long-term emotional harm.

House Bill 543

Mental Health



Senate Bill 158 authorizes DFCS to provide emergency care and supervision for a child human trafficking victim, for labor and sexual servitude, without a court order or the consent of the parents or legal guardian. Further, this bill directs DFCS to take the child to a certified victim services organization to provide trauma-informed services. Finally, this bill limits the prosecution of individuals for prostitution to those individuals over the age of 18, while also adding a claim of nuisance for premises where an owner or operator has charged for sexually related services on or inside the premises.

Senate Bill 158

Bills of Interest



2019

Safe Elections



House Bill 316 changes our voting method by introducing a ballot-marking device with a paper ballot that can be audited that is in line with the expert recommendations of Governor Kemp's S.A.F.E Commission.

House Bill 316

Outdoor Stewardship

House Bill 382 makes technical changes to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act, which the General Assembly passed overwhelmingly in 2018. These changes enable DNR to effectively carry out this program which will dedicate approx. \$20MM to conservations efforts across our state.



House Bill 382

Georgia Grown Hemp



House Bill 213 allows for the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp and hemp products in Georgia. The bill further provides for colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia to conduct research on hemp, including the development of new hemp varieties, seed development, and consumer uses. The Department of Agriculture will provide oversight of all compliance and regulation. The passage of HB 213 will further grow Georgia's number one industry, agriculture, by providing farmers another crop to rotate into their planting.

House Bill 213