

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

January 17, 2023

The 2023 Legislative Session jumped off to an action-packed week last week after major turnover occurred in both the state House and state Senate leadership for both chambers and for the majority Republican party leadership.

The House selected Rep. Jon Burns from Newington (northwest of Savannah) as Speaker, after long-time speaker David Ralston passed away recently. Also selected were Jan Jones from Milton as Speaker Pro Team, Chuck Efrstration from Gwinnett County as Majority Leader, James Burchett from Waycross as Majority Whip, and Bruce Williamson from Monroe as the House Majority Caucus Chair. James Beverly from Macon was selected as the Minority Party Leader, Sam Park from Gwinnett County was selected as the Minority Whip, and Billy Mitchell from Stone Mountain was selected as Minority Caucus Chairman.

As for the Senate, the Senate is controlled by the Lt Governor. Burt Jones ran an underdog campaign for Lieutenant Governor, and overcame the favorite in the Republican Primary who was supported by almost all of the special interests and legislators at the Capitol. Thrash-Haliburton was one of the only supporters at the Capitol early and openly supporting Burt in the Primary Election and the General due to a long history of friendship with Jones. Also selected for leadership positions in the State Senate by fellow Senators are Sen. John F. Kennedy from Macon as President Pro Tempore, Sen. Steve Gooch from Dahlongega as Majority Leader, Sen. Randy Robertson from Columbus as Majority Whip, and Sen. Jason Anavitarte from Paulding County as Majority Caucus Chair. Also selected were Sen. Gloria Butler from DeKalb County as Minority Party Leader, Sen. Harold Jones from Augusta as Minority Whip, Sen. Elena Parent from Decatur as Minority Caucus Chair.

Major topics that have bubbled up as key talking points from the Governor and legislative leadership in the last couple of weeks include affordable housing for all of the new people that will be moving here with all of the new jobs coming, easing of local zoning laws and regulations on housing construction, pay raises of \$2,000 for all state employees, financial help for the health insurance coverage of state employees, the electric vehicle industry, proposing tax breaks for citizens, a major and thorough review of all tax credits and tax breaks that are out there, and more.

The legislature was in session this past Monday and Wednesday - Friday. The inauguration and inaugural celebration was Thursday. There are no official legislative days this week, as they are in budget hearings all week. Legislative day 5 is Monday, January 23, with the legislature in session pretty much every week Monday - Thursday until March 29.

Thrash-Haliburton is diligently watching and working to stop any detrimental legislation to our industry and push the legislation we support. Our governmental affairs team continues every day to work on, look out for and answer requests, needs and interests, as we act at the direction of the group's leadership. Please find legislation affecting our industry below:

2023 Regular Session

We are monitoring the following legislation, and watchful for any bills that may impact our industry.

Bill	Summary	House Comm	Sen Comm	House Sponsor	Sen Sponsor