GOV’T & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

After the state Senate passed their version of the amended Fiscal Year 2013 budget, it was sent directly to a conference committee. Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and Speaker David Ralston each appointed three leaders from their respective chambers to serve on the committee. We are expecting the General Assembly to approve the conference committee report in the next week before sending it to the Governor for his final approval. The full House appropriations committee is currently finalizing their version of the FY 2014 budget before passing it to the Senate. The Georgia Tech Government and Community Relations team is working diligently with state leaders to support Georgia Tech’s priorities in the remaining days of the 2013 Legislative Session.

For more information, please visit the House Budget Office at http://tinyurl.com/amwv3ru.

SENATE PASSES AMENDED FY2013 BUDGET, HOUSE WORKING ON FY2014 BUDGET

CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT:

GT STUDENTS SERVING AS INTERNS

TEJAS KOTAK

Tejas is a fourth-year student at Georgia Tech majoring in Environmental Policy and minoring in Public Policy. He is currently interning in the Georgia House of Representatives with the Insurance and Motor Vehicles committees. Tejas is expected to graduate in May 2014 and he hopes to attend graduate school to study environmental policy.

“The most educational points of the internship are when I get to sit in on committee meetings, which allow me to both see the political process play out and hear some of the varying viewpoints on different issues,” said Tejas. “The most exciting part of the internship for me so far has been speaking with constituents and following up on their issues because it generally involves studying a bill or issue that I otherwise would not have known about.”

BHAVIK PANDYA

Bhavik was born in London and moved to Canton, Georgia at the age of 6. Bhavik is studying economics and finance. Bhavik previously interned for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, where he worked with the Governor’s office in bringing businesses and jobs to Georgia. Bhavik is currently interning at the Georgia General Assembly in the State Senate for Senator Jack Murphy, former chairman of Banking and Financial Institutions, current chairman of Regulated Industries.

“It is a great opportunity to get an inside look at Georgia’s legislative process as well as research literature pertaining and crucial to improving the wonderful state of Georgia,” said Bhavik.
Aaron Morgan
Aaron is a third-year Public Policy major at Georgia Tech. He is interested in pursuing a career in law and this is reflected in his studies. Aaron is an intern for Senators Fran Millar and Josh McKoon. Senator Millar is chairman of the Senate Retirement committee and Senator McKoon is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee. In his position, Aaron is responsible for researching bills that are assigned to each committee. He also serves as a liaison between constituents and their senator.

“My favorite part of this internship is the hands on experience regarding the legislative process and the ability to work one on one with my senators,” said Aaron.

To learn more about the Georgia Legislative Internship Program, please visit http://www.legis.ga.gov/intern/en-US/default.aspx.

Legislative Round-up
Bills and Resolutions from our Watchlist

HB 26 Assigned to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
The Georgia Campus Carry Act of 2013, would remove certain carrying restrictions on college campuses.

HB 45 Passed out of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education
The “Carry Forward” measure would allow the University System of Georgia to carry a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.

HB 105 Passed out of the House
Amended Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations bill

HB 106 Assigned to the House Appropriations Committee
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2014

HB 232 Passed out of House Retirement Committee
This measure would allow the Board of Regents to determine the employee contribution rate for the Optional Retirement Plan.

HB 324 Passed out of the House
This bill removes the requirement for potential HOPE scholars to fill out the FAFSA form.

HB 481 Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee
This bill would limit certain scientific research with regard to certain genetic material.

HB 512 Assigned to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
This bill would remove certain carrying restrictions in places of worship, bars and college campuses.

HB 516 Assigned to Retirement Committee
This bill would allow members of the Optional Retirement Plan to switch one time to the Teacher’s Retirement Plan.

HR 344 House Adopted
Resolution honoring Georgia Tech alum Roberto Roy, who serves as the Minister for Canal Affairs and President of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority.

Sen. Hardie Davis, a Georgia Tech electrical engineering graduate, recognized the contributions of engineers to the state economy by sponsoring a resolution in honor of National Engineers Week. The House passed a similar resolution. Davis was joined in the well of the Senate by GTRI Director Bob McGrath, College of Engineering Dean Gary May, Georgia Tech students, industry leaders and senators with engineering backgrounds including Sens Mike Crane (another Georgia Tech alum), Emanuel Jones, Tyler Harper, Frank Ginn, and Bill Heath. Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle also supported the resolution.

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