

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## January 29, 2024

One thing that people may not know about working at the Capitol during the legislative session is that it is a great place to work if you “enjoy” (and I am using that word loosely!) chaos. It’s a place where a cohesive thought lasting more than 47 seconds is considered a luxury; where walking away from another lobbyist midsentence is not considered rude; and where one is always ready to jump in front of a line of 62 girl scouts to beat them to the metal detector, the bathroom or the front row of the gallery, even if, in real life, you were not planning to go to any of those places. Many of us thrive on the game show/pop quiz aspect of our work, where at a given moment, we must be prepared for seemingly random questions from lawmakers covering topics from foster care timetables ([SB 376](#)) to [electric school buses](#) to cornbread ([HB 1048](#)). A “right answer” can garner prizes ranging from participation in a [panel discussion](#) to a leftover chicken biscuit to a favorable vote. The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune and (double) Jeopardy got nothin’ on the state house! Who the heck needs a new fridge? (*me.*) A new car? (*me.*) \$88,000? (*me.*) Or an all-expense-paid-vacation to Cancun? (*me me me!*).

I am going to “take Voices Updates for \$200”.

*The answer is:* Random Tea

*Question:* What is Voices’ new short-and-fun video series called? ([Click here to sign up!](#))

**Ding! Ding! Ding!**

OK – Now I am going to take “Voices Updates for \$500”.

*The answer is:* Judy Fitzgerald

*Question:* Who is Voices’ new Executive Director? ([Check out the announcement here.](#))

**Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding!**

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*Helpful Resources:*

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Tell them what they've won Johnny....

Well, I'm not Johnny, but I can tell you that all we really need to get by is good policy for kids, comfortable shoes and maybe a scoop or two of homemade ice cream from [Chairman Dickey's peach farm](#). Oh - and some advocacy from you all! So please check out the [advocacy asks](#) below!

~Polly

Polly McKinney  
Advocacy Director  
Voices for Georgia's Children  
[pmckinney@georgiavoices.org](mailto:pmckinney@georgiavoices.org)



## Justice, Public Safety, & School Discipline

### [HB 463](#)

(Ballinger-23rd) Revises the name of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to "Sexual Offender Risk Review Board." Among other provisions, the bill also provides for punishment for certain tiers of sexual offenses, including in certain circumstances, life imprisonment.

*STATUS: Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

### [HB 500](#)

(Silcox-53rd) Creates the offense of arson of a law enforcement vehicle. Any person convicted of the offense is punished by a fine up to \$100,000 or by imprisonment for a minimum of five years with a maximum of 20 years, or both.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

### [HB 873](#)

(Gunter-8th) Creates juvenile treatment court (JTC) divisions as a part of the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) to provide alternative adjudication to the traditional judicial system. The bill states that "The juvenile treatment court division shall combine judicial supervision, treatment of juvenile treatment court division participants, drug testing, and mental health treatment." The CACJ will provide standards, practices, technical assistance and funding opportunities for the JTCs.

*STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee*

### [HB 882](#)

(Bruce-61st) Prohibits the release or posting of a booking photograph unless and until the individual depicted therein is convicted.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

[HB 889](#) (Thomas-65th) States that in cases where the court has been unable to make contact on at least eight occasions within a 90-day period with such child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the court shall find that parental, guardian, or custodial consent has been waived and may order such child for rehabilitation, counseling, and in counsel and advice.

*STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee*

[HB 909](#) (Hagan-156th) Provides for the restriction and seal of First Offender Act sentences until such status is revoked.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).*

[HB 926](#) (Reeves-99th) Provides for issuance of certificates ("Program and Treatment Completion Certificate") by a court for purposes of demonstrating rehabilitation and good moral character. The bill also sets out certain provisions regarding driver's licenses.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

[HB 930](#) (Ridley-22nd) Prohibits the release or posting of a booking photograph unless and until the individual is convicted.

*STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee*

[HB 932](#) (Mathis-149th) Provides that a person commits the offense of murder when, under certain circumstances, he or she causes the death of another human being irrespective of malice, by manufacturing or distributing the Schedule II controlled substance fentanyl or any controlled substance containing fentanyl or any derivative thereof.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

[HB 996](#) (Vance-133rd) Provide jailers who have been certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council as having successfully completed the course of training required by Chapter 8 of Title 35, the 'Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act,' with arrest powers.

*STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee*

[SB 407](#) (James-35th) When documenting incidents of family violence, requires law enforcement officers to prepare an incident report that includes whether any party to the incident involving actual or alleged family violence is the subject of an active or expired protective order in the Georgia Protective Order Registry; and, to the extent reasonably obtainable, the number and nature of prior

incidents involving law enforcement between the parties to the incident involving actual or alleged family violence.

*STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee*

## Child Welfare & Protection

**HB 656** (Reeves-99th) Revises the offenses of cruelty to children in the second and third degrees and establish the offense of traveling to meet a minor for indecent purposes.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

**HB 875** (Roberts-52nd) Prevents persons convicted of family violence offenses or subject to family violence temporary protective orders from receiving, possessing, transporting, purchasing, or transferring firearms.

*STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee*

**HB 910** (Jasperse-11th) Creates a civil remedy for damages against commercial entities that distribute material harmful to minors without performing age verification.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Committee*

**HB 993** (Powell-33rd) Provides for the offense of grooming a minor for indecent purposes and defines 'grooming' as actions or behaviors used by an adult to establish an emotional connection with a minor to gain such minor's trust, for the eventual objective of sexual abuse, manipulation, or exploitation. Such actions and behaviors may include, but are not limited to, contact made online, in person, or by other means of communication.

*STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee*

**HB 1022** (Sainz-180th) "Colton-McNeill Act" - Provides for sentencing of a person convicted of cruelty to children in the first or second degree against a disabled minor.

*STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee*

**SB 335** (Albers-56th) Includes "by virtue of adoption" in the definition of relationships in which the offense of incest is possible.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

**HB 342**

(Robertson-29th) Authorizes the disclosure or use of information from child abuse and neglect registries by the Department of Human Services to locate, recover, or provide services to a child determined to be missing or a victim of sexual exploitation. The bill also allows for access to records concerning reports of child abuse and missing or exploited children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).*

**HB 370**

(Hodges-3rd) Requires massage therapists, body art studios and convenience stores to post human trafficking hotline information; and provides for human trafficking awareness training for board members. The bill provides for inspections of massage therapy practices; and requires licensees to display a photograph along with their massage therapy practice licenses.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

**SB 376**

(Tillery-19th) Clarifies requirements of parents, DFCS, and court in order to improve timely permanent placement of a child removed from their home. The bill provides for a hearing to be held prior to a dependent child's fifteenth month in foster care to review a determination of the Division of Family and Children Services not to petition to terminate parental rights.

*STATUS: Senate Children and Families Committee*

**SB 378**

(Harbin-16th) Increases sentences for persons convicted of trafficking a minor or a developmentally disabled person for sexual servitude.

*STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).*

**SB 387**

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Provides that personal identification card applications of certain applicants who are either homeless or in the legal custody of the Division of Family and Children Services do not require signatures by the applicant's parent, guardian, or responsible adult; and authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish programs that will provide a child or youth entering foster care with a photograph.

*STATUS: Senate Children and Families Committee*

### SB 401

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Provides for annual reporting to the General Assembly of certain de-identified data from juvenile court clerks relating to foster children who are in need of services or delinquent; removes the service of summons by publication requirement at the adjudication phase in dependency proceedings; and provides that the petition to terminate parental rights be immediately filed and docketed without delay when presented to the juvenile court clerk.

*STATUS: Senate Children and Families Committee*



## Health & Behavioral Health

### HB 82

(Jackson-128th) Relating to tax credits for rural physicians, the bill subsequently creates a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for rural healthcare professionals, defined as physicians and dentists operating in a rural county. The tax credit may be claimed for up to five years for eligible professionals, provided that the healthcare professional continues operating in a rural county. The aggregate amount of the tax credit is limited to \$2 million per year.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).*

### HB 174

(Bentley-150th) Requires the Department of Education to provide to parents and guardians of students entering the sixth grade information regarding recommended adolescent vaccinations in print and electronic form.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

### HB 181

(Townsend-179th) Adds the compound 7-hydroxymitragynine to the definition of "kratom." The bill limits the methods that kratom can be ingested and requires that the sale of kratom be only behind the counter in stores. Anyone violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The bill requires all kratom products to be derived from the natural kratom plant. A kratom processor cannot sell or distribute a kratom product that is adulterated or contains certain compounds or substances within it. An entity that manufactures, distributes, sells, or delivers kratom must maintain a registered agent in the state. A processor who knowingly or recklessly commits an act in violation will be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor as a first offense and a felony on a second or subsequent offense, with a penalty of imprisonment between one to 15 years; a maximum fine of \$100,000; or both. A processor who negligently commits an act in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-13-122 will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum fine of \$1,000. A person who suffers injury or damages as a result of a violation of this Code section can also bring a civil action for actual damages, which are presumed to be at least \$250, together with court costs.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee*

### HB 362

(Mathiak-74th) Requires benefit providers to provide a written account of payments and reimbursements for services to treating providers upon 30 days of a request being made.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

### HB 520

(Jones-25th) Authorizes the Department of Community Health (DCH) to collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to study the psychiatric treatment residential facilities referral processes with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill prohibits health benefit plans from implementing step therapy protocol for medications prescribed to treat severe mental illness. DBHDD is authorized to work with certain other agencies to create guidance for standardized terminology such as the definition of serious mental illness. Definitions for homeless individuals, recidivism, and other terms may also be developed. DBHDD will also work with individuals to provide county-based coordinators to work with criminal justice and behavioral health providers to reduce jail admission of those in a mental health crisis that do not pose a public safety risk. A state-wide public-private partnership will be established by DBHDD to serve as a clearinghouse for best practices, information, and resources to support "familiar faces". These are individuals with serious mental illness that have frequent contact with criminal justice, homeless, and behavioral health systems. Subject to appropriations, DBHDD will develop a pilot program to assist jails in implementing behavioral health screening programs and protocols and create a grant program to create or expand jail in-reach and reentry programs which will focus on "familiar faces" and connect individuals with community resources. A comprehensive study on the public behavioral health workforce will be conducted by DBHDD to understand recruitment and retention issues, and target solutions to help with shortages. The bill adds certain members to the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRIC) BHIRC, with DBHDD, is required to develop a common definition of "serious mental illness" and include "familiar faces" to initiative coordination. BHRIC is tasked with creating a multi-year plan to expand the use of forensic peer mentors. BHIRC is required to establish a task force to build a continuum of care. The task force will comprehensively study access to inpatient behavioral health beds, and make recommendations on needed capacity building, youth specific care, and autism spectrum-related care. The task force will also formally review competency evaluation and restoration challenges, and forensic laws and regulations that affect those interacting with the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. This task force will study increased capacity of child and adolescent substance misuse intensive outpatient treatment programs. BHIRC will convene a task force to review the effect of behavioral health on homeless populations across the state. A physician's certificate or affidavit is required to be attached to a court order for involuntary treatment. (Personally identifying information will be removed from such document.) OHSC is required to study

