AGC Georgia Legislative Update

2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

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38 of 40 legislative days complete

The 2026 legislative session is nearing its conclusion as the General Assembly works toward Sine Die on April 2, 2026—the legislature's 40th and final legislative day. As this date approaches, there has been a flurry of activity under the Gold Dome as lawmakers make a final push to move priority legislation across the finish line.

As previously reported, bills that failed to pass out of their body of origin prior to the end of Crossover Day were at that point considered "dead." However, there remains a potential pathway forward for some of this legislation. Bills that are still moving through the process may be amended to include language from measures that did not survive Crossover Day. This strategy—commonly referred to as "catching a ride"—allows key policy provisions to remain viable even after the traditional deadline.

In the days following Crossover Day, tracking these amendments becomes especially critical, as they can significantly reshape legislation that is still alive. You will see examples of this process detailed below.

With just two legislative days remaining in the 2026 session—March 31 and April 2—AGC Georgia's governmental affairs team is working diligently to ensure a strong finish. Below are our top priorities as we approach the end of the session, along with updates on key bills our team continues to monitor.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us at woodall@agcga.org or graddick@agcga.org. It's our privilege to serve AGC Georgia members each year under the Gold Dome!

AGC Georgia Legislative Priorities Update

1. Construction Workforce Development Funding

a.) K-12 Funding: During the 2025 session, AGC Georgia was instrumental in securing $1M in the base budget for construction workforce development. Traditionally our request was a line-item budget item, but we were appreciative of legislative support that added our request in the state's base budget. This shows a clear nod of approval from the General Assembly and acknowledges leaderships understanding of the clear return on investment. In 2026, we are monitoring the status of this base budget request and working to secure $1M.

As with each year, there will be many groups advocating for funding in the budget, but given our track record, and the good news the 2025 session brought, we are optimistic. Since the passage of the CONNECT Act in 2018, (Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training) the $1M in funding secured during the 2025 session marked the seventh straight year AGC Georgia secured funding in the appropriations budget for construction industry workforce development programs.

Status Update: *While the FY 27 Budget has not been finalized yet, we have been informed by the House that our K-12 workforce funding has not been removed from the base budget. In our talks with appropriations officials on the Senate side, we have been told there are no plans to remove it as of right now. Pending any late changes in the Senate, this should mark the 8th straight year that AGC Georgia has been able to secure this funding supporting construction education.*

b.) Apprenticeship Funding: The workforce shortage is an alarming reality for all industries across Georgia. However, there are state-led initiatives in place bearing fruit that we believe can help address this issue. The High Demand Apprenticeship Program (HDAP) *(formerly the High Demand Career Initiative)* resulted in $720,000 of a total source of $1.1M allocated for 72 construction apprentices in 2024. We are waiting for final statistics from calendar year 2025.

Although the HDAP is a step in the right direction in its current state, increased apprenticeship funding is still a massive need for our state. AGC Georgia recognizes the capabilities of the HDAP and we will push for increased funding. As a program that aims to promote workforce development for all industries, and as a program that is showing proven results for construction, we are posing the question . . . *What could this program achieve for Georgia if it were funded at a much higher level?* In our eyes, increased funding could be a tremendous leap forward in addressing one of Georgia's largest issues.

Status Update: *We are happy to report that a $500,000 increase has been added in the House budget for HDAP funding. We are waiting to see if the Senate matches this with an additional $500,000. We are excited to see more money being added for this crucial state initiative.*

2. Subrogation

Subrogation is the ability of an employer/insurer to enforce a lien against a judgement entered against a third-party tortfeasor where the employer/insurer has already paid out workers' compensation claims for the accident at hand. The ability to do so is highly limited in Georgia thanks to Georgia's "Made Whole" Doctrine. The inability to do so hurts Georgia's construction companies beyond just the ability to recover workers' compensation that has been paid out due to the impact this can have on a company's safety mod score. One of the key factors considered when a company's safety mod is calculated is a company's actual losses which include costs incurred by workers' compensation packages that are paid out. If an employer/insurer were able to recover these costs via subrogation, then no actual loss would need to be weighed when calculating the safety mod score. As previously referenced though, since it is overly difficult to subrogate in Georgia, in simple terms this means that accidents that are no fault of the employer/employee are directly impacting safety mod scores in Georgia. Given that these scores can directly impact a company's ability to successfully bid and receive jobs, it is clear change is needed.

