

# 2014

## Legislative Scorecard



★ ★ ★  
**GEORGIA**  
CHAMBER

[www.gachamber.com](http://www.gachamber.com)

During the 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly, one of the shortest in recent history, the Georgia Chamber tracked over 300 bills important to Georgia’s economy. Georgia Chamber Board leadership, the Government Affairs Council and staff worked with lawmakers to pass bills crucial to the business community and block those measures that would hurt our state’s competitiveness.

The Government Affairs Council assigned scorecard status to those bills considered most important to Georgia’s future economic success. In addition to the 2014 grades, the scorecard also reflects all legislators’ 2013 midterm grades and final grades for the 2013-2014 legislative term.

For more information on any of the bills mentioned, or for a complete list of bills tracked this year, visit [www.gachamber.com](http://www.gachamber.com).

## 1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**HB 176** creates a streamlined regulatory process for companies investing in new or upgrading existing wireless and broadband infrastructure in Georgia, encouraging these important investments to attract business and improve the quality of life for area residents, especially in rural Georgia.

**HB 958** will create a state income tax credit for qualified entertainment production companies (film, video or digital); an exemption from state sales taxes for qualified food banks; a sales tax holiday for energy efficient or water efficient products; and an extension of the sales tax exemption on construction materials used in competitive projects of regional significance (as determined by the Georgia Department of Economic Development). HB 958 was created as a result of Governor Deal’s Competitiveness Initiative, which was co-chaired by the Georgia Chamber.

## 2 LEGAL REFORM

**HB 643\*** establishes reasonable parameters regarding the cost of electronic discovery in civil cases, protecting companies that are too often forced to make a choice between spending hundreds of thousands of dollars or settling cases in which they have done no wrong. HB 643 passed the House but did not pass the Senate.

**SB 125** offers landowners liability protection against lawsuits brought by trespassers who were unintentionally harmed and injured on the property, an essential tool to protect property owners from unfair and unwarranted litigation brought by criminals.

## 3 BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

**HB 714** prevents some private educational service contractors from abusing the unemployment insurance system when they encourage and train employees to file for unemployment benefits during summer, holidays and other temporary breaks to supplement their annual income, providing uniformity for unemployment benefit qualifications.

**HB 809** amends the Georgia Fair Business Practices Act to prohibit Patent Assertion Entities or “patent trolls” – individuals or companies that buy a patent with the primary intention of using it to sue other entities rather than to manufacture or market a product – from making bad-faith assertions of patent infringement.

## 4 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

**SB 213** amends the current Flint River Drought Protection Act to ensure protection of the environment while also enhancing Georgia’s agricultural economy in the Lower Flint River Basin during times of extreme drought.

## 5 EDUCATION

**HB 697** expands the HOPE Grant program to provide full tuition for technical college students in technical certificate and diploma programs with a GPA of 3.5 or greater, allowing more Georgians to receive the training they need to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

\* Although HB 643 did not pass the Senate, the Senate version of HB 643 was scored because it reflected a more pro-business reform to the electronic discovery process than did the House version.

# SCORECARD KEY

<b>A+</b> = 95-100	<b>Y</b> = Yes Vote
<b>A</b> = 90-94	<b>N</b> = No Vote
<b>B+</b> = 85-89	<b>/</b> = Absent or Excused
<b>B</b> = 80-84	
<b>C+</b> = 75-79	
<b>C</b> = 70-74	
<b>U</b> = Below 70 (Unsatisfactory)	
<b>N/A</b> = Not Eligible for Score	

To receive a grade, a legislator must be present to vote for 50% of the total scorecard votes. If the legislator is not present for 50% of the votes, the legislator will receive an “N/A.”

For some legislators, subjective factors were taken into account that can positively or negatively impact scores. Factors include, but are not limited to: sponsoring bills, speaking for or against bills, voting in committees, offering amendments, intentionally missing a vote when scorecard status was communicated, and furthering the Chamber’s legislative priorities.