behavioral health provider licensing requirements to identify barriers to entry or licensure. Professional boards to be included in the study are Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists; State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and the Georgia Board of Nursing. The study will update licensing application and renewal systems, create pathways for foreign-trained practitioners, and update practicum and supervision requirements. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists is authorized to waive experience requirements for applicants licensed under another state that have maintained good standing in that jurisdiction for at least two years. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and the Georgia Board of Nursing are authorized to manage a professional health program for impaired health care professionals across the state. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) will hire a director as the executive head of the Georgia Data Analytic Center (GDAC). GDAC will serve as the central repository for Georgia from which data can be released to requesting agencies. The director will have the authority to review data sharing disputes between executive state agencies when a data request made by one agency is denied by another with the reasoning that it would violate state or federal law. If the director determines such a request does not break the law, the agency is compelled to cooperate with such request. DCH will ensure that the Medicaid program includes reimbursement for psychological diagnostic assessments and treatment and family therapy services; reimbursement for licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and certified peer specialists; psychiatric hospitals as eligible for inpatient care for those under the age of 21 years enrolled in fee-for-service Medicaid; updates of reimbursement rates for the assessment and treatment of autism spectrum disorder in collaboration with relevant agencies and organizations; and therapeutic foster care for those under the age of 21 years. Necessary requests for Medicaid state plan amendments or waivers will be made to the United States Department of Health and Human Services by December 1, 2023. DCH is also required to take necessary steps to ensure the receipt of relevant federal funds to provide services, such as housing and employment supports and case management, for recipients and their caregivers if they are under the age of 19 years. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is required to work with state licensing boards to establish the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System to collect and share de-identified descriptive data about licensed health care professionals in Georgia. Such information will be stored in a publicly accessible repository on the board's website. Information will include demographics and geographical distribution of licensed health care professionals across the state. Licensing boards must provide such data upon request or up to two times annually as required. Information provided by licensing boards will include age, race, gender, ethnicity, language spoken at home, practice location, and license type.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee*



[HB 576](#) (Gullett-19th) Prohibits certain health care providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the vaccine status of the potential recipient.

*STATUS: House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).*

[HB 793](#) (Barton-5th) Authorizes applicants for a license in social work enrolled in a master's degree program to take the master's social work licensing examination in their final semester of the program.

*STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).*

[HB 856](#) (Au-50th) Establishes a program to provide urgent insulin assistance to eligible individuals, capping the copay at \$35 and outlines the roles of pharmacies and manufacturers.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 857](#) (Au-50th) Makes insulin accessible to an eligible individual who needs an affordable supply of insulin for up to one year, with the option to renew annually. The bill also allows the pharmacy to collect a co-payment not to exceed \$75.00 for insulin dispensed through this program.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 860](#) (Schofield-63rd) Limits the total cost sharing amount that a covered person is required to pay for a covered prescription insulin drug to an amount not to exceed \$100.00 per 30 day supply of insulin, regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed to fill the covered person's prescription.

*STATUS: Prefile*

[HB 861](#) (Schofield-63rd) Requires ingredients to be listed on packages containing menstrual products.

*STATUS: House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee*

[HB 872](#) (Hawkins-27th) Expands the service cancelable loan program for physicians and other health care providers in underserved areas to include dental students.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 874](#) (Hawkins-27th) Requires automated external defibrillators in all schools; the establishment of emergency action plans to address a person in cardiac arrest; as well as internal response teams and practice drills.

*STATUS: House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).*

[HB 897](#) (Ridley-22nd) Repeals the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 913](#) (Barnes-86th) Establishes of a grant program for the purpose of creating emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing (EmPATH) units in hospitals.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 924](#) (Ballinger-23rd) Prohibits insurers from discriminating against certain healthcare facilities and providers in connection with the procurement, delivery, and administration of provider-administered drugs.

*STATUS: House Insurance Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY) and is expected to be heard in full committee on Wednesday.*

[HB 963](#) (Scott-76th) Subject to appropriations, the State Board of Education shall establish and implement the K-5 Social and Emotional Health Pilot Program to determine the impact of dedicated school mental health professionals in kindergarten through fifth grade that have high-poverty, high-need students. The pilot program shall be implemented within pilot schools and administered by the department.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

[HB 991](#) (Blackmon-146th) Extends the sunset provision on the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program from 2025 to 2030.

*STATUS: House Appropriations Committee*

[HB 1005](#) (Lim-98th) Requires that every health benefit policy shall provide coverage for rabies immune globulin and vaccinations administered after potential exposure to rabies.