Status Update: *As detailed above, accidents that are no fault of the employer/employee are negatively impacting construction companies' safety mod ratings due to their inability to subrogate in Georgia. This legislation addresses this issue by mandating that safety modification formulas for the state of Georgia cannot include "not at fault" multi-vehicle accidents in their calculation. It also stipulates that no insurance surcharges will be added and no policies will be cancelled or fail to be renewed because of "not at fault" multi-vehicle accidents. However, this bill was unable to pass out of the House prior to the end of Crossover Day. The bill was unable to move out of committee due to concerns from the Trial Attorney camp regarding return-to-work language. Following Crossover Day, we worked with the bill's sponsor and the Senate Insurance and Labor committee to attempt to get this language added to a vehicle bill. However, due to concerns from the Trial Attorneys being echoed by influential members in the Senate, as of right now we are unable to get this language moving. With two legislative days left in the session, it is unlikely that we will be able to get the language attached to a bill, move the bill through committee, move the bill through rules, and be able to get it onto the calendar for a vote on the House Floor. We are disappointed that this bill has not been able to move and believe this to be a good example of bad politics standing in the way of good policy. We will continue to pursue this legislation in the future.*

3. Denial and Acceptance of Land Disturbance Permits

Senate Bill 447 is a bill introduced by Senator Clint Dixon that strengthens House Bill 812. This bill is a result of the focus on the Senate Majority Caucus to *cut government red tape*. As with House Bill 812, AGC Georgia supports this legislation as it promotes transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the permitting process.

> ***Status Update:*** *This legislation passed the Senate State and Local Government committee via committee sub and remains in Rules. The bill's sponsor has stripped another bill, House Bill 309, and attached the language from SB 447 to it via amendment in the hopes of getting one or the other across the finish line. We will work with the bills sponsors and other interested stakeholders to see the passage of this important legislation prior to the end of Sine Die.*

4. The Georgia Insurance Affordability and Claims Integrity Act

House Bill 1344, introduced by Chairman Matt Reeves, is direct result of the Blue-Ribbon Committee on Insurance Rates that the General Assembly convened during the interim. This committee was formed as a follow up to last year's tort reform efforts to investigate if anything on the insurance side of the equation was contributing to the high rates Georgia has been experiencing. The resulting legislation aims to arm Commissioner John King and his office with the necessary tools and powers to oversee the insurance landscape, thereby supporting transparency and fairness in Georgia's insurance landscape.

> ***Status Update:*** *This bill has made its way to the Senate where it has successfully passed out of the Insurance and Labor Committee. In committee there were a number of other insurance related bills added to HB 1344 via amendments. We do not expect to see this derail the bill's progress, as this bill is a key priority of the House and its leadership. The bill must now make its way through Senate Rules prior to a vote in the Senate Chamber.*

5. Qualifications Based Selection for Engineers and Architects

Senate Bill 51 is a piece of legislation from last year that has sprung back into action during the last few weeks of the session. Our friends with ACEC have promoted this legislation that would mandate the use of qualifications-based selection for engineers and architects on a public works job when the estimated construction costs are above $1,000,000 and the fees for the professional services (IE engineering) are above $75,000. AGC Georgia supports this legislation, as qualifications-based selection for these services helps to promote public safety and protect the construction industry as a whole.

> ***Status Update:*** *This bill is currently waiting on a vote in the House chambers. Due to certain concerned individuals in the House, House leadership has informed ACEC that they must work with members to educate everyone on the merits of the bill. Due to this, ACEC has been working on an informal whip count while educating members on the bill, during which we have assisted. The feedback has been largely positive, and we hope to see SB 51, or its counterpart HB 377, achieve successful passage prior to Sine Die.*

6. The Education and Workforce Strategy Act

Last week, Representative Matthew Gambill introduced House Bill 1302, which encompasses Governor Kemp's Education and Workforce Strategy Act. This legislation builds upon the "Top State for Talent" initiative both Governor Kemp and Representative Gambill have championed the last few sessions. This is a lengthy bill which continues the trend of Georgia presenting a unified statewide workforce plan. AGC Georgia supports this initiative and applauds the Governor and his office for continuing this important initiative. Key highlights of this bill include opening High Demand Apprenticeship Program funding to "pre-apprentices" expanding the pool of individuals able to utilize this funding, moving certain apprenticeship program oversight from the federal Department of Labor to the Technical College System of Georgia, and creating Georgia's Office of Education and Workforce Strategy (GOEWS).

