

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 2, 2024

A person can't spend countless hours at the Capitol as a lobbyist, advocate or Tourist of Government (TOG) without a certain appreciation for the amazing things that occur on a regular basis, as if by magic. Much like the Brothers Grimm tale of the [Elves and the Shoemaker](#), (where these little naked elves (please don't ban this book!) scoot into a poor cobbler's shop to help him out by making fancy footwear while he slept), or the recent true story of a [mouse who cleaned up a guy's workbench each night](#), the Georgia State House is full of hidden worker bees who, almost invisibly, keep everything running smoothly while the rest of us flop around like fish on a Sine Die frying pan, trying to figure out when Rules is meeting, who has the latest committee sub, or if it is actually possible to get locked in the CLOB until next session while you are looking for the umbrella you lost two weeks ago. These unsung heroes, namely the nonpartisan staffs of the House Clerk's Office, the Secretary of the Senate's Office and Legislative Counsel, spend many hours, when the rest of us Elvises have "left the building", keeping track of, drafting, uploading and printing thousands of bills, resolutions and affiliated outcomes for all the players of the yearly Policy Chess Tournament. They guide speakers, presidents, pro tems and 230+ elected-types through the maze of parliamentary procedures and legislative line numbers. Without complaint, they perform millions of bill summaries, read aloud to chambers, with clarity at an almost inhuman speed, and without hiccup or emotion. I stand in awe of these superheroes! For, without their exemplary professionalism, our government would resemble my overloaded and disorganized (and wet) basement, hosting a Squirrel WCW event, complete with pummeling, confetti cannons, bicycle and folding chair-throwing, and no clear winner.

While I am at it, I also want to give a big-ol' airhorn shout out to the Voices elves! Need 53 factsheets at 5am on a Tuesday? We gotcha! Need 471 Cookies for Afterschool Day at the Capitol or a Pre-k Week Launch event? We gotcha! Need an in-depth policy brief on something we never (*ever*) expected to do a policy brief on? We gotcha there too! Whether it was pivot for a weather-cancellatd panel (Yes, "cancellatd" is a new and useful word. You're welcome. ☺) or a last minute Jimmy John's order for forgotten and starving capitol admins, the [Voices/GSAN team](#) was there. They, in partnership with volumes of other good-deed-doers, from allies in the child policy space (like y'all!) to our "friends in the Halls", have kept many unpleasant issues at bay, pushed many happy ones forward, and shared the heartbreak of a few. It all leaves me knowing that while this work can be overwhelming, exhausting and sometimes extraordinarily frustrating, it is nevertheless worthy for all those babies, kids and families we are trying to help, and also worthy by virtue of the simple fact that y'all are there in the change-making alongside us. So, to each of you, we offer a very warm, very heartfelt thanks.

Until next time -

Polly

PS - Don't forget to thank some lawmakers with the Action Alert below, and to leave a little piece of cheese for that tidy mouse!

Jump to Section:

- [FY25 State Budget – as Passed by the House and the Senate](#)
- [Justice, Public Safety, and School Discipline](#)
- [Child Welfare and Protection](#)
- [Health & Behavioral Health](#)
- [Maternal & Infant Care](#)
- [Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time](#)
- [K-12 Education](#)
- [Higher Education](#)
- [Environmental Safety](#)
- [Shelter & Nutrition](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- [Advocacy Asks](#)

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget as Passed by the House and the Senate
Total State Funds: \$36.14 Billion

Note: upon his final consideration, the Governor may line-item veto this budget, but may not add expenditures to it. The legislature may override any line-item veto therein by means of a 2/3 majority the next time they convene.

Statewide

- Increase funds to provide for a 4% cost-of-living-adjustment for state employees not to exceed \$3,000.
- Increase funds to provide an additional \$3,000 targeted salary enhancement for selected POST certified law enforcement officers.
- Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 65.89% to 66.04%. (DBHDD, DCH/Medicaid LIM, DCH/PeachCare, DCH/GBHCW-GME, DHS/Adoption Services,)
- Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 65.89% to 60.04% (DCH/Medicaid ABD, DPH/Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services)
- Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) from 76.12% to 76.23%. (DHS/Dept. Admin, DHS/Out of Home Care)

Jump to Agency:

- [State Accounting Office](#)
- [Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Dept. of Community Affairs](#)
- [Dept. of Community Health](#)
- [Dept. of Community Supervision](#)
- [Dept. of Corrections](#)
- [Dept. of Defense](#)
- [Dept. of Early Care and Learning](#)
- [Dept. of Education](#)
- [Dept. of Human Services](#)
- [Office of the Commissioner of Insurance](#)
- [Georgia Bureau of Investigation](#)
- [Criminal Justice Coordinating Council](#)
- [Council of Accountability Court Judges](#)
- [Dept. of Juvenile Justice](#)
- [Dept. of Law](#)
- [Dept. of Public Health](#)
- [Dept. of Public Safety](#)
- [University System of Georgia Board of Regents](#)
- [Secretary of State](#)
- [Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)
- [Technical College System of Georgia](#)
- [Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund](#)

Judicial Council

- \$32,444 Added to annualize one Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) statewide coordinator position for the Council of Accountability Court Judges.
- \$0 Added for personnel for one project coordinator position. (Governor sought an \$83,807 addition)
- \$209,500 Added for Civil Legal Services for families of indigent patients.
- \$150,000 Added for two information technology positions and operations to support the juvenile courts case management system.
- \$0 Added for Department of Human Services Child Support Services contract to support recruitment and retention needs. (Governor sought a \$67,864 addition)

Prosecuting Attorneys

- \$1.125 Million Transferred from the Prosecuting Attorney's Council program for the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission program.
- \$1 Million Added for a repeat offender and gang case management system.

