alert drills by October 1 of each school year and report to GEMA/HS when the drill is completed. All students are required to participate, but each system may allow an option for a parent/legal guardian to elect, in writing, that the child is not participating.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

**HB 185**  (Gaines-120th)  [Bill Link]
Provides for the establishment of Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) grants. The grants would be awarded to eligible Georgia students enrolled on or before July 1, 2028, in authorized IPSE programs at qualified postsecondary institutions in an amount equal to the current academic year undergraduate tuition at each student’s qualified institution.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**HB 228**  (Dempsey-13th)  [Bill Link]
Expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions which offer: baccalaureate programs in nursing; have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least five years; have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions must have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85% for the National Council Licensure Examination, and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved institutions for students who enroll on or before July 1, 2025.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**HB 249**  (Martin-49th)  [Bill Link]
Provides Georgia College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed 70% of a four-year program or 45% of a two-year program. The maximum award amount per eligible student is set at $3,500, with no single payment exceeding $2,500.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**HB 301**  (Ridley-6th)  [Bill Link]
Sets the penalty at $250 for improperly overtaking a school bus and prohibits the addition of any other fees, fines, or penalties. The bill caps the maximum fee that may be charged for electronic processing of a penalty for speeding in a school zone at $25. Any agent, law enforcement agency, or governing body that violates this provision will be fined $1,000. O.C.G.A. 40-14-11 now includes penalties collected for speeding in a school zone in the calculation for total speeding fine revenue.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

**HB 318**  (Hilton-48th)  [Bill Link]
Reestablishes the Office of Charter School Compliance, create the Office of District Flexibility, and requires administrative fees held back by the state or local school system for the administration of charter schools to be used solely for that purpose. The Office of Charter School Compliance is reestablished under the State Charter Schools Commission and assists with the administration, review of, and creation of new local charter schools. The bill creates the Office of District Flexibility under the Department of Education to help school systems become and remain a charter system. Up to three percent may be retained by local boards of education from the charter school funding to provide administrative services for the local charter school. The local board of education must spend these funds solely and directly on administrative services performed for the local charter school. Any funds not expended should be remitted to the local charter school each year by June 30th. The Department of Education may retain up to 3% for the administration of state chartered special schools. Any funds not used by June 30th for the administration of the state chartered special school will be remitted to the school. The State Charter School Commission must follow the same structure relating to retaining and reimbursing state charter schools for the 3% administrative fee collected.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.