Status Update: *This legislation has successfully passed both bodies and will make its way to the Governor's desk. Thank you to all of our members that reached out, which allowed us to work with the bill's sponsor to alleviate any concerns via amendments.*

2026 Session Legislative Spotlight: Data Centers

Senate Bill 410

Summary: *A study performed by University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute created a lot of conversation about data centers and their continued influx into Georgia. This study determined that only 30 percent of data centers being built in Georgia are a result of the tax incentive offered by the state of Georgia. This is down from a 2022 report showing the number was 90 percent. This led to a number of data center focused bills being dropped this session, but as Sine Die looms ahead, SB 410 has become the primary vehicle the General Assembly plans to use to address this topic.*

At the beginning of the 2026 legislative session, we reported that there were many bills focused on data centers. As we head towards the finish line, one piece of legislation, SB 410, has taken center stage. This legislation in its current form provides protections for consumers when it comes to the costs born from data centers, although not as strong of protections as the original SB 34 allotted for. It also would end the issuance of any new certifications for the data center tax incentive, while allowing the ones that have already been dolled out to continue in place until the original sunset date in 2031. In a sense, we believe this to be encouraging, as we view this piece of legislation as the most reasonable of the bunch. However, while we do support the notion that the costs born from data centers should not impact the general public's costs, we oppose any legislation that reduces the chances of new construction projects coming to Georgia. We believe doing away with providing new certificates for the tax incentive poses this risk. Largely, our position detailed above aligns with the broader business community and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

With this debate comes an interesting proposition. While there are compelling public policy arguments when discussing data centers and their continued influx to Georgia, this is an issue Governor Kemp has already weighed in on. As always with Governor Kemp, Georgia and its economic competitiveness with other states is his top priority. Upon that basis, Governor Kemp vetoed a bill in 2024 that aimed to end the data center tax incentive

It is unclear if this will be his stance again, but it is not out of the question. Given the data provided since 2024, and given the General Assembly's fervor for change this session, will Governor Kemp change his stance if data center legislation reaches his desk this year? If this bill passes out of the House prior to Sine Die, this will be something to look out for as the legislation reaches the Governor's desk. Governor Kemp has sent the message throughout his time in office that Georgia is open for business. The data center tax incentive serves as just one example of his message in action. We believe it would be a mistake to cut this program before its original sunset date, giving other states a competitive edge in attracting data centers in the process.

Status Update: *Senate Bill 410 currently resides in the House Ways and Means Committee. It will need to pass out of committee prior to consideration in House Rules.*

2026 Session: House Bills of Interest

House Bill 613 – Public Works Preferences for Participants in Registered Apprenticeship Programs
Rep. Tyler Paul Smith *(District 18 – Bremen)*
AGC Georgia opposes this legislation

Status: *Since the last update on this legislation, this bill was stripped entirely. The description below is no longer the subject matter of House Bill 613. Following our conversations with the Bills Sponsor as well as DOAS, the sponsor agreed not to move forward with the original version of House Bill 613.*

This legislation provides a preference in the public works bidding process to contractors or subcontractors that participate in registered apprenticeship programs. While AGC Georgia believes it is a worthwhile state initiative to incentivize industry participation in registered apprenticeship programs, we do not believe preference in the public works bidding process is a fair and balanced way of doing so.

House Bill 669 – Capital Outlay Grants that Award Contracts for Roofing
Rep. Steven Meeks *(District 178 – Screven)*

> ***Status:*** *This legislation was unable to achieve passage in the House prior to the end of Crossover Day. However, it has "caught a ride" on SB 284. This bill has passed both the Senate and the House but due to the amendment on the House side will need to be agreed upon by the Senate prior to heading to the Governor's desk.*

This bill creates capital outlay grants that would be provided to eligible low wealth school systems. These grants would be utilized to procure roofing improvements for these school systems. The provider of these services would be chosen via a cooperative purchasing agreement, dependent upon approval from the GA Department of Administrative Services. While AGC Georgia applauds such capital outlay grant programs, the concern is that these types of initiatives have led to service providers cornering a specific market in certain communities. AGC Georgia remains steadfast in our belief that, absent an emergency situation, all public works projects above the threshold of $250,000 must be publicly advertised and competitively bid. We contend that any process that would result in only a certain set of service providers getting consideration for a job does not meet these requirements. However, in talks with the bill's sponsor and the advocacy group supporting this legislation, we have been assured that this legislation's intent is focused on specific type of roofing job which consistently does not meet the $250,000 threshold which requires public advertisement and a competitive bid process. We remain in talks with the bill's sponsor but as of right now, we are comfortable with the legislative intent of this bill.

House Bill 676 – Bogus Mechanic Liens
Rep. Rob Clifton *(District 131 – Augusta)*
AGC Georgia supports this legislation

> ***Status:*** *This bill has achieved passage in the House and has been successfully moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee. It still awaits consideration in Senate Rules before it can be voted on in the Senate chambers.*

This bill mandates that if a bogus mechanic lien is filed, meaning liens without merit or that or filed with malicious intent, the filer will be subject to a $1,500 fine, as well as attorney's fees and court costs of the opposing party.

