The General Assembly nears the finish line today in the final week of the legislative session. The House and Senate will convene at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday for day 39, and again on Thursday for day 40.

The Sine Die issue of Capitol Buzz will be sent Thursday evening after the House and Senate adjourn the 2016 legislative session.

Stay tuned to learn about final updates on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and key legislative action taken by the House and Senate.


After winning special elections last year, Rep. Taylor Bennett (D – Brookhaven) and Rep. Clay Pirkle (R – Sycamore) are now close to finishing their first legislative session in the House of Representatives. Rep. Bennett is an International Affairs graduate currently practicing law at his firm, Bennett Law Group. Rep. Pirkle graduated with an Economics degree and is the owner of Pirkle Farms in Sycamore, Georgia.
Updates on bills and resolutions from our watch list:

**HB 745** ............................................................. Passed Senate Appropriations Committee
Renews provision allowing USG institutions to carry forward a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.

**HB 751** ............................................................. Conference Committee Appointed
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017.

**HB 779** ............................................................. Passed Senate
Provides definitions and regulations related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems and images captured by such systems for law enforcement purposes.

**HB 792** ............................................................. Passed Senate Judiciary Committee
Permits the carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by students or employees at a public university.

**HB 801** ............................................................. Passed Senate
Revises current provisions regarding the HOPE scholarship to include certain STEM-related courses as optional rigor requirements.

**HB 859** ............................................................. Passed; Sent to Governor
Changes current provisions to allow certain licensed firearm holders to carry weapons on college campuses and restricts those persons from carrying into buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or student housing.

**SR 1130** ............................................................. Adopted
Recognizing May 6, 2016, as Georgia STEM Day at the State Capitol.

**SR 1132** ............................................................. Passed Senate Rules Committee
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Venture Capital Investments in Georgia.

**SR 1183** ............................................................. Adopted
Recognizing and commending Georgia Tech alumna, Patrise Perkins-Hooker.

**HR 1584** ............................................................. Adopted
Recognizing and commending former Georgia Tech football player, Mr. Calvin Johnson, Jr.