*STATUS: House Insurance Committee*

[HB 1006](#) (Lim-98th) Requires local school systems or public schools issuing identification cards to include certain information regarding suicide prevention resources.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

[HB 1028](#) (LaHood-171st) Repeals the requirement of screening of public school children for scoliosis; and revises the state health officer's authorization to issue standing orders. The bill also repeals provisions relating to the Georgia Diabetes Control Grant Program, and to a pilot program for preexposure prophylaxis drug assistance or services. It also repeals provisions relating to control of mass gatherings; and allows the Department of Public Health to inspect jail facilities as necessary.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1029](#) (Mathiak-74th) Requires the newborn screening system to include Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1035](#) (Cooper-45th) Expands the exemption of naloxone from the definition of a dangerous drug to include any opioid antagonist when used for drug overdose prevention and authorizes the board of pharmacy to regulate the sale and supply of opioid antagonists through vending machines. The bill also repeals the requirement that an opioid antagonist must have a prescription in order for an individual who administers it to have civil, criminal, and professional immunity, and provides immunity for harm reduction organizations that supply opioid antagonists to certain individuals.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1050](#) (Mathiak-74th) Changes certain education requirements for licensure as a professional counselor or associate professional counselor, and states that The confidential relations and communications between a client and a licensed professional counselor, a licensed associate professional counselor, a master's social worker, a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed marriage and family therapist, or a licensed associate marriage and family therapist are placed upon the same basis as those provided by law between attorney and client.

*STATUS: Committee yet to be assigned*

[SB 336](#) (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Allows the heads of the certain state agencies to be represented by a delegate or agent at any meeting of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council or subcommittee meeting. Such representative will be counted toward a quorum, have all voting privileges as the member's delegate, and shall not be considered an absence of the member. Additionally, relating to

licensing provisions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, the bill authorizes the licensure board to waive all or a portion of the experience requirements for any applicant licensed under the laws of another jurisdiction who has maintained full licensure in good standing in such jurisdiction for a minimum of two years.

*STATUS: Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee*

### SB 350

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Prohibits the sale of consumable hemp products to, and the purchase or possession of consumable hemp products by individuals under the age of 21 years.

*STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee*

### SB 373

(Walker-20th) Provides for the issuance of expedited licenses by endorsement for marriage and family therapists.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

### SB 377

(Tillery-19th) Provides for the licensing of qualified residential treatment programs (QRTPs).

*STATUS: Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).*

### SB 395

(Dixon-45th) Authorizes schools to maintain a stock supply of opioid antagonists and trained school personnel to administer opioid antagonists and carry opioid antagonists on their person.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*



## Maternal & Infant Care

### HB 1030

(Crowe-118th) Authorizes ambulance services to accept physical custody of a newborn and authorizes the placement of newborn safety devices in a medical facility, fire station, police station, or ambulance service if the device is located in an area that is conspicuous and visible to employees, agents, or staff members of such facility or station and such facility or station is staffed by an emergency medical services provider on a 24 hour, seven days per week basis.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1037](#) (Daniel-117th) Creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health to assess and make recommendations regarding perinatal health. The Commission expires July 1, 2026.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1038](#) (Daniel-117th) Creates the offense of "reproductive battery, stating that a "physician commits the offense of reproductive battery if he or she intentionally transfers or implants into the body of a recipient human reproductive material from a donor knowing the recipient has not consented to the use of the human reproductive material from such donor." The bill also provides that consent to an anonymous donor is not a defense, sets out a statute of limitations and defines penalties, including the revocation of a physician's license.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee*

[SB 372](#) (Islam-Parkes-7th) Exempts tax on the sale or use of equipment, furniture, clothing, vitamins, toys, bedding, and other goods designed and customarily used for child-rearing from prenatal through age three.

*STATUS: Senate Finance Committee*



## Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time

[HB 941](#) (Erwin-32nd) Allows capital outlay funds to be used for educational facilities for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs (i.e., Georgia's Pre-K Program) provided by the school system; The bill also allows that student projection counts may include pre-kindergarten.

*STATUS: House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).*

[SB 360](#) (Hickman-4th) Provide that capital outlay funds may be used for educational facilities for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs provided by the school system; and that student projection counts may include pre-kindergarten.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*

[SB 386](#) (Dixon-45th) Provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state and increases funding to the state's Pre-K programs.

*STATUS: Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee*

[SR 471](#) (Albers-56th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Access to Affordable Child Care (including for school-age children).

*STATUS: Senate Children and Families Committee*

## K-12 Education

**HB 822** (Carpenter-4th) Provides that the prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention instruction is age appropriate and medically accurate; to include the subject of consent in such course of study.

*STATUS: House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).*

**HB 891** (Thomas-65th) Creates a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per year per student for certain social extracurricular expenses for home school students. Such expenses shall be limited to tuition or fees for participation or attendance in this state at any in-person children's sports league; children's group instructional class for ballet, dance, or martial arts; or instructional camp for groups of children.

*STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee*

**HB 899** (Davis-87th) Provides for QBE funding assistance to eligible public schools to reduce school violence and improve school safety and security.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

**HB 900** (Davis-87th) Establishes the Refugee and International Students Equalization (RISE) program to provide for funding and wraparound services for eligible students; defines "international student"; and establishes a program weight and teacher-student ratio for the RISE program in the QBE funding formula.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

**HB 914** (Barnes-86th) Authorizes local boards of education and other public school governing bodies to offer driver education as an elective course; to provide for funding from local funds, student fees subject to waiver, and state funding subject to appropriations.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

[HB 936](#)

(Bonner-73rd) Requires multiple occupancy restrooms and changing areas in public schools to be designated for exclusive use by males or females. The bill also states that a public school or local school system that sponsors or supervises an overnight trip involving public school students shall ensure that a public school student attending the overnight trip either shares sleeping quarters with a member or, if necessary, multiple members, of the same sex; or is provided single-occupancy sleeping quarters. A public school student attending an overnight trip may share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex if the member of the opposite sex is a member of such student's immediate family.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

[HB 970](#)

(Dickey-145th) Allows victims of human trafficking to be eligible for the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship.