Juvenile Courts

- \$25,000 Added for grants to counties for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit
- \$25,000 Added for grants to counties for the Coweta Judicial Circuit
- \$218,000 Added for the Juvenile Court Judges' salary supplement pursuant to the General Appropriations for FY 2023 (HB 911). Senate added this note and the Conference Committee agreed on an additional note: "Beginning in FY 2023, a \$6,000 supplement has been paid to juvenile court judges who certified no backlog of cases existed in their

courts. There is ambiguity surrounding whether the purpose of this allocation has been followed. A new data system should answer questions concerning case backlogs. Therefore, this \$6,000 supplement shall cease on February 1, 2025 for any juvenile court judge who has not adopted a uniform case management system that at a minimum provides the period of time that a child has been in Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) custody pending permanency.”

State Accounting Office

Budget Direction: Change program name from Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission to State Ethics Commission pursuant to HB 572 (2023 Session).

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Adult Developmental Disability Services

- **\$9.38 Million Added** to annualize the cost of 500 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$2.35 Million Added** for 100 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$79.9 Million Recognized agency-wide transfers:** (\$4,947,743) from the Adult Forensic Services, Adult Mental Health Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and Departmental Administration (DBHDD) programs to the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services program and increase funds (\$74,953,932) to implement the New Option Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Option Waiver Program (COMP) provider rate study.
- **\$3.2 Million Added** to operationalize the Macon Crisis Stabilization Diagnostic Center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$108,000 Added** for adult autism services.

Adult Forensic Services

- **\$3.22 Million Added** to staff and operate a forensic step-down unit to address the statewide waitlist.
- **\$2 Million Added** for an additional 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot in Dodge County.
- **\$500,000 Added** for the expansion of the Cobb County jail-based restoration program.

Adult Mental Health Services

- **\$9.48 Million Added** for a behavioral health crisis center in DBHDD's Region 1.
- **\$11.42 Million Reduced** to reflect decreased demand for core adult mental health services.
- **\$3.79 Million Added** to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County.
- **\$1.59 Million Added** to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center for the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia in Dublin.
- **\$1.22 Million Added** to annualize the operations of a behavioral health crisis center for Serenity Behavioral Health Systems in Augusta.
- **\$825,000 Eliminated** (they were one-time funds) to coordinate outreach to address homelessness in the Atlanta area.
- **\$26.66 Million Added** to match rate implementation of the Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS) provider rate study for uninsured Georgians and transfer funds (\$4,227,287) from the Department of Community Health for Georgians covered by Medicaid.
- **\$300,000 Added** to support staffing of the '988' hotline.
- **\$0 Million Added** for the Georgia Housing Voucher program with the direction from the Conference Committee: “Recognize base funds of \$25,919,311 for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement and pause increase in funding for Georgia Housing Voucher program awaiting response from the US Department of Justice (DOJ) concerning progress towards substantial compliance with the Olmstead Settlement Agreement.”

- **\$200,000 Added** for behavioral health services for Georgians experiencing homelessness in the Atlanta area.
- **\$300,000 Added** for behavioral health and support services at a rehousing facility.

Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities

- **\$300,000 Added** to expand enrichment activities, family support, and employment opportunities for children and young adults with developmental disabilities.
- **\$200,000 Added** for autism early screening and care training in rural counties.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

- **\$600,000 Eliminated** (they were one-time funds) for Georgia psychiatric residential treatment facilities receiving less than \$500 per patient day while under current cost report reimbursement methodology.
- **\$125,000 Added** for operations of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah.
- **\$1 Million Added** for the Georgia Apex Program to expand mental health services in schools.

Sexual Offender Risk Review Board

- **\$532,357 Added** for two new evaluator positions to address the growth of the existing caseload backlog.
- **\$2 Million Added** to address sexual offender caseload backlog.
- *Budget Direction:* Change the name of the Sexual Offender Review Board to the Sexual Offender Risk Review Board.

Dept. of Community Affairs

- **\$1 Million Added** to create the accountable housing initiative.
- **\$3.8 Million Added** plus existing funds (\$800,000) and transferred funds from State Community Development Programs (\$400,000) for the State Housing Trust Fund to improve homelessness services and pursue new federal grant opportunities. (Total Funds: \$4,597,416)
- Use Existing Funds (\$6 Million) for the Rural Workforce Housing Program.

Dept. of Community Health

Departmental Administration

- **\$1.53 Million Added** for 20 positions to monitor, evaluate, and improve Care Management Organization oversight.
- **\$1.37 Million Reduced** for savings resulting from the implementation of the Medicaid Enterprise System Transformation Program.
- *Budget Direction:* Evaluate reimbursement parity between all children's hospitals in the state and report findings to House and Senate Appropriations Committees by July 1, 2024.
- *Budget Direction:* The department shall submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to change and rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow for reimbursement of long-acting injectable medications used in an inpatient setting to improve the coordination of care and reduce inpatient readmission rates for individuals with serious mental illness.
- **\$1.09 Million Transferred** funds from the Medicaid: Aged, Blind and Disabled program to the Departmental Administration (DCH) program to implement a sickle cell managed care pilot program.
- **\$200,000 Added** to establish the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission pursuant to HB 1339 (2024 Session).

Health Care Access and Improvement

- **\$2 Million Eliminated** (they were one-time funds) for grants up to \$1,000,000 for hospitals with graduate medical education programs.
- **\$500,000 Eliminated** one-time start-up funding for federally qualified health centers.

