language that states "No high school which receives funding under this article shall participate in, sponsor, or provide coaching or support staff for interscholastic athletic or literary events or other school activities which are conducted under the authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association that is a member of a national association, federation, or alliance of high school athletic, literary, or school activities associations that does not include or recognize all other voluntary nonprofit athletic, literary, or school activities associations of Georgia high schools in compliance with the requirements of Code Section 20-2-319.2 and Code Section 20-2-324.1 as a member or affiliate member with all the rights and privileges associated with membership in said association, federation, or alliance."

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. **The bill is scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor for either today (MONDAY) or this WEDNESDAY.**

**HB 81** (Corbett-174th) [Bill Link]
Revises the eligibility criteria are that a local school system must be currently, or in the most recent three years, ranked in the bottom 25% of school systems in sales revenue per full-time equivalent (FTE) student count and value of property per FTE student count. For local school systems in which the amount of special purpose local option sales tax revenues is ranked in the bottom 25% of eligible local school systems receiving such sales tax revenues, that system may submit a request to the Department of Education for consideration. The system must commit five years of such revenues to the project. Educational facilities must be more than 35 years old to be consolidated. Once a local school system has received a capital outlay grant and its need is met as determined by the department, it is not eligible to receive another grant for a period of 10 years.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

**HB 87** (Erwin-32nd) [Bill Link]
Focuses on Mountain Education, Foothills, and Coastal Plains Charter Schools (alternative schools for students who are on the verge of dropping out and need flexibility and night classes). The bill allows these schools to continue as “Completion Special State Schools” and transition beyond their charter contracts. However, it changes their geographical boundaries, creates additional zones to serve the rest of the state, and establishes a funding mechanism for these programs. The bill also defines eligible students for these schools and their attendance zones.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Needs agreement from the House to the Senate Changes.**

**HB 101** (Crowe-118th) [Bill Link]
Revises Rural Hospital tax credits to include rural freestanding emergency departments. The bill also deals with mortgage loan policy. Additionally, it increases the cap from $120 million to $130 million for student scholarship organizations (SSOs) but adds a sunset provision.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

**HB 122** (Hawkins-27th) [Bill Link]
Provides for membership of the board of directors for the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan (GHESP). The bill removes the specified maximum GHESP account balance of $235,000 and allows the board of directors to set a reasonable maximum amount. The bill authorizes the GHESP board of directors to govern the Georgia Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program Corporation.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

**HB 130** (Gambill-15th) [Bill Link]
Establishes a student loan repayment program for eligible full-time peace officers. The total repayment amount must not exceed $20,000 or the total student debt amount, whichever is less. Payments will be paid in annual installments for a period not exceeding five years. The Georgia Student Finance Authority is authorized to establish rules and regulations to implement the program, and the program is contingent upon appropriation of funds by the General Assembly.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. **The bill is scheduled for a...**