

# NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of Georgia's  
13th Lt. Governor Burt Jones



## Legislative Priority: Child Tax Credit and Childcare Tax Programs

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On **Wednesday, February 19**, **Senate Bill 89** passed out of the Senate with bi-partisan, unanimous support and will now be considered by the House. On **Tuesday, February 4**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced that **Senate Bill 89**, a priority for the 2025 Legislative Session, would create a child tax credit and expand other existing childcare tax programs. This bill is sponsored by Senator Brian Strickland (R – McDonough).

*“We must do more to ensure that Georgia’s workers have access to affordable and quality childcare. Childcare is critical, not only for childhood development, but also for Georgia’s economy. The proposed legislation will help families who are struggling to afford the cost of childcare and will encourage more businesses to offer childcare as an employee benefit. My priorities for this session are common sense and clear – supporting Georgia’s educators, businesses who employ them, and parents who are entering or already in the workforce. In Georgia, we will continue to take a strong stand to support our parents, teachers and students.”*

Under **Senate Bill 89**, the current Georgia income tax credit for qualified child and dependent care expenses would be increased from the current 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit allowed under Section 21 of the federal tax code. A new Georgia Child Tax Credit, allowing taxpayers a credit of \$250 per child under the age of seven, would be created. Additionally, Georgia’s employer-sponsored child care tax credit granted to an employer who sponsors or provides child care for employees, would be increased to equal 90% of the cost of operation to the employer (up from 75% under current law).



Georgia Child Care Association Day  
at the Capitol on February 12.



## Legislative Priorities Update

Please review the list below for the latest updates on Lt. Governor Jones' priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session. Additional information can be found here: <https://ltgov.georgia.gov/priorities> or by scanning the QR code.



### Protect Women's Sports

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 11** - "Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act" - which would ban biological males from participating in women's sports across Georgia.

### Georgia Does DOGE - Red Tape Rollback

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 28** - "Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025" - builds on the work done during the 2024 session to cut government regulation, boost small businesses, and expand economic opportunities throughout Georgia.

### Expanding School Choice to Foster Care Families

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 152** - expands eligibility for the Georgia Promise Scholarship to biological and adoptive children of foster care parents.

### Reducing State Income Tax

- Legislation: **House Bill 111** - accelerates the reduction in the state income tax rate contemplated by current law. For tax year 2025, the income tax rate will be 5.19% (rather than 5.29%, as provided in current law).
- Legislation: **House Bill 112** - provides a tax rebate to qualified taxpayers, individual taxpayers who filed an income tax return for both 2023 and 2024.

### Increasing School Safety Across Georgia

- Support Governor Brian Kemp's allocation of **\$50 million** in the amended fiscal year 2025 budget for one-time additions to school safety grants.
- Legislation: **Senate Bill 17** - "Ricky and Alyssa's Law" - would require all Georgia public schools to install mobile panic alarm systems directly linked to emergency responders and state and local law enforcement.
- Legislation: **Senate Bill 61** - would strengthen Georgia's law so that attempted homicides and terroristic threats and acts directed toward schools will be offenses for which juveniles will be tried as adults.

### Public Safety

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 79** - "Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act" - would establish stiffer criminal penalties for fentanyl offenses.

### Child Tax Credit and Childcare Tax Programs

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 89** - would create a child tax credit and expand existing childcare tax programs.

### Immigration Enforcement

- Legislation: **Senate Bill 21** - would waive sovereign immunity for local governments that adopt and implement "sanctuary" policies.

## Mobile Office Hours Across Georgia

The Lt. Governor's Field Representative Program will continue in 2025. Each Field Representative will hold weekly mobile office hours throughout their assigned regions and will respond to constituent requests and questions. Community members will be able to contact their designated representative for event and meeting attendance.

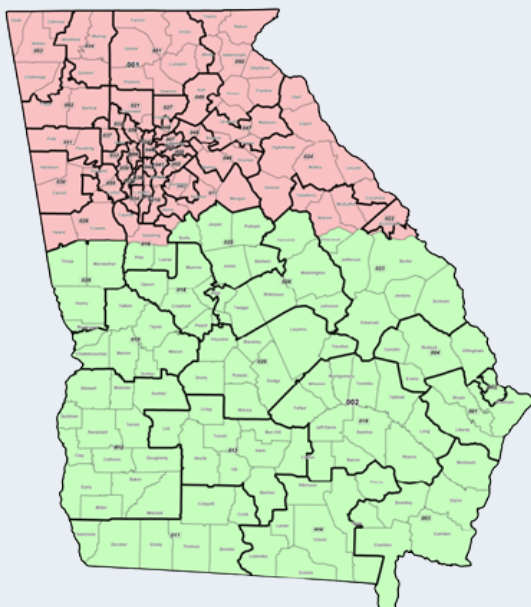
### T.J. Hudson

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Please visit this dedicated page for contact information for each representative, Georgia's map detailing each region, and a constituent contact form. This page will be updated with future meetings, town halls, and other events held in each region throughout the year: <https://ltgov.georgia.gov/constituent-services/statewide-fieldrepresentatives>



# Events Under the Gold Dome

On **Thursday, January 30**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones joined Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns, Georgia General Assembly members, and leaders from industries across the state for the legislative tort reform package announcement.

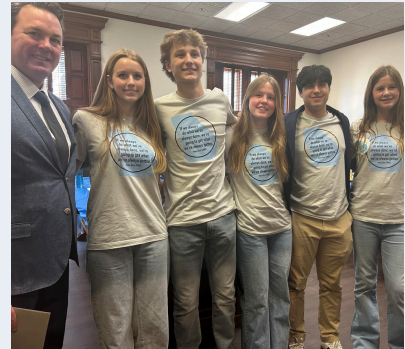
*"My position on this important issue has always been the same. If we want to continue to be the No. 1 state in which to do business, we must foster a business-friendly climate. We have to work together to ensure that we put families and consumers first by tackling the hidden costs we all pay thanks to Georgia's current tort laws. I look forward to working with those in the General Assembly to move these bills through the legislative process."*



**Legislative update at the GA Municipal Association Breakfast**



**Meeting with Georgia Association of Groundwater Professionals**



**Meeting with students on Decoding Dyslexia GA Day at the Capitol**



**CHOA and Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week**



**Attending the Georgia Farm Bureau Luncheon**



**Meeting with Senator Powell-Sims, Calvin Smyre, Morehouse School of Medicine President Rice, & Scott Steiner, CEO of Phoebe HS**



**Meeting with Vidalia High School Students**