- **\$750,000 Added** for three federally qualified health center start-up grants for primary care in Union County, behavioral health expansion in Cobb County, and a dental service expansion for multiple counties.
- **\$0 Million Added** for continuous glucose monitors (SB 35, 2024 Session). *(House sought \$2.81 Million here but the Senate moved and increased the amount. See below in ABD Medicaid)*
- \$292,000 Recognized existing funds (\$409,000) and provide additional funds to sustain existing area health education centers (AHEC) housing across the state.
- **\$0 Added** for emergency equipment. *(House sought \$250,000)*
- **\$0 Added** for rural hospital stabilization grants. *(House sought \$2 Million)*

Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled

- **\$21.59 Reduced** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization. *(Governor had recommended an ADDITION of \$68.44 Million)*
- **\$137.72 Million Restored** to reflect the termination of temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension through December 31, 2023.
- **\$141.59 Million Added** for skilled nursing centers to reflect 2022 cost reports.
- Replace \$2,541,738 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- Replace \$201,221 in state general funds with nursing home provider fees.
- \$0 State dollars added but instead, transfer state funds (\$4,227,287) to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and recognize federal funds (\$45,509,162) for the implementation of the Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS) provider rate study. *(Governor asked for an addition of \$4.23 Million for the same purpose.)*
- Moved to DBHDD section (see below): Recognize funds for the New Option Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Option Waiver Program (COMP) provider rate study in federal funds totaling \$155.12 Million.
- **\$15.96 Million Added** for the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP).
- Budget Direction: The department shall evaluate and implement a reimbursement policy for the clinically appropriate administration of long-acting injectable medications used in an inpatient setting, to improve the coordination of care and reduce inpatient readmission rates for individuals with serious mental illness.
- **\$1.18 Million Added** to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers.
- **\$220,084 Added** to increase the dispensing fee to \$11.50 for independent low-volume pharmacies that fill under 65,000 prescriptions per year.
- **\$3.81 Million Added** for adult coverage of dental services.
- **\$0 Million Added** for emergency medical service (EMS) transport reimbursement to begin at mile 0. *(House sought \$1.59 Million addition)*
- **\$2.7 Million Added** to increase select primary care and OB/GYN codes.
- **\$64,947 Added** rate increases for select optometric codes.
- **\$5.61 Million added** for continuous glucose monitors (SB35, 2024 Session).
- **\$1.09 Million Transferred funds** from the Medicaid: Aged, Blind and Disabled program to the Departmental Administration (DCH) program to implement a sickle cell managed care pilot program.

Medicaid - Low Income

- **\$111.46 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$135.04 Million Restored** to reflect the termination of temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension through December 31, 2023.
- Replace \$22,875,637 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

- Budget Direction: The department shall evaluate and implement a reimbursement policy for the clinically appropriate administration of long-acting injectable medications used in an inpatient setting, to improve the coordination of care and reduce inpatient readmission rates for individuals with serious mental illness.
- **\$3.67 Million Added** to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers.
- **\$1.24 Million Added** for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS) and Children's Intervention School Services. (CISS).
- **\$0 Added** for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS) and Children's Intervention School Services. (CISS). (*House sought \$1.24 Million*)
- **\$428,745 Added** to increase the dispensing fee to \$11.50 for independent low-volume pharmacies that fill under 65,000 prescriptions per year.
- **\$6.76 Million Added** for adult coverage of dental services. (*House sought \$5.84 Million*)
- **\$0 Added** for emergency medical service (EMS) transport reimbursement to begin at mile 0. (*House sought \$1.81 Million addition*)
- **\$9.99 Million Added** to increase select primary care and OB/GYN codes.
- **\$327,226 Added** for rate increases for select optometric codes.
- **\$283,995 Added** to evaluate and, where appropriate, implement a process to allow reimbursement for blood and biomarker testing when clinically indicated so as to provide enhanced surveillance for inpatient pregnant patients between 23-34 weeks with hypertensive disorder of pregnancy.

PeachCare for Kids

- **\$22.85 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$624,566 Restored** to reflect the termination of temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension through December 31, 2023.
- **\$0 Added** for reimbursement of Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) and Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) providing services for Medicaid members receiving Children's Intervention Services (CIS) and Children's Intervention School Services (CISS). (*House sought \$93,500*)

State Health Benefits Plan

- *Budget Direction:* Recognize an increase in formula funds (\$248,279,937) in the Department of Education, Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Military College, and Public Libraries, to reflect an increase in the employer healthcare contribution per-member per month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees and lead and assistant teachers to \$1,760, effective July 1, 2024.
- *Budget Direction:* Increase the employer health care contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) to \$1,580 for non-certified school employees, effective January 1, 2025, and continue to increase as needed in future fiscal years to match the PMPM for certified school employees to maintain financial stability of the plan.

GA Board of Healthcare Workforce

- \$100,000 of existing funds used for statewide healthcare specialty assessments to evaluate gaps in healthcare services.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education

- **\$2.01 Million Added** for 105 new residency slots in primary care.
- **\$56,757 Added** for a rural public health preventative medicine rotation.
- **\$50,000 Added** one-time start-up funds for the development of a Pediatric Rural Training Track.
- **\$150,000 Added** for year two of the maternal fetal medicine fellowship.
- **\$750,000 Added** for one-time start-up funds for OB/GYN service expansion.

- **\$0 Added** one-time start-up funds for two internal medicine residency programs. (*House sought \$550,000, but the Senate suggested using \$3.49 Million in existing funds instead.*)
- **\$150,000 Eliminated** in residency start-up funds for Southern Regional Medical Center.
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$3,494,140) for start-up grants for hospitals with graduate medical education programs to support new and expanding residency programs with priority given to existing agreements and rural sites.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Mercer School of Medicine Grant

- **\$850,055 Added** for the fifth year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine's medical school campus in Columbus.
- **\$1.23 Million Added** to increase the class size of Mercer's Accelerated Track.
- **\$500,000 Added** to provide one-time matching funds to recognize private fundraising for scholarships for year four students committed to practicing primary care for five years in rural Georgia.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Morehouse School of Medicine Grant

- **\$500,000 Added** for infant mortality research.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas

- **\$900,000 Added** for additional loan repayment for Dentists in Rural Areas.