*STATUS: House Higher Education Committee*

[HB 987](#)

(Cannon-172nd) Revises the definition of the term "qualified local school system school" by reducing the minimum required millage rate or equivalent millage rate from 14 mills to 10 mills.

*STATUS: House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).*

[HB 995](#)

(Bonner-73rd) Requires the administration of a nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military to public school students in grades 11 and 12 who choose to participate. The bill prohibits the use of assessment results in education accountability programs and allows for parents and guardians to opt their children out of participating in such assessments.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

[HB 1027](#)

(Ballard-147th) Provides that beginning in the 2026-2027 school year at least a half-credit computer science course shall be a high school graduation requirement; and that such course shall not include virtual or remote instruction, unless the only feasible opportunity for such student to complete such graduation requirement is through virtual or remote instruction.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

**HB 1036**

(Daniel-117th) Requires a course of instruction in pregnancy, health, and human development for students in grades nine through 12 and that such course of instruction be included in the course of instruction regarding health and physical education. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to consult with the Department of Public Health to develop the course.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

**HB 1045**

(Clark-100th) Requires each school in this state that receives state funding for education to give notice and receive written consent prior to providing students in kindergarten through grade 12 with sexual orientation or gender identity instruction, and prohibits school nurses, counselors, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel from knowingly encouraging or coercing a student under the age of 18 years to withhold from his or her parent or legal guardian that his or her perception of his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex or from knowingly withholding from the parent or legal guardian of a student under the age of 18 years information related to his or her perception that his or her gender is inconsistent with his or her sex.

*STATUS: House Education Committee*

**SB 105**

(Walker-20th) Revises the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retiree retirement benefits payable upon normal, early, or delayed retirement in the Public School Employees Retirement System.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Retirement Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

**SB 147**

(Still-48th) "Boundless Opportunities for Georgia Students Act" - Permits student transfers between local school systems without contracts between the local school system where the student resides and the local school system where the student seeks to enroll. The bill also caps tuition that can be charged to a student by an enrolling local unit of administration that exclusively provides virtual instruction to such student.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

**SB 208**

(Dolezal-27th) Allows each local board of education of a high growth school system to, by resolution, impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees within any area of such school system with a total increase in student enrollment of 20% or more during the immediately preceding ten-year period.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*



**SB 233**

(Dolezal-27th) Creates the 'Georgia Promise Scholarship Act', which would provide \$6,500 per student to families for qualified education-related expenses outside of the public school system. Qualified education expenses include tuition at a participating school, tutoring, and purchase of curriculum, professional services, transportation, and other expenses authorized by the State Board of Education. Funds will go into an account controlled by a parent to be used for qualified education expenses. In order to allow parents and taxpayers to measure the achievements of this program, students participating must take nationally norm-referenced tests that measure student academic progress in math and language arts annually. The bill stipulates reporting requirements participating schools must provide annually to the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Department of Education. The commission must annually report to the General Assembly on the previous fiscal year's promise scholarship recipients and their respective schools.

*STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.*

**SB 365**

(Dolezal-27th) Provide for notification to parents and legal guardians of public school students of the right to receive email notification each time their child obtains school library materials. The bill also expands the definition of "public record" relating to inspection of students' records by parents.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*

**SB 379**

(Harbin-16th) Authorizes local school systems and public schools to employ or accept as a volunteer school chaplain, and provides that school chaplains shall provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*

**SB 405**

(Dixon-45th) Lowers the age of eligibility from 18 to 16 for certain students to be enrolled in a completion special school.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*

**SR 189**

(Dolezal-27th) Constitutional Amendment for enabling legislation (SB 208) that provides that the General Assembly may by general law authorize local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees and use the proceeds to pay for a share of the cost of additional educational facilities.

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



## Higher Education

### HB 130

(Gambill-15th) 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 will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).*

### HB 853

(Bell-75th) Repeals the "Drug-free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990," thereby removing provisions that make students convicted of certain drug offenses ineligible for loans, scholarships, and grants. Notably, the bill provides that students shall not be deemed ineligible for HOPE scholarships or grants based solely on certain convictions.

*STATUS: Prefile*

### HB 982

(Gambill-15th) Requires the State Workforce Development Board to develop, approve, and annually publish a High-demand Career List identifying those careers most critical to the state's current and future workforce needs, and the Office of Student Achievement to work in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board to audit and report on the effectiveness of employment, wage attainment, and retention of students in programs that align with the High-demand Career List.

*STATUS: House Higher Education Committee*

### HB 985

(Martin-49th) Abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and transfers any obligations, liabilities, or assets to the Georgia Student Finance Authority.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.*

### SB 385

(Williams-25th) Revises legislative intent language regarding postsecondary study beyond the second year level at the Georgia Military College.

*STATUS: Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee*

### SB 399

(Echols-49th) Encourages and state expectations for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and local boards of education to enter into and

amend existing agreements with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia for awarding postsecondary course credits that are transferrable between the university system and the technical college system.

*STATUS: Senate Higher Education Committee*



## Environmental Safety

### HB 855

(Au-50th) Proposes a tax credit for eligible expenses up to \$300 per year related to firearm safe storage devices. The bill caps the total amount of tax credits allowed for any year at \$5 million.

