

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative Days 1-4

January 18, 2019

Settling In

The legislature convened for the first day of the 2019 session on Monday. The largely organizational day culminated with the swearing-in of Governor Brian Kemp, other constitutional officers, and newly elected members of the House and Senate.

As the week concluded, everyone was settling into their new positions. Kemp vowed unity and unveiled his priorities during three major addresses: his inauguration speech on Monday, his address to the business community on Wednesday and his first State of the State report on Thursday. Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan was calm and determined as he presided over the Senate as newly sworn-in legislators took to the podium during morning orders to speak their mind.

Preliminary Schedule Announced

The legislature can meet up to forty working days and one of the House and Senate's first orders of business was to set a schedule through legislative day 11, which will be Friday, February 8. Next week the legislature will not officially meet but will begin budget deliberations, starting with funding recommendations by Kemp and his team. They will reconvene on January 28.

Anticipated Issues

While little relevant legislation has been introduced at this point in the session, there are a handful of issues the industry may face this year, including efforts to:

- Regulate the use of Emotional Support Animals;
- Address blight at the local level;
- Reform the property tax system, especially regarding Fulton County and the City of Atlanta; and
- Regulate the vehicle immobilization (or booting) industry.

To stay up to date on these and other legislative issues, please review this legislative report each week during the session.

The next legislative update will be available February 1