# GEORGIA SENATE LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

Senator	Final Grade	2014 Grade	2013 Grade	1		2		3		4	5	2014 Sub-Total Subjective Factors
				HB 176	HB 958	HB 643	SB 125	HB 714	HB 809	SB 213	HB 697	
<b>CHAMBER POSITION</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100 +/-
Jackson, Lester	B	C+	B+	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
James, Donzella	B	C+	A	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
<b>Jeffares, Rick</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	100
<b>Jones, Burt</b>	<b>A</b>	B+	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	88
<b>Jones, Emanuel</b>	<b>A</b>	C+	<b>A+</b>	Y	/	/	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	83/-
Ligon, Jr., William	B+	A	B+	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	100/-
Lucas, David	C	C	C+	Y	Y	N	/	N	Y	Y	Y	71
McKoon, Joshua	C	U	A+	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	50/-
<b>Millar, Fran</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/+
<b>Miller, Butch</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	100/+
<b>Mullis, Jeff</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Murphy, Jack</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Orrock, Nan	C	U	C+	Y	/	N	Y	N	Y	/	Y	67
Ramsey, Sr., Ronald	B+	C+	A+	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
Seay, Valencia	B	C+	B+	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
<b>Shafer, David</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/+
Sims, Freddie Powell	B	C+	B+	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
<b>Staton, Cecil</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/+
<b>Stone, Jesse</b>	<b>A</b>	B+	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	86+/-
Tate, Horacena	U	U	C+	Y	/	N	/	N	Y	/	Y	60
Thompson, Bruce	N/A	A+	N/A	Y	Y	/	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/-
Thompson, Curt	B	C+	A	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	75
Thompson, Steve	U	U	U	/	Y	N	Y	N	Y	/	Y	67
<b>Tippins, Lindsey</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Tolleson, Ross</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/+
<b>Unterman, Renee</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Wilkinson, John</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Williams, Tommie</b>	<b>A</b>	B+	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	88



# GEORGIA HOUSE LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

Representative	Final Grade	2014 Grade	2013 Grade	1		2	3		4	5	2014 Sub-Total Subjective Factors
				HB 176	HB 958	SB 125	HB 714	HB 809	SB 213	HB 697	
<b>CHAMBER POSITION</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100 +/-
<b>Abrams, Stacey</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86/+
Alexander, Kimberly	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
Allison, Stephen	B+	A+	C+	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Anderson, Tonya	B	B+	C+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
<b>Atwood, Alex</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Ballinger, Mandi</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Barr, Timothy	B+	A+	C+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Battles, Paul</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Beasley-Teague, Sharon	B	B	C+	/	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	83
Bell, Simone	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
Bennett, Karen	C+	B+	C	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
Bentley, Patty	B+	B+	B	Y	Y	/	N	Y	Y	Y	83/+
<b>Benton, Tommy</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	B+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Beverly, James	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
<b>Black, Ellis</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Braddock, Paulette</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Broadrick, Bruce</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Brockway, Buzz</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	B+	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Brooks, Tyrone	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
Bruce, Roger	B+	B	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86/-
Bryant, Bob	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
Buckner, Debbie	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
<b>Burns, Jon</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Caldwell, Jr., Johnnie</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	B+	Y	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	100/-
Caldwell, Michael	B+	A+	C+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Carson, John</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Carter, Amy</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100/+
Casas, David	B+	A+	C+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Chandler, Joyce</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Channell, Mickey</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A+</b>	B+	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Chapman, Jeff	U	B+	U	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	86
<b>Cheokas, Mike</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	B+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Clark, Josh</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	B+	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Clark, Valerie</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Coleman, Brooks</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Cooke, Kevin	B+	A+	C+	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Coomer, Christian</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Cooper, Sharon</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dawkins-Haigler, Dee	B+	B+	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	86
<b>Deffenbaugh, John</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Dempsey, Katie</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dickerson, Pam	B+	B	B+	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	/	Y	83
<b>Dickey, Robert</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Dickson, Tom</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
<b>Dollar, Matt</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A+</b>	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100





