### Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

A bill that would allow permits for the service of free food, not funded by the service provider, and allow for the sale of food handled by hand (e.g., no need to wash hands before handling, safe cooking temperatures for meat). Additionally, SB 345 would allow permits for the service of free food, not funded by the service provider, and allow for the sale of food handled by hand (e.g., no need to wash hands before handling, safe cooking temperatures for meat). This could reduce the number of permits they must apply for or renew annually.

### Hunger Relief

The General Assembly is considering four bills related to food insecurity. One bill, HB 912, sponsored by Rep. Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville), would impact children in foster care by allowing DFCS to require individualized training for foster parents based on their child's specific needs (e.g., delayed due to a parent's hearing on another civil or criminal matter).

### School Nutrition

HB 741, also introduced by Rep. Belton, would require high schools to offer a minimum of 28 hours of GED instruction and testing. Mental health and substance abuse treatment is also offered, and the department provides a middle- and high school education as well as services to the home-bound and those who are incarcerated. The GED testing window for high schools is required to be extended to allow students to retake the test if necessary.

### Teacher Performance

HB 440, sponsored by Rep. Stacey Evans (D-Sandy Springs), seeks to regulate teacher performance by prohibiting teachers from being penalized for low test scores that are more the result of community-level factors such as poverty, lack of access to medical care, and the like. The bill prohibits the state from using standardized test scores to determine teacher performance or pay increases. Both bills state that the law would be subject to appropriations by the General Assembly. Until the FY 2021 budget is agreed to and signed by Gov. Brian Kemp, it is not clear what will happen to these proposals.

### Teaching License

The Georgia General Assembly is considering a bill that would split the teaching license into a temporary license, which would be valid for one year, and a permanent license, which would be valid for five years. The temporary license would allow candidates to teach while they complete their bachelor's degree and apply for the permanent license. The permanent license would allow candidates to teach after they have completed their bachelor's degree and passed the required tests for high school students (from eight to four), and removing a suggestion that teachers be penalized for low test scores that are more the result of community-level factors such as poverty, lack of access to medical care, and the like.

### School Safety

A bill that would require that school safety plans be reviewed and approved by the school board annually. The bill also requires that school districts develop a plan to ensure that schools are safe from active shooters, and that such plans be reviewed and approved by the school board annually. The bill also requires that school districts develop a plan to ensure that schools are safe from active shooters, and that such plans be reviewed and approved by the school board annually. The bill also requires that school districts develop a plan to ensure that schools are safe from active shooters, and that such plans be reviewed and approved by the school board annually. The bill also requires that school districts develop a plan to ensure that schools are safe from active shooters, and that such plans be reviewed and approved by the school board annually.

### Child and Family Well-Being

A bill that would allow the Georgia Department of Human Resources to provide services to children and families who are in need of support. The bill would establish a dedicated fund for these services, which would be funded by a portion of the state's tobacco tax revenue. The bill would also allow for the use of federal funds to support these services.

### Foster Care

A bill that would allow the Georgia Department of Children and Family Services to require individualized training for foster parents based on their child's specific needs.

### Medicaid

A bill that would authorize the state to negotiate a new contract with Georgia Power to purchase coal ash for disposal at a no-cost rate. The bill would also require that coal ash be stored in lined basins with leachate collection systems.

### Georgia Power's Activities

Georgia Power has announced plans to remove the coal ash storage pond at its Plant Scherer facility. The company is considering options for the safe and secure disposal of the coal ash, which is currently stored in a pond near the plant. Georgia Power is working with local and state officials to ensure that the disposal of the coal ash is done in an environmentally responsible manner.