House Bill 812 – Homebuilder's Legislation – Rep. Mike Cheokas *(District 151 – Americus)*
AGC Georgia supports this legislation

> ***Status:*** *This legislation was unable to achieve passage prior to the end of Crossover Day. The Homebuilders turn their attention now to SB 447, in which most of core tenants of HB 812 are encompassed. The summary for SB 447 is detailed above.*

This bill was introduced at the end of the 2025 session. AGC Georgia applauds this initiative from the Homebuilders, as the legislation promotes fairness, transparency, and expediency from local governing bodies in the permitting and plan review process.

House Bill 1071 – Georgia Workplace Safety and Heat Protection Act – Rep. Kim Schofield *(District 63 – Atlanta)*
AGC Georgia opposes this legislation

> ***Status:*** *House Industry and Labor: This bill did not move prior to Crossover Day and is now considered dead. We must now monitor to ensure that this legislation does not catch a ride prior Sine Die.*

This legislation aims to codify new standards when it comes to heat safety on jobsites in the State of Georgia as well as penalties for those that do not conform to these regulations. It aims to deem "extreme heat environments" as those exceeding 80 degrees in Fahrenheit and a "dangerous heat index trigger" as 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Employers operating in environments that meet these thresholds would be required to implement a heat illness prevention program as well as comply with a number of safety standards when a dangerous heat index trigger is met. This has been a longstanding battle at the federal level for AGC of America. While we applaud any bill with a focus on promoting public health, AGC and the construction industry has long promoted rest, shade, and water guidelines during the summer months. The standards presented in this legislation could impose unnecessary and time-consuming regulations, costing construction companies time they do not have to spare.

2026 Session: Senate Bills

Senate Bill 437 – Virtual Inspections in the Permitting Process
Sen. Clint Dixon *(District 45 – Buford)*

> ***Status:*** *This legislation has been significantly stripped from its original version and in its current version only includes provisions regarding virtual inspection. The bill was recently passed out of House Governmental Affairs. It must now pass out of House Rules before being voted on in the House chambers.*

This legislation codifies the ability to utilize virtual inspections in the permitting process in Georgia. It also shortens key timelines cities and counties must abide by in the permitting process.

Senate Bill 553 – Licensing Touch Up for the Skilled Trades

Sen. Bo Hatchet (*District 50 – Clarkesville)*

> ***Status:*** *This legislation has passed both legislative bodies and will make its way to the Governor's desk.*

This legislation serves as a licensing law revamp for many of the skilled trades. It is a result of the Governor's office's initiative to streamline licensing for all licensed professions in Georgia. Many interested stakeholders came to the table to work with the Governor's office to provide input, mirroring closely our role with HB 635 from the 2025 session. Much like HB 635 served to streamline licensing for commercial and residential contractors, this bill should serve the skilled trades similarly.

Reminder: AGC Georgia PAC

Please consider donating to AGC Georgia's Political Action Committee. The 2026 election cycle will prove to be one of the most impactful yet. With the number of current legislators vying for higher office, it will undoubtedly lead to a shifting landscape. To support the legislators that support Georgia's construction industry, the AGC Georgia PAC needs financial support. As always, thank you for your help in allowing us to promote common sense legislation for our state's construction industry.

If AGC Georgia's Governmental Affairs team can ever be of assistance, please contact us at woodall@agcga.org or graddick@agcga.org.

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POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

AGC Georgia

Please contribute to the AGC Georgia PAC!

AGC Georgia maintains a visible and active presence throughout the year with elected and appointed state officials and policy makers advocating for what is in the best interest of our members and the commercial construction industry.

During each year's session of the Georgia General Assembly, AGC Georgia is front and center regarding pending legislation, proposed policy changes, and other regulations that can negatively impact your firm and our industry. In addition to maintaining a strong defensive posture, AGC Georgia is also very proactive in identifying opportunities to better the business climate for your company.

We firmly believe electing pro-business officials to Georgia's General Assembly who objectively listen to our concerns, understand them and act accordingly is critical to the industry's success.

Please consider donating to the AGC Georgia PAC to help our association continue a long tradition of being a respected voice in the legislative process. Since actions taken under Georgia's Gold Dome significantly impact the construction industry, it's important for AGC Georgia's PAC to be a vibrant source of support for pro-business candidates seeking office throughout our state.

AGC Georgia's PAC can accept both corporate and personal contributions.

Contact Will Graddick, Associate Director of Governmental Affairs, at 678.298.4142 or graddick@agcga.org to learn more about our legislative and advocacy efforts and opportunities to get more involved.

Please accept the following ❑ Corporate or ❑ Individual contribution to AGC Georgia PAC.

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THANK YOU!