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- **\$501,715 Added** for one-time funding to modernize licensure application software.

Dept. of Community Supervision

- **\$1.18 Million Added** for 17 community supervision aide positions.
- **\$527,905 Added** for 7 community coordinator positions. (Governor's Office of Transition Support and Reentry)

Dept. of Corrections

- **\$3.42 Million Added** across the agency for operational costs at facilities statewide.
- **\$2.55 Million Added** to maintain advertising campaign, culture review, and salary funding for CO3 positions
- **\$1.23 Million Added** to provide additional meals on weekends
- **\$71.97 Million Added** for physical health and pharmacy service contracts.

Private Prisons

- **\$6.96 Million Added** to provide 200 temporary additional beds at Coffee and Wheeler facilities to allow for maintenance and repairs at state prisons.

State Prisons

- **\$240,427 Added** for Technical College System of Georgia vocational education contracts.
- **\$1 Million Added** for offender call monitoring at facilities, statewide.
- **\$331,000 Added** for radio communications at facilities, statewide.
- **\$17.54 Million Added** for capital maintenance and repairs.
- **\$1.82 Million Reduced** for closing HR recruitment centers in favor of increased advertising.
- **\$2.93 Million Reduced** for replacing Basic Correctional Officer Training paper books with Chromebooks.
- **\$10.79 Million Added** for safety, security, and technology initiatives to eliminate contraband and provide quarterly updates to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and the Senate Public Safety Committee.

Transition Centers

- **\$10 Million Added** for six months of operational cost for the Metro Re-Entry Phase IV to add 400 transition center beds.

Dept. of Defense

- **\$123,930 Reduced** to reflect lower graduation rates.

Dept. of Early Care and Learning***Child Care Services***

- **\$9.27 Million Added** to raise Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) reimbursement to improve market rates for childcare providers.

Pre-K Program

- **\$1.26 Million Added** in formula funds for teacher training and experience.
- **\$2.41 Million Added** in formula funds to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified teachers at public Pre-K providers to \$1,760 effective July 1, 2024.
- **\$24.99 Million Added** to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers by \$2,500.
- **\$9.51 Million Added** for year one of a four-year phase in to reduce classroom size from 22 to 20 students to improve instructional quality.
- **\$8.97 Million Added** to maintain the current number of classrooms in the Summer Transition Program without the implementation of an income eligibility requirement
- **\$383,311 Added** for three Pre-Kindergarten administrative positions.
- **\$17.49 Million Added** to increase operating funds for Pre-K programs by increasing startup grants for new Pre-K classrooms from \$8,000 to \$30,000 per classroom (\$1,981,493), providing \$15,000 replenishment grants every five years (\$11,454,000), and increasing transportation funding from \$16.50 per category I student to \$80.78 per student for all students (\$4,052,718).
- **\$11.5 Million Added** to increase operating funds for private providers. [Pre-Kindergarten Program]
- **\$19.43 Million Added** for a salary increase for assistant Pre-K teachers to provide parity with K-12 paraprofessionals (\$14,752,422) and improve salary parity between Pre-K lead teachers and K-12 teachers by moving to the State Board of Education salary schedule (\$4,682,380).

Dept. of Education***Agency-wide***

- Increase funds to annualize the \$2,000 salary increase in FY2024 and increase funds to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified teachers and certified employees by \$2,500 effective September 1, 2024.
- Used formula funds to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,760 effective July 1, 2024

Agricultural Education

- **\$192,000 Added** for two young farmer positions in Barrow and Peach counties.

Business and Finance Administration

- **\$200,000 Added** to upgrade the Capital Outlay Program Software (COPS) to integrate public Pre-K classrooms pursuant to SB 233 (2024 Session).

Central Office

- **\$50,000 Removed** (it was one-time funding) for study and host meetings with House and Senate committees and stakeholders concerning Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) formula funding.
- **\$100,000 Added** for adaptive sports program.

Charter Schools

- **\$1.7 Million Reduced** to align with budget expenditures.

- **\$2.7 Million Reduced** for facilities grants to reflect the full \$100,000 for each locally approved charter schools, pursuant to HB 430 (2017 Session)

Communities in Schools

- **\$1 Million Added** to leverage matching grant funds for program expansion.

Curriculum Development

- **\$0 Added** to support evidence-based reading instruction grants to fund two Literacy Coaches per Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) and provide \$2,000 supplements to Literacy Support Coordinators and Leads at school districts. (*House sought \$6.3 Million but the Senate said to recognize funding in Special Project - Curriculum Development.*)
- **\$177,000 Added** for life sciences industry certification.
- **\$4.92 Million Transferred** in existing funds for AP and PSAT exams from the Testing program to properly align with department administration.
- **\$319,000 Added** for one STEM International Baccalaureate exam to all students and one International Baccalaureate exam for free and reduced-paying lunch students.
- **\$0 Added** for computer science professional development to support SB 108 (2019 Session) but the conference committee directed: "Reflect funds in the Board of Regents University System of Georgia Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program." (*House sought \$1 Million; Senate halved that and then CC moved it.*)
- **\$475,000 Added** for a supplementary secondary math pilot program.
- **\$1.5 Million Transferred** from the Curriculum Development program to the Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants program for Dyslexia Screening pursuant to SB 48 (2019 Session).
- **\$6.11 Million Added** to provide funds to Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) for: regional literacy coaches with at least one at each RESA (\$4,000,000); supplements for 950 school literacy leads upon the completion of an accredited training model (\$1,022,675); and training for local coaches, teachers, and supplemental training for ESOL teachers, prioritizing training to schools identified by the RESA as needing additional literacy intervention (\$1,088,625). Regional Education Service Agencies shall provide data to the Department of Education for an annual report to the Office of Planning and Budget and House and Senate budget offices regarding the number of teachers and coaches trained, the type of training completed, and the schools those trained professional's support. Reports shall be provided annually on August 1, beginning August 1, 2024.)

Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)

- **\$4.26 Million Reduced** in formula funds for enrollment and training and experience decline.

Non-Quality Basic Education (Non-QBE) Formula Grants

- **\$8.5 Million Transferred** from the Quality Basic Education program to provide salary supplements of \$1,000 to all custodians and adjust amount to reflect current count.
- **\$1.52 Million Added** for Dyslexia Screening pursuant to SB 48 (2019 Session) and universal screening pursuant to HB 538 (2023 Session); recognize that available universal screeners can also screen for dyslexia and thereby require vendors to supply evidence that they assess the same skills required for dyslexia screening at first administration of the screener.
- **\$389,615 Reduced** in formula funds for Residential Treatment Facilities based on attendance.
- **\$255,709 Added** in formula funds for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment data.
- **\$250,000 Added** for a mentorship program to increase teacher retention rates.
- **\$362,000 Added** for one-time grant funds for CPR training and equipment for student health and safety.
- **\$200,000 Added** to provide a supplemental sparsity grant to school districts with fewer than 200 students and one K-12 school.

Nutrition

- **\$6.33 Million Added** to align budget with expenditures.
- **\$3.17 Million Added** for the cost of breakfast and lunch for reduce-paying students.

- \$2 Million Added in formula funds for school nutrition.
- \$1.35 Million Added in formula funds to recognize a 4.1% increase to the salary earnings in the nutrition formula.

Preschool Disability Services

- \$7.12 Million Added based on formula earnings.

Pupil Transportation

- \$200 Million Added for pupil transportation to provide additional state support for school districts statewide by reflecting updated bus count and 40% of operational costs.
- \$5.01 Million Added in formula funds to recognize a 4.1% increase to the salary earnings in the pupil transportation formula.

Quality Basic Education Equalization

- \$266.97 Million Added in formula funds for Equalization grants.

QBE Local Five Mill Share

- \$183.87 Million Reduced for the Local Five Mill Share.

Quality Basic Education Program

- \$40.19 Million Added for the State Commission Charter School supplement.
- \$1.42 Million Reduced in formula funds for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers.
- \$6.3 Million Added in formula funds for the Completion Special Schools supplement pursuant to HB 87 (2023 Session).
- \$301,659 Added in formula funds for the charter system grant.
- \$8.64 Million Transferred to the Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)

- \$396,264 Added for a 4.1% salary increase for certified staff.

School Nurse

- \$609,505 Reduced in formula funds for school nurses.
- \$1.54 Million Added for a 4.1% salary increase for school nurses.

School Security Grants

- \$108.91 Million Added to establish school security grants for safety infrastructure and POST certified personnel.
- \$0 Million Added for safety training for teachers and ability of local school systems to develop school safety plans. (Senate had sought \$5 Million)

State Schools

- \$263,962 Added in formula funds for training and experience.
- Budget Direction: Utilize existing funds (\$2,000,000) for major repairs and renovations.

Technology/Career Education

- \$711,000 Reduced to align budget with expenditures.
- \$1 Million Added for construction industry certification.
- \$0 Added for three heavy equipment simulators at ten schools. (The House sought \$1.5 Million, but the Senate reflected the funding in Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission - Capital Projects Fund.)

Testing

- \$1.63 Million Added for state mandated testing (This budget line was originally targeted to provide a universal reading screener for all K-3 students pursuant to HB 538 (2023 Session) but the conference committee changed the note.)

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

- **\$82,000 Reduced** to reflect current state agreements for erasure analysis.
- **\$250,000 Reduced** to align budget with expenditures.
- **\$0 Added** for the Literacy Lab.
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$500,000) to provide community grants in support of the Georgia Reads Community Partnership.

Dept. of Human Services***Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention***

- **\$1 Million Added** for child advocacy centers to expand mental health services and forensic interviewing for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, exploitation, and trafficking.

Child Support Services

- **\$1.1 Million Added** for a \$3,000 additional salary enhancement for child support workers.
- **\$111,094 Added** for prosecution to support recruitment and retention needs.

Child Welfare Services

- **\$214,146 Added** for the full cost of two community action team pilot programs funded by HB 911 (2022 Session).
- **\$1.42 Million Transferred** funds from Elder Abuse Investigations and Prevention (\$590,000) and increase funds (\$828,935) for technology upgrades and improvements to the SHINES child welfare case management system to enhance efficiency.
- **\$4.66 Million Added** to provide a \$3,000 additional salary enhancement for child protection and placement services caseworkers.
- **\$1 Million Added** for the court appointed special advocates (CASA) to enhance statewide capacity.
- **\$0 Million Added** for child advocacy centers to expand mental health services and forensic interviewing for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, exploitation, and trafficking.
- **\$1.5 Million Added** to annualize wraparound services pilot. (Additionally, the Senate specified an additional \$1.5 Million add from federal Foster Care Title IV-E funds)

Departmental Administration (DHS)

- **\$1.09 Million Added** for rent for a multi-service building in Coweta County

Federal Eligibility Benefit Services

- **\$2.06 Million Added** for labor and wage data verification services.
- **\$630,057 Added** for 23 county customer service staff to provide staff in every customer service center.