*STATUS: Prefile*

### HB 971

(Newton-127th) Provides for a tax credit (\$300 tax credit per lifetime maximum) for certain eligible expenses incurred for firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices; to provide for an aggregate annual cap of \$5 Million.

*STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee*

### SB 340

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Exempts sales of firearm safes and firearm safety devices from sales and use taxes.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.*

### SB 351

(Anavitate-31st) Requires local boards of education to adopt, implement, and enforce social media policies; and authorizes the Attorney General and the Department of Education to consult with and assist local boards of education in the development and implementation of such policies. Additionally, the bill requires social medial platforms to provide certain information to parents upon request; and gives enforcement authority to the Attorney General.

*STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee*

### SB 402

(Ginn-47th) Allows those with intermediate driver's licenses (Class D licenses) to drive Class C vehicles (i.e., vehicles designed to carry sixteen or more passengers (including the driver), or used to transport hazardous materials in quantities that require a placard) on roads and streets but not on highways. The bill also allows such driver to have one non-family passenger in the Class C vehicle.

*STATUS: Senate Public Safety Committee*

### SB 406

(Dixon-45th) Establishes a grant program to fund the creation of school mapping data for inclusion in the state-wide first responder building mapping information system and provides for standards for school mapping data.

*STATUS: Senate Public Safety Committee*

### SB 408

(Brass-28th) Removes the Board of Natural Resources' authority to require the regulation of fluoridation of potable public water supplies in incorporated communities.

*STATUS: Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee*

## Shelter & Nutrition

### HB 404

(Carpenter-4th) Requires that rental properties are fit for human habitation. The bill includes cooling as a utility that cannot be shut off prior to an eviction action. Landlords are prohibited from requiring a security deposit that exceeds two months' rent. A tenant, when they fail to pay charges owed to landlord, is afforded a three business day written notice period prior to an eviction proceeding being filed. The eviction notice will be posted conspicuously on the property door in a sealed envelope and delivered via any methods agreed to in the rental agreement.

*STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.*

### HB 852

(Bell-75th) Repeals the prohibition on local governments regulating the amount of rent to be charged for privately owned, single-family or multiple-unit residential rental property.

*STATUS: Prefile*

### HB 965

(Scott-76th) Provides for 60 days' notice of rental increase by landlord to tenant.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Committee*

### HB 1017

(Seabaugh-34th) Includes when a person enters a land or premises for purposes of residing on such land or premises into the definition of criminal trespass.

*STATUS: House Judiciary Committee*

### HB 1034

(Franklin-160th) Designates the fourth Friday in November of each year as "National Sugarcane Syrup Day", because, frankly, why not?

*STATUS: House Special Rules Committee*

## [HB 1048](#)

(Carpenter-4th) Designates cornbread as the official state bread.

*STATUS: House Special Rules Committee*

## [HB 1055](#)

(Neal-79th) "Georgia Eviction Records Restriction Act" - Provides that certain records of dispossession actions during the COVID-19 public health emergency may be sealed from the public if the dispossession action was a result of any of the following: extraordinary financial and economic hardships beyond such person's control; COVID-19 related illness; loss of employment; or inability to obtain certain public benefits that were allocated for renters (If public benefits were obtained, such person shall demonstrate that such public benefits were used for their intended purpose).

*STATUS: Committee yet to be assigned*



## Miscellaneous

### [HB 30](#)

(Carson-46th) Provides a definition of antisemitism for purposes of state government, using the advisory definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on May 26, 2016. IHRA defines antisemitism as a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews, and includes rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions, and religious facilities. An agency that enforces any criminal or noncriminal law or regulation that prohibits discrimination will consider the definition of antisemitism during that enforcement. Nothing in the bill will be construed to infringe upon First Amendment rights or an individual's right to engage in legally protected conduct or activity pertaining to U.S. foreign policy or international affairs.

***STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits the governor's consideration.***

### [HB 501](#)

(Silcox-53rd) Removes the age cap that applies to age discrimination claims in the state by making it apply to those age 40 years or older. The bill also allows a minor 14 years or older to be employed during school vacations for purposes of working in the care and maintenance of lawns, gardens, and shrubbery owned and leased by the employer of the minor, including the operation of equipment. The minor must be covered by an insurance plan for accident or sickness, or a workers' compensation plan. The bill preempts localities from requiring issuance of an employment certificate or a youth work permit as a condition of payment or requiring an employer to obtain an employment certificate from a minor. The commissioner of the Department of Labor is permitted to investigate the age of any minor employed, hear evidence, and require the production of relevant books and records.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Industry and Labor Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.*

**HB 738**

(Hilton-48th) Creates the Task Force on Workforce and Safety Net Integration, which is composed of nine members, within the Department of Labor. The task force must determine how state agencies and departments can improve workforce development programs or improve employment situations for workers, while also reviewing whether certain agencies should be merged to better accomplish those tasks. The task force is required to create an implementation strategy for an integrated delivery system and to consult with the commissioner of labor; the state school superintendent; and the commissioners of human services, community affairs, early care and learning, and public health. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, and the task force will stand abolished on December 31, 2025.

*STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Industry and Labor Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.*

**HB 851**

(Bell-75th) Exempts the sale of food and food ingredients to individual consumers for off-premises human consumption from all local sales and use taxes.

