

Georgia Utility Contractors Association (GUCA)

March 24, 2025

As you'll see in the legislation listed below, the Governor's bills on tort reform, SB 68, passed the House and Senate and is now awaiting the Governor's signature! This is a huge deal and is the most aggressive tort reform legislation passed in the country yet.

The Governor's other tort reform bill, SB 69, is still active. It will most likely pass the House this week or next.

SB 68 has caught the most focus of the two with it including negligent security, premises liability, collateral source, anchoring, bifurcation, and more sweeping changes, and it is up for a (most likely final) committee hearing and vote tomorrow (Tuesday).

This is the most sweeping tort reform legislation the country has ever seen with all topics covered under civil litigation.

The Governor's Office and other legislators are also working on legislation to revamp state business licensing boards and to make it easier for those getting a license and renewing a license to get it completed through the Secretary of State's Office. There is also legislation you'll find below regarding bidding with local government agencies.

GUCA's Annual Lobby Day was on the morning of Tuesday, February 4! Thank you to all who attended. It was the biggest lobby day we've had yet, and our government affairs firm, Thrash - Haliburton, had a number of legislative leaders come and address our group, answer questions, and more.

Our team is acting at the association's direction on all legislation and issues such as these above, and we will provide further updates in the future.

Legislators are back at the Gold Dome this week. Lawmakers were in session last week on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for Legislative Days 32 - 34 with Wednesday being a Committee Day . There were many Committee and Subcommittee meetings from both chambers and private meetings this past week, and the Capitol was extremely crowded and busy with many different groups coming down to the Capitol. This week, March 24 - 28, will have legislative days 35 - 37 with them taking off today (Monday) and Wednesday for Committee Work Days. Crossover Day passed by already on March 6.

As has been mentioned, Crossover Day is the last day that a bill can be passed out of its original chamber. However, legislative language can be attached to different bills after Crossover Day to keep language "alive" until the last day of session at midnight of April 4.

Thrash-Haliburton has been in constant communication with our leadership about issues and legislation coming up for our industry in the 2025 session.

Here's to another great year for our industry in 2025 at the State Capitol!

Thrash-Haliburton is diligently watching and working to stop any detrimental legislation to our industry and push the legislation we support. Our governmental affairs team continues every day to work on, look out for and answer requests, needs and interests, as we act at the direction of the group's leadership. Please find legislation affecting our industry below:

2025 Regular Session

We are monitoring the following legislation, and watchful for any bills that may impact our industry.

Bill	Summary	House Comm	Sen Comm	House Sponsor	Sen Sponsor
HB 34	To establish on behalf of professional licensing boards under the jurisdiction of the office of the Secretary of State a continuing education tracking solution to monitor compliance of licensees with applicable continuing education requirements; to provide for definitions; to require compliance with continuing education requirements prior to the issuance of certain licenses	Passed	Regulated Industries	Washburn	
HB 152	To revise contracting procedures related to the acquisition of certain professional services by counties and municipalities; to amend Chapter 91 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public works bidding, so as to revise contracting procedures related to the acquisition of certain professional services by counties and municipalities; to provide definitions; to amend Chapter 22 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to managerial control over acquisition of professional services, so as to expand such provisions to local governments	Governmental Affairs		Reeves	
SB 68 and SB 69	Tort reform bills from the Governor	SB 68 passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. SB 69 is in Special Rules Committee on Tort Reform	Passed		Kennedy
HB 137	To increase the dollar value of certain public works contracts exempt from provisions relating to	Passed	State and Local Governmental Operations	Anderson	

	retention of contractual payments; to amend Article 10 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to contracts and purchases by public schools; to amend Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to public school property and facilities; to amend Chapter 4 of Title 32 of the O.C.G.A., relating to state, county, and municipal road systems; to amend Chapter 91 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., relating to public works bidding				
HB 187	Professions and businesses; contractors; change certain provisions	Passed	Regulated Industries	Washburn	