Out-of-Home Care Services

- **\$8.38 Million Added** for a 3% provider rate increase for Child Caring Institutions, Child Placing Agencies, foster parents, and relative caregivers.

Out-of-School Care Services

- **\$2.66 Million Eliminated** for one-time funding to bridge the education gap.

Residential Child Care Licensing

- **\$134,618 Added** to establish an application and inspection process for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs.

Family Connection

- **\$596,250 Added** to increase operational support and each county's allocation to \$60,000.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Vocational Rehabilitation Program

- **\$1.5 Million Added** for independent living services.

Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission

- **\$4.75 Million Added** for the full cost of the Gwinnett Commercial Sexual Exploitation Recovery Center funded by HB 19 (2023 Session).
- **\$100,000 Added** for a psychiatric nurse to support youth survivors of exploitation and trafficking.

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

- **\$20 Million Added** for the state reinsurance program.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- **\$1.33 Million Added** for six death investigation specialists, one forensic photographer, one quality manager, one business support analyst supervisor, and one business support analyst in the Medical Examiner's Office to address increased workload.
- **\$307,746 Added** to add two criminal intelligence analyst positions to support the Criminal Street Gang Database.
- **\$4.87 Million Added** for nine special agents, two digital forensic investigators, two criminal intelligence analyst, and one office manager and associated cost for the GBI Gang Task Force in Columbus to combat crime.
- **\$1.15 Million Added** to provide targeted retention initiatives for 229 crime lab scientists.
- **\$680,971 Added** for local law enforcement partnerships to combat crime and gang activity.
- *Budget Direction:* Develop and report back to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by September 1, 2024 on a grant program to incentivize the consolidation of resources for policing in communities of less than 50,000 people.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- **\$4.73 Million Reduced** to align budget with expenditures.
- **\$1.25 Million Transferred** from Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for School Resource Officer and De-escalation training.
- **\$2.77 Million Added** for personal services and operating expenses to promote the stability of the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund.

Council of Accountability Court Judges

- **\$964,892 Added** for existing accountability courts to support population growth.
- **\$291,901 Added** to add one DUI court and one mental health

Family Violence

- **\$1 Million Reduced** to align budget with expenditures.
- **\$12.7 Million Added** for domestic violence shelters for administrative personnel and facility costs related to compliance with state standards; funds will not be allotted until the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council develops not-to-exceed pay scales and not-to-exceed expenditures for facilities.
- **\$2.07 Million Added** s for sexual assault centers for administrative personnel and facility costs related to compliance with state standards; funds will not be allotted until the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council develops not-to-exceed pay scales and not-to-exceed expenditures for facilities
- **\$4.38 Million Added** for sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) coordinators and improve access to SANE resources for sexual assault centers.
- **\$895,785 Added** for six sexual assault centers (\$325,740) and 21 satellite sexual assault centers (\$570,045).

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

- Agency-wide: Increase funds to provide a new benchmark for juvenile correctional officers (JCO1) at \$40,040 to create parity with correctional officers.
- **\$4.34 Million Added** to provide an additional \$3,000 targeted salary enhancement for selected POST certified law enforcement officers.
- **\$595,655 Added** to adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for certified teachers and certified employees by \$2,500 effective September 1, 2024.

- **\$3.61 Million Reduced** to reflect regular operating and contract efficiencies.
- **\$558,960 Added** for a 3% provider rate increase to Child Caring Institutions.

Secure Confinement (Youth Detention Centers – YDCs)

- **\$0 Added** for mobile tablets for a new pilot electronic grievance system in one Department of Juvenile Justice Secure Commitment (YDC) and one Secure Detention (RYDC) facility. (*Governor recommended a \$3,000 addition*)
- **\$600,000 Added** for the creation of new mobile labs at three Secure Commitment (YDC) facilities through the Technical College System of Georgia.
- **\$148,282 Added** for new body cameras.
- **\$4.8 Million Added** for capital maintenance and repairs.

Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)

- **\$427,346 Added** for body cameras.
- **\$0 Added** for mobile tablets for a new pilot electronic grievance system in one Department of Juvenile Justice Secure Commitment (YDC) and one Secure Detention (RYDC) facility. (*Governor recommended a \$3,000 addition*)
- **\$9.81 Million Added** for capital maintenance and repairs.

Dept. of Law

- **\$822,411 Added** to expand the Gang Prosecution Unit to Columbus, Macon, and Middle Judicial Circuit.

Dept. of Public Health

Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion

- **\$908,522 Added** to expand the visiting hematologist program.
- **\$796,000 Added** for outreach and breast cancer screening services.
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize \$350,000 in existing funds for feminine hygiene products for low-income clients at community organizations.

Epidemiology

- **\$765,528 Added** for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.
- **\$130,000 Added** for the Georgia Poison Center.

Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services

- **\$1.07 Million Added:** Utilize existing funds (\$685,903) and increase funds to expand the pilot to provide home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality. (Total Funds: \$1,752,000)
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$118,939) for one epidemiologist position for surveillance and data analysis for the Low THC Oil Registry Program
- **\$775,996 Added** to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers in the Babies Can't Wait program.

Infant and Child Health Promotion

- **\$978,639 Added** for newborn screening to include two additional disorders that have been approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

Infectious Disease Control

- **\$150,611 Added** for one congenital syphilis and HIV case manager position to link cases identified during pregnancy and delivery to testing and treatment resources.

Inspections and Environmental Hazard Control

- **\$235,074 Eliminated** (they were one-time funds) for lead inspection start-up costs and testing machines.

Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

- **\$4 Million Added** to initiate a multi-year plan to stabilize the trauma network and recognize return on investment of \$22.60 per dollar invested.
- **\$2.06 Million Added** pursuant to passage of [SB 515](#) (2024 Session) regarding an ambulance pilot program.