*STATUS: Prefile*

**HB 858**

(Bell-75th) Provides for the issuance of an alternative state identification card by the Department of Driver Services. Notably, the bill states that the department shall make a notation on the driving record of any person who retains a foreign identification card or driver's license, and this information shall be made available to law enforcement officers and agencies on such person's driving record through the Georgia Crime Information Center.

*STATUS: Prefile*

**HB 859**

(Bell-75th) Repeals the state income tax in its entirety.

*STATUS: Prefile*

**HB 870**

(Washburn-144th) Provides that Georgia shall at all times observe the standard time of the United States.

*STATUS: House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee*

**HB 880**

(Ballard-147th) Allows military spouses to use an existing license in good standing from another state to obtain employment in Georgia.

[HB 887](#) *STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee*  
(Thomas-65th) Prohibits the use of artificial intelligence in making certain decisions regarding insurance coverage, healthcare, or public assistance.

*STATUS: House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee*

[HB 890](#) (Thomas-65th) Provides for protections against discrimination by artificial intelligence and automated decision tools.

*STATUS: House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee*

[HB 923](#) (Taylor-92nd) Provides for issuance of a special license plate for individuals with a physical, mental, or neurological condition which impedes the ability to communicate, and for notation of such condition upon a driver's license.

*STATUS: House Motor Vehicles Committee*

[HB 940](#) (Jones-25th) Requires retail stores to accept cash for purchases.

*STATUS: House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee*

[HB 955](#) (Bruce-61st) Creates the Georgia Equity and Fairness Commission for examining the impact of chattel slavery on the descendants of chattel slavery and recommending appropriate remedies, therefore.

*STATUS: House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee*

[HB 964](#) (Scott-76th) Provides for ethics and inclusivity training for firefighters, paramedics, and cardiac technicians.

*STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee*

[HB 968](#) (Schofield-63rd) Requires the establishment of blocked trust accounts for minors rendering artistic or creative services and for the Commissioner of Labor to investigate and determine conditions of employment of child performers prior to the commencement of such employment. The bill also to provides for requirements related to blocked trust accounts for child performers, and for requirements related to such accounts for minors engaged in video content on online platforms.

*STATUS: House Industry and Labor Committee*

[HB 1002](#) (Camp-135th) Relating to lottery for education, so as to provide for redemption for successful play of bona fide coin operated amusement machines through gift cards at automated kiosks under certain conditions.

*STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee*

[HB 1010](#) (Jones-47th) Increases the number of hours permitted for paid parental leave from 120 hours to 240 hours and specifies that individuals employed full time by local education agencies are eligible employees for paid parental leave.

*STATUS: House Public Health Committee*

[HB 1021](#) (Daniel-117th) Increases the amount of the dependent exemption from \$3,000 per dependent to \$4,000 per dependent.

*STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee*

[HB 1024](#) (Blackmon-146th) Repeals the limitation on the maximum percentage of net revenue allowed to be held in the Revenue Shortfall Reserve.

*STATUS: House Appropriations Committee*

[HB 1026](#) (Hagan-156th) Designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia.

*STATUS: House Special Rules Committee*

[HR 779](#) (Efstration-104th) 2024 Legislative Session Adjournment Resolution (schedule)

***STATUS: PASSED & ADOPTED***

[SB 172](#) (Cowsert-46th) Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting, overseen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

*STATUS: Recommended DO PASS by Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. Currently TABLED in the Senate.*

[SB 390](#) (Walker-20th) Prohibits the Board of Regents from using any public funds on any materials, services, or operations offered by the American Library Association or any of its affiliates. The bill also prohibits the Department of Administrative Services from accepting any bid or proposal made by the American Library Association or any of its affiliates for a state contract.

*STATUS: Senate Government Oversight Committee*

[SB 394](#) (Dixon-45th) "Restricting Explicit and Adult-designated Educational Resources (READER) Act" - Defines the terms "harmful to minors," "restricted materials," and "sexually explicit materials"; and requires the State Board of Education to establish standards for the designation of restricted materials by local boards of education, standards for the use and restriction of instructional materials, and standards for the use and restriction of public school library collection materials.



## Advocacy Asks

Pick an ask!

- [Out-of-School Time Funds and Liaison](#)
- [Qualified Residential Treatment Programs](#)

### [Ask #1: Out-of-School Time Funds and Liaison](#)

#### The Ask:

Ask members of the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee to:

1. **Fund afterschool and summer enrichment programs** by re-upping the Georgia Dept. of Education's BOOST grants funding (suggested funding \$20 million a year); and,
2. **Create an Out-of-School Time liaison position**, preferably in the GaDOE to coordinate OST policy across the three state agencies that handle OST programs: GaDOE, Dept. of Human Services, and Dept. of Early Care and Learning.

#### What's BOOST?

For the last three years, GaDOE, in partnership with GSAN, used a total of \$85 Million in COVID relief funding to create the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grant program, which has funded evidence-based afterschool and summer learning programs. The federal funds for the program are about to expire, but the BOOST outcomes for kids have been amazing! *Therefore, in order to keep the progress for kids going*, Georgia needs to target dollars into more grants, which we are calling "BOOST 2.0".

#### The Why:

**The BOOST 2.0 Grant Program** will build off the existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST. This will:

- Create a statewide framework that expands access to and assures quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
- Prioritize funding support to OST programs that serve vulnerable youth, such as those who are economically disadvantaged, have a disability, and English language learners.
- Use existing state infrastructure to provide training and technical assistance to OST providers fiscal administration, quality measurement, program effectiveness, and provider leadership.
- Leverage program evaluation and evidence collection strategies embedded within the BOOST grant to determine how to best serve current and prospective afterschool and summer learning providers in the future.

