

## GCA – Legislative Update

April 2017

The 2017 Legislative Session concluded at 1:00 am on Thursday, March 30. ConnectSouth reviewed every piece of legislation that was introduced to ensure that the Georgia Cemetery Association would be actively engaged in any bills that might affect the Association. We actively tracked and engaged in five legislative issues on your behalf; below is a brief description of each bill.

House Resolution 339: This resolution, introduced by Rep Rick Williams, would have created a study committee to review and identify updates need to regulate the cemetery industry. The legislation was not adopted by the House and no formal study committee will be created.

Senate Bill 147: This bill was introduced by Sen Michael Williams at the request of SCI to expand the type of investment permitted for a trust fund. After a formal meeting with Senator Williams and Clift Dempsey, we worked closely with the senator and the lobbyist for SCI to ensure that the language in the legislation would not be amended to detrimentally affect GCA. Following please find a link to the final version of the bill: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/SB/147>

HB 318: This bill was introduced by Rep Patti Bentley, a funeral director. This legislation addressed displays in funeral parlors and was not adopted by the House.

HB 55: This bill was introduced by Rep Rick Williams and, per his testimony in committee, was directed at the Cemetery Association and was intended to limit the number of years that a person would be permitted to serve on a licensing board. The legislation stemmed from a local issue with his business and his competitors. The legislation was not adopted by the House.

SB 2: This legislation would have affected the process for all professional licensing boards, specifically addressing licensure for out of state applicants and onsite inspections of current licensees. This legislation was not adopted by the House.