University System of Georgia Board of Regents

Public Libraries

- **\$141,350 Added** for the public libraries' formula based on an increase in the state population.

Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives

- **\$1.45 Million Added** for legal clinics to increase law student exposure and involvement in public defender and prosecuting attorney work.
- **\$1.5 Million Added** to establish the David Ralston Center for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities at the University of Georgia to build the workforce of professionals and provide a clearinghouse for research.

Teaching

- **\$2.92 Million Added** to reflect a 0.8% decrease in enrollment with an increase in higher cost program areas (\$2,256,373) and 0.2% increase in square footage (\$658,999).
- **\$66 Million Restored** FY 2024 formula funds for Teaching.
- **\$4.69 Million Added** for Medical College of Georgia expansion at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong campus.

Payments to Georgia Military College Preparatory School

- **\$148,613 Added** for enrollment, training, and experience.
- **\$45,000 Added** for a school security grant.

Secretary of State

Investigations

- **\$405,434 Added** for four criminal investigators due to increased volume of elections and licensing board investigations.

Professional Licensing Boards

- **\$1.5 Million Added** s for personnel for 11 licensing technicians, one process improvement analyst, one licensing and renewal assistant, two IT positions, one administrative assistant, and one business analyst, as well as related equipment and hourly temporary employees to address backlogs while onboarding new employees and maintain standard office operating procedures and coverage to meet customer needs.

Georgia Student Finance Commission

Adult Learner High-Demand Field Scholarship

- **\$0 Added** to establish an adult learner scholarship program assisting Georgia residents of two years or more to complete their bachelor's degree in a high-demand field utilizing competency-based learning models or other such models designed to meet the needs of the working adult learner. (*House sought \$500,000*)

College Completion Grants

- **\$2 Million Reduced** for College Completion Grants.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant

- **\$1.64 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Dual Enrollment

- **\$15.09 Million Added** to meet projected enrollment.

HERO Scholarship

- **\$300,000 Reduced** funds and utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

HOPE Grant

- **\$20.73 Million Reduced** to reflect expected program expenditure.
- **\$16.7 Million Transferred** from the HOPE Scholarships - Public Schools program to the HOPE Grant program.

HOPE High School Equivalency Exam

- **\$845,510 Reduced** to reflect expected program expenditure.

HOPE Scholarships – Private Schools

- **\$16.44 Million Reduced** to reflect expected program expenditures at a HOPE Private Award rate at \$2,496 and a HOPE Zell Private Award rate at \$2,985.

HOPE Scholarships – Public Schools

- **\$11.36 Million Reduced** to reflect expected program expenditures at a 100% factor rate.

Low Interest Loans

- **Budget Direction:** Reduce funds and eliminate program to reflect cessation of further loan originations.

Service Cancelable Loans

- **Budget Direction:** Recognize existing funds (\$3,200,000) to provide up to \$20,000 maximum loan repayments across five years of service to support recruitment and retention of public law enforcement officers.

Technical College System of Georgia**Adult Education**

- **\$0 Added** at this moment for the Workforce EXCEerator pilot program, pending final passage of SB 112 (2024 Session). (*Governor sought \$5 Million, the House sought \$650,000, then the Senate sought \$1.35 Million, but the conference committee decided to wait on the legislation passage*)

Quick Start

- **\$46 Million Reduced** (they were one-time funds) for construction to complete Rivian training center.
- **\$4.75 Million Added** to meet existing training obligations.

Technical Education

- **\$9.43 Million Added** to reflect a 3.0% increase in enrollment (\$8,988,608) and 0.7% increase in square footage (\$444,954).
- **\$1.1 Million Reduced** to align budget with expenditures.
- **Budget Direction:** In conjunction with the Office of Planning and Budget and House and Senate budget offices, the Technical College System of Georgia shall conduct a review of the current formula rates and program expense for the Technical Education program to ensure that the funding formula considers costs and rewards graduation and in-field job placement.

Technical Education: High-Cost Programs - Special Project

- **\$7.42 Million Added** to provide increased credit hour earnings for aviation, commercial truck driving, and nursing program areas to reflect the high-cost nature of providing these programs.

Workforce Development

- **\$322,000 Added** for two new positions to provide regionally based consultation and technical assistance to healthcare partners across the state.
- **\$150,000 Added** to support Public Service Apprenticeships pursuant to passage of SB 497 (2024 Session).

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund

Dept. of Education

- \$25.47 Million Added for Low Wealth for local school construction.
- \$21.19 Million Added for Additional Low Wealth for local school construction.
- \$181.76 Million Added for Regular for local school construction.
- \$6.91 Million Added for Regular Advance for local school construction.
- \$10.32 Million Added for Purchase vocational and agriculture education equipment.
- \$7.08 Million Added for Major repairs and renovations for state schools.
- \$20 Million Added for Purchase school buses.
- \$5 Million Added for one-time funding for construction of the Middle Georgia STEM Academy, Houston County.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- \$8.75 Million Added Hospital Campus Urgent and Significant Needs Prioritized According to the GSFIC Campus Survey
- \$500,000 Added for planning, design, and land acquisition for a new behavioral health crisis center in North Metropolitan Atlanta.

GA Bureau of Investigation

- \$40.1 Million Added for construction of Medical Examiner Annex Addition, Decatur, DeKalb County.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

- \$1.8 Million Added for additional design fees for a 56-bed facility expansion, Macon, Bibb County.
- \$1.8 Million Added for additional design fees for a 48-bed facility expansion, Milledgeville, Baldwin County.
- \$52 Million Added for construction of 48-bed facility expansion, Milledgeville, Baldwin County.
- \$2.3 Million Added for major repair and renovation.
- \$3.8 Million Added for Land acquisition and design for new 56-bed facility, Gwinnett County.

