Attorney General Chris Carr called to order the Sovereign Immunity Subcommittee (SI Subcommittee) meeting on Friday, June 16, 2017 at approximately 2:10 p.m. After introductions, Attorney General Carr provided general background information on sovereign immunity and reiterated that the subcommittee’s task is to explore potential issues related to sovereign immunity and present any conclusions to the Full Council, which will then provide Governor Deal with an array of options to consider. Attorney General Carr reminded the subcommittee of the December 1, 2017 deadline for the Full Council’s report and the date for the next Full Council Meeting: July 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Solicitor General Sarah Warren then provided an overview of recent Supreme Court case law on sovereign immunity. The following documents were provided as supplements to the overview:

1. Decision in Georgia Department of Natural Resources v. Center for a Sustainable Coast
2. Georgia Constitution Article I, Section II, Paragraph IX
3. House Bill 59 (2016)
4. Governor’s veto statement regarding House Bill 59

Deputy Solicitor General Andrew Pinson noted that cases involving sovereign immunity were pending in the Georgia Supreme Court and offered three potential options for addressing sovereign immunity: keeping the status quo, legislative action, or a state constitutional amendment.

Attorney General Carr then opened the floor to questions and comments from the subcommittee members and from other attendees. After discussion, the subcommittee agreed that further research into the potential issues and possible solutions was needed. The meeting was adjourned.