

AGC Georgia Legislative Report

Week 3 of the 2016 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

by Mark S. Woodall, AGC Georgia Director of Governmental Affairs

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The legislative pace picked up a little during the third week of the 2016 session with sub and full committees meeting on proposed legislation, including a couple of construction related issues.

HB 402 by Representative Lumsden

Employers encouraged to provide work-based learning for students age 16 and older

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/155878.pdf>

Earlier this week, AGC Georgia testified in favor of HB 402 in the House Industry & Labor Committee. This bill encourages employers to provide work-based learning opportunities for 16 and 17 year old students in sanctioned workforce development programs. In return, the bill provides employers an optional 5% reduction in workers' compensation premiums. Members of the sub and full committees of the Industry & Labor Committee offered a unanimous "do pass" recommendation for the bill. HB 402 now moves to House Rules for consideration.

HR 864, HR 1017 & SR 624 by Representative Dudgeon and Senator M. Williams

Development Impact Fees for Public Educational Facilities

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/154596.pdf>

These resolutions are virtually identical and propose an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the General Assembly may by general law authorize local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees and use the proceeds to pay for a share of the cost of additional educational facilities; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes. Schools are currently not recognized under the law for funding under the Georgia Impact Fee law. As drafted, this resolution would only apply to school districts with that have grown by 15% or greater during the last five years. The only school districts meeting this threshold in Georgia are Forsyth, Fulton and Cherokee counties.

The enabling legislation for this measure has not been formally introduced. AGC Georgia met with legislation sponsors to learn the background for its introduction. As a Constitutional Amendment, the measure would require a 2/3 majority vote for passage. Our association has not taken a formal position on the measure and will work through AGC Legislative Education Taskforce to address this issue. We hope the enabling legislation is available next week for review.

HB 779 by Representative Kevin Tanner - Drone Use

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20152016/154750.pdf>

HB 779 is the work product of the House Study Committee hearings on drones. Committee leadership asked AGC Georgia to provide testimony during their meetings this past fall on drone use and application in the construction industry. When crafting the bill, the prime sponsor and all Study Committee members went out of their way to receive input from many industries, including construction, that use drone technology.

Several recent articles and blogs have surfaced on the internet that unfairly characterize both the bill and the efforts of Study Committee members who are working to appropriately address drone use in Georgia. AGC Georgia is engaged on this issue and continues to work with the sponsor in an effort to allow drone use in the construction industry.

AGC Georgia's positions on legislative proposals are developed under the direction of the legislative committee and the AGC Georgia Board of Directors. Please contact me at woodall@agcga.org or by phone at 678.298.4116 on any items included in this report or on any legislation that is introduced during the 2016 Session.