

CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol
VOLUME XI, ISSUE VI – Monday, March 19, 2018

FOLLOW

Today marks the thirty-sixth legislative day.

The final version of the amended FY 2018 budget was passed by both chambers and signed by Governor Deal on March 9th.

That day, the House passed its version of the FY 2019 budget. It is now under consideration in the Senate.

The General Assembly will adjourn Sine Die on March 29th. Look out for the last issue of *Capitol Buzz* with final updates!



Students serve as “Ramblin’ Reps”



This year, the Student Government Association established a new student group dedicated to advocating for Georgia Tech at the state level. Eleven students were selected as “Ramblin’ Reps” during the fall semester and have worked to further their understanding of the legislative process and advocate on behalf of the student body. Created by SGA Vice President of External Affairs, Evan Gillon, the Reps have visited the Capitol several times this session to engage in the legislative process. *Photo by Tom Hightower.*

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget passes House of Representatives

On March 9th, the House of Representatives passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget including Georgia Tech and University System of Georgia priorities. A report on the priorities included in the budget is below:

- \$30.6 million in bonds to construct phase two of the Price Gilbert/Crosland Tower Library Renewal Project
- \$5 million in bonds for dedicated equipment for the Georgia Advanced Biomanufacturing Center at Georgia Tech

- \$51 million in new Formula Funding for the USG
- \$60 million in bonds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds for the USG

The House budget also retained the new funds included in the Governor’s budget recommendation to the Georgia Student Finance Commission to increase the HOPE scholarship award amount by 3%.

The FY19 budget is now under consideration in the Senate Appropriations committee.



Intern Spotlight



Rebecca Kaufman is a Public Policy major from Alpharetta, GA. This session she is working for the Senate Health & Human Services Committee Chair Renee Unterman (R-45).



Madison Malarkey is an International Affairs major from Evans, GA. This session she is working for the Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Fran Millar (R-40).



Rahul Gautam is a Math & Economics major from Johns Creek, GA. This session he is working for the Senate Budget & Evaluation Office.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Updates on bills and resolutions from our watch list:

- HB 683 **Passed; Signed by Governor**
Amended Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill.
- HB 684 **Passed House; Assigned to Senate Appropriations**
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019.
- HB 700 **Passed Senate Veterans, Military, & Homeland Security**
Expands current service cancelable educational loans to include graduate degree programs.
- HB 951 **Passed Senate Economic Development**
Establishes the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation at the University System of Georgia.
- SB 315 **Passed House Judiciary Sub-Committee**
Establishes new provisions related to unauthorized computer access and penalties.
- SB 339 **Passed House Judiciary**
Establishes requirements for free speech policies for institutions of the University System.
- SB 348 **Assigned to House Public Safety**
Reduces campus police jurisdiction from 500 yards to 500 feet beyond university property.
- SB 357 **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Establishes the Health Coordination and Innovation Council.
- SB 405 **Assigned to House Higher Education**
Provides criteria for grants for certain eligible students with demonstrated financial need who are enrolled in an institution of the University System of Georgia.
- SR 821 **Passed House Economic Development**
Recognizes Augusta and Savannah as official innovation corridors.
- SR 950 **Adopted**
Commending University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholars on Academic Recognition Day 2018.