Presentation to Sidebar Conference and Development Authority Board Member Training
Wednesday, June 14, 2017
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

• Georgia Chamber of Commerce government affairs organization
• 300 bills tracked in 2017
• Nearly 2 dozen priority business-related bills passed the legislature and were signed into law
• Several more remain “alive” for 2018
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

• Georgia Chamber Scorecard est. 2011
  www.gachamberscore.com

• Enhanced accountability for elected officials to business community

• 7 Scorecard bills for 2017, 6 of which passed

• Health Care, Workforce, Tax and Legal Reform
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Health Care

• **SB 70**-Sen. Butch Miller (Gainesville)
  - A critical measure aimed at ensuring Georgia’s hospitals receive much-needed financial support
  - $900M in funding (state & federal)
  - 3 year extension
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Workforce

• **HB 245**-Rep. Al Williams (Midway)
  
  — requires professional licensing boards and other boards to adopt rules and regulations that allow military spouses and transitioning service members to qualify for certain licenses
  
  — Preparation for impending BRACC
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Workforce (cont.)

- **HB 338**-Rep. Kevin Tanner (Dawsonville)
  - gives low performing schools the tools to help all students reach their full potential
  - State approved process with LOCAL buy-in
  - Goal: build a strong workforce and ensure employers have the talent they need
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Workforce (cont.)

• **SB 3** (2018 holdover)-Sen. Lindsey Tippins (Marietta)
  
  – Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act
  
  – aims to identify critical workforce needs and provide students with opportunities to earn industry credentials in those fields.
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Taxation

• **HB 73**-Rep. Penny Houston (Nashville)
  
  – help incentivize economic growth and investment in some of Georgia’s most economically disadvantaged rural areas
  
  – creates innovative tax incentives, tied to sustainable and responsible job creation, to encourage the revitalization of downtown areas
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Taxation (cont.)

- **HB 134** - Rep. Bubber Epps (Dry Branch)
  - allows for greater flexibility in the administration of single county T-SPLOST, including allowing a county to levy multiple T-SPLOST as long as the total amount levied does not exceed 1%
  - also grants cities the authority to bond their T-SPLOST projects, an option currently available only to counties
  - provides tools necessary to build and maintain a transportation network necessary to attract business growth and address their citizens’ needs
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Legal Reform

• **HB 192**-Rep. Beth Beskin (Atlanta)
  - returning Georgia to a standard that existed prior to a 2014 Georgia Supreme Court decision, which has placed business at a greater risk of losing qualified directors and officers who serve on corporate boards
  - brings the standard of care for officers and directors in Georgia back in line with the standard in 35 other states
  - Predicatable legal climate = successful recruitment
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

Other bills of note-

- **HB 155** provides a 15% tax credit for qualified music productions in the state and an additional 5% for work done in rural areas
- **HB 199** gives a post-production tax credit to interactive entertainment companies that complete projects in Georgia
- **HB 265** amends the existing quality jobs tax credit increasing the number of years from 1 to 2 to hit the 50 job threshold
- **HR 848** creates the House Commission on Transit Governing and Funding
2017 Legislative Session at a Glance

QUESTIONS?

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