

# 2019 Legislative Session

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Legislative Days 5-7

February 1, 2019

## A Start-and-Stop Beginning

The 2019 session is off to an erratic start. After meeting four days in mid-January, the General Assembly used the week of the MLK Holiday to review Governor Brian Kemp's budget recommendations and hear directly from agency heads regarding funding requests.

The House and Senate were scheduled to meet Monday through Wednesday this week but the threat of winter weather suspended state business on Tuesday. As a result, the Senate gavelled in for the day but completed no other business; the House met to assign bills to committees but took little other action. They had already planned to be out through next Tuesday to avoid the chaos of Sunday's Super Bowl.

Activity is expected to ramp up considerably next week. They'll reconvene on Tuesday and meet for the remainder of the week, finally giving committees time to dive into legislation. Leadership is also expected to announce another legislative schedule covering the duration of the session.

## Management & Property Rights

### **SB 12: Automated External Defibrillator**

**Sen. Michael Rhett, D-Marietta**

#### **Pending in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee**

SB 12 requires certain health clubs to have at least one function automated external defibrillator. The legislation defines "health club" as a commercial enterprise with more than 3,000 clients; some on-site fitness centers are likely to meet this definition.

**Community Improvement Districts.** When the legislature and voters first authorized Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) in 1984, they intentionally limited the self-taxing mechanism to commercial property owners, excluding residential properties. Several existing CIDs are actively shopping legislation that would bring apartment properties into these taxing districts.

## Codes, Planning & Development

**Local Government Prohibition of Building Materials.** The Home Builders Association and other building material industries are pursuing legislation that would bar local governments from regulating building design elements. In part, the language states that *"No county or municipal corporation shall adopt or enforce any regulation or ordinance relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one- or two-family dwellings..."* Legislation is forthcoming.

## Courts & Court Fee Legislation

### **SB 38: Electronic Filing Fees**

**Sen. William Ligon, R-Brunswick**

#### **Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee on 1/30**

Last year, the Association monitored **SB 407**. It was signed into law on May 7 and requires all pleadings and other related documents filed in conjunction with a civil case in a state or superior court to be filed electronically. This year's SB 38 excludes certain types of filings from this requirement, including those made by the Attorney General, district attorneys, solicitors-general and public defenders. It also allows individuals who are not attorneys to file pleadings and documents in paper form.

**The next legislative update will be available February 8**