**An Interagency Liaison** can coordinate afterschool and summer programming between DECAL, DHS/DFCS, and GaDOE. If such a liaison is placed in Georgia Department of Education (Office of Whole Child Supports), efficiencies and communications can be maximized in:

- Alignment and coordination of OST services provided to youth and families;
- Development of reliable protocols for interagency communication regarding implementation of similar youth enrichment programs;
- Streamlining of grant application and administration to help both large and small organizations; and
- Streamlining of training, technical assistance, and professional learning provided to organizations funded and/or licensed by the agencies.

[For more on OST Funding and Programs in GA, check out our Brief!](#)

### The Message:

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

I have two requests related to afterschool and summer enrichment funding. First, please include money in the FY25 budget to continue the afterschool and summer enrichment funding known as BOOST (Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time) grants. Also, please include funding for an interagency out-of-school-time liaison at the GaDOE to coordinate the OST policies across the three state agencies that house programs and dollars related to out-of-school time programming. The federal COVID relief dollars that created BOOST are running out and BOOST has been key to student success in academic recovery, mental health, and child wellbeing. These programs are crucial in helping working parents work without concerns about the safety and nurturing of their school-aged children.

Demand for afterschool programs is high. For every child in an afterschool program in Georgia, an estimated 2 more are waiting to get in, and supports for kids in afterschool and summer enrichment improve literacy and learning, youth mental health and behaviors, and vital career-ready skills. Thank you for your consideration of these requests and thank you for all you do every day on behalf of Georgia's children and families.

### Who to Contact:

House Appropriations Education Subcommittee Members:

[Rep. Matt Dubnik](#), 404-463-2246

[Rep. Leesa Hagan](#), 404-656-0325

[Rep. Kimberly Alexander](#), 404-656-7859

[Rep. Robert Dickey](#), 404-656-5099

[Rep. Chris Erwin](#), 404-656-0188

[Rep. Edna Jackson](#), 404-656-0265

[Rep. Jan Jones](#), 404-656-5072

[Rep. Todd Jones](#), 404-656-9210

[Rep. Will Wade](#), 404-651-7737

House Appropriations Chairman [Matt Hatchett](#),  
(404) 463-2247

### [Ask #2: Qualified Residential Treatment Programs](#)

#### The Ask

Ask members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to vote YES on [Senate Bill 377](#) when it comes before them in committee TODAY. This bill allows for the licensure of **Qualified Residential Treatment Programs** (QRTPs).

#### What is a QRTP?

- The federal [Families First Prevention Services Act](#) (see [Voices FFPSA factsheet here](#)) created "Qualified Residential Treatment Programs" (QRTPs) to ensure children being cared for by

families could access appropriate residential treatment when needed. QRTPs can receive federal foster care payments for services provided to eligible children who have treatment needs that cannot be met in a family-based setting.

- A QRTP is a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed to address needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances, and meets other requirements outlined in the FFPSA.
- QRTPs serve children at risk of entering, or who are in the foster care system whose behavioral health needs are not so great as to warrant services of a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), yet significant enough to require therapeutic oversight in a residential setting.
- QRTPs are a preferred, *effective and restorative* alternative to the “hoteling” of children in DFCS offices or hotels.

### **The Message**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

Please vote YES on [Senate Bill 377](#) when it comes before you in the Senate Health and Human Services committee TODAY. A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) is a trauma-informed treatment model that serves children at risk of entering, or who are in the foster care system with serious emotional or behavioral health needs. QRTPs are an *effective and restorative* alternative to the “hoteling” of children in DFCS offices or hotels. Thank you for your attention to this situation and for your service to the children and families of our great state.

### **Who to Contact**

#### [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#)

[Sen. Matt Brass](#), 404-656-0057

[Sen. Gloria Butler](#), 404-656-0075

[Sen. Shelly Echols](#), 404-656-6578

[Sen. Sonya Halpern](#), 404-463-1351

[Sen. Bo Hatchett](#), 404-656-7454

[Sen. Mike Hodges](#), 404-656-9644

[Sen. Chuck Hufstetler](#), 404-656-0034

[Sen. Kim Jackson](#), 404-656-6882

[Sen. John F. Kennedy](#), 404-656-6578

[Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick](#), 404-656-3932

[Sen. David Lucas](#), 404-656-0150

[Sen. Nan Orrock](#), 404-463-8054

[Sen. Ed Setzler](#), 404-656-7857

[Sen. Brian Strickland](#), 404-463-6598

[Sen. Larry Walker](#), 404-656-0095

[Sen. Ben Watson](#), 404-656-7880

## **Upcoming Events**

Monday, January 29 (TODAY!)	GA-CALL: Child Welfare Policies for Today and Tomorrow
Tuesdays, Beginning January 16	Talk Justice Tuesdays
Wednesday, February 14	Afterschool Day at the Capitol, <a href="#">Register Here</a>
Thursday, February 22	GEEARS Strolling Thunder
Tuesday, February 27, 5-7pm	Reception in Celebration of Children, <a href="#">Learn more</a>

## Other Helpful Resources

- [Find Your Legislator](#)
- [Contact Your Legislator](#)
- [Voices' 2\(ish\) Minute Takes](#)
- [Voices' Factsheets](#)
- [Voices' Whole Child Primer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#)