

GEORGIA FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

LEGISLATIVE WATCH: 2017-18 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Number	Subject	Stated Intent	GFAF Assessment	Wish list of improvements	Status
HB 9 (Blackmon, Golick, Lott, Gravley, Tanner)/SB 45 (Walker, Stone, Parent, Kennedy, Tillery)	"Upskirting"	To prohibit filming under or through clothing	Neutral: As filed, appropriately limited to invasive "upskirting," but worth monitoring for unnecessary extensions		1/12/17 – House Second Readers 1/25/17 – Senate Read and Referred
HB 29 (Mitchell)	School Accreditation	To prohibit local boards of education from seeking accreditation from institutions that do not comply with the ORA	Positive: Reinforces openness of school accreditation records		1/11/17 – House Second Readers
HB 34 (Petrea, Hitchens, Stephens, Kelley, Reeves)	Probation and Parole Records	To require increased openness in connection with probation and parole process	Positive: This bill adds considerable transparency to the pardon and parole process, including opening board hearings and making most board documents subject to the ORA. It		1/12/17 – House Second Readers

			would greatly improve the secrecy that generally surrounds this agency.		
HB 75 (Williard, Oliver, Beskin, Silcox)	Access to certain Child Abuse and Deprivation records	To allow DHS to withhold copies of law enforcement records contained in DHS files on pending investigations into child abuse and deprivation	Neutral: The bill restricts access on its face to certain law enforcement records, but those records are already subject to the ORA's law enforcement exemption, so allowing DHS to keep their copies confidential is consistent.		1/31/17 – House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 126 (Willard, Meadows, Oliver, Kelley, Coomer)	Judicial Qualifications Commission	To provide for operating principles and procedures for the JQC	Neutral: The JQC bill improves public access in a number of regards, including access to certain disciplinary matters. However, one area of concern is the bill's sweeping closure for any proceedings regarding the alleged "incapacity" of a judge. In any matter alleging incapacity, the pleadings, information, hearings and proceedings remain confidential.	Treat incapacity matters in the same manner as disciplinary matters	1/26/17- House Second Readers
SB 44 (Burke)	Donors to Rural Hospitals	To add an exemption to the Open Records Act for the identification of donors to rural hospital organizations	Negative: If passed, this bill would conceal donors to rural hospitals thereby concealing potential conflicts of interests	At a minimum, this bill should include a provision that the donor's identity will be disclosed if the donor transacts business in the amount of \$10,000 or	1/24/17 – Senate Read and Referred

				more in a calendar year with the hospital. This qualification exists in connection with a similar exemption for donors to public universities.	
SB 90 (Fort, Jackson, Rhett, Jones, Seay, James)	Police body cameras	To require certain officers to wear body cameras and provide immediate access to certain recordings	Positive: This bill makes clear that body camera recordings are not subject to the investigative exemption for the portion showing before, during, and after “encounters for a law enforcement purpose.”	The bill restricts police body camera video unrelated to a police encounter. That is overbroad and could shield recordings of some officer misconduct.	1/30/17 – Senate Read and Referred

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