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority:

- \$15 Million Added for the state match for the federal Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Programs.

University System of Georgia Board of Regents-Public Libraries

- \$3 Million Added for one-time funding for major repairs and renovations, statewide.
- \$900,000 Added for one-time funding for renovation of Douglas-Coffee County Library, Satilla Regional Library System, Douglas, Coffee County.
- \$900,000 Added for one-time funding for renovation of the Cedartown Library, Sara Hightower Library System, Cedartown, Polk County.
- \$0 Added for one-time funding for renovation of the Dawson County Public Library, Chestatee Regional Library System, Dawsonville, Dawson County. (*House sought \$302,000, Senate sought \$250,00, Conference committee zeroed it out.*)
- \$900,000 Added for one-time funding for renovation of Westtown Library, Dougherty County Library System, Albany, Dougherty County.
- \$2 Million Added for one-time funding for Technology Grants to Public Libraries, statewide.
- \$900,000 Added for one-time funding for renovation of Appleby Branch Library, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, Augusta, Richmond County.
- \$1.11 Million Added for one-time funding for construction of Morgan County Library, Azalea Regional Library System, Madison, Morgan County.
- \$3 Million Added for one-time funding for construction of Cleveland-White County Public Library, Northeast Georgia Regional Library System, Cleveland, White County



Justice, Public Safety, & School Discipline

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

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. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 873 (Gunter-8th) Codifies the ability of juvenile courts to establish a juvenile treatment court division as an alternative to the traditional judicial system for juvenile delinquency cases or child in need of services (CHINS) cases. A case may be assigned to these new courts: 1) if the prosecutor or other petitioner consents prior to the entry of adjudication or disposition; 2) as part of a disposition in a case; or 3) upon modification or revocation of probation or a new petition. Each new juvenile treatment court division must establish a planning group to develop a work plan. Planning groups are required to include: judges, prosecutors, sheriffs, public defenders, community supervision officers, and probation officers. The Council of Accountability Court judges must establish standards and practices for these divisions taking into account current research and findings published by experts on children's health needs/treatment options. The council will also create and manage a certification/peer review process to ensure local divisions are adhering to standards/practices. Further, they will create a waiver process that divisions will need to apply for if they want an exception to standards/practices. The council will also create a certification process to allow a court to demonstrate a need for additional state grant funds for one or more part-time judges to operate these divisions. Divisions established on and after July 1, 2026, will be certified or receive a waiver if they have good cause. The council is also required to develop and manage an electronic system for performance measurement that accepts data in a consistent manner. On or around July 1, 2026, and every three years afterward, the council must conduct a performance peer review of the divisions to improve the polices/practices. The court that institutes the division can request that one or more prosecutors and one or more defense attorneys serve in the division, and the clerk of the juvenile court will serve as the clerk of the division.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 926](#)

(Reeves-99th) "Second Chance Workforce Act" allows a traffic court judge to reinstate an accused person's license when it was suspended because of a failure to appear, and they subsequently have scheduled a new date to appear before the court; have appeared in court for a hearing, arraignment, or waiver of arraignment and entry of plea; or when the charge has been fully adjudicated. The bill strikes an exception to the Class C drivers' license that provided for a combination of vehicles with a gross weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less that is controlled and operated by a farmer or used for agricultural purposes. The bill also adds battery against a healthcare worker or emergency health worker to the list of crimes that constitute a "serious delinquent act" by a minor and must be considered when determining whether to detain the child. Further, reports of incidents of family violence must include the existence of any protective orders, and the number of and nature of prior complaints of family violence.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1201](#)

(Gaines-120th) Allows a victim of human trafficking to have their sentence vacated when sentenced pursuant to O.C.G.A. 42-8-60, relating to probation, or O.C.G.A. 16-13-2, relating to conditional discharge of possession of controlled substances as a first offense, so long as the crime was a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. The bill also defines the term "commercial sexual exploitation recovery center" and includes the term within the definition of "child-caring institution" in O.C.G.A. 49-5-3, while specifying that the definition of "maternity home" does not include a commercial sexual exploitation recovery center.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 10](#)

(Jones-10th) Makes it a misdemeanor offense to knowingly be present and facilitate a drag race, which can include using a vehicle to block a portion of the roadway nearest to the race. The bill adds the crime of reckless stunt driving to the list of charges that prevent progress from Class D to Class C license. It also increases fines for reckless stunt driving from \$300-\$750 to \$500-\$1000 for a first offense in ten years, \$600-\$1000 to \$750-\$1500 for a second offense (90 days to one year imprisonment), \$1000-\$5000 to \$2500-\$5000 (six months to one year imprisonment) for a third offense, and \$1000-\$5000 to \$5000-\$7500 (one to five years imprisonment) for a fourth or subsequent offense in a ten-year period (one to five years imprisonment). Further, when an injury or damage of more than \$1000 results from a fourth or subsequent offense of reckless stunt driving, the first 12 months shall not be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld. Any motor vehicle of a person arrested for reckless stunt driving after a previous conviction of the same offense is declared contraband and subject to civil asset forfeiture.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 37

(Robertson-29th) Provides for a sheriff who serves in more than one court to receive salary for up to two courts, and that salary would not be increased by any state cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) or general performance-based increases. The bill establishes the law enforcement unit within the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and charges the unit with preserving public order, protecting life and property, and preventing crime. This unit enforces laws on all properties controlled by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and enforce state laws and protect life and property when ordered by the governor or requested by a sheriff or police chief in this state. SB 37 authorizes jailers who have been certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council as having successfully completed the course of training require by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act to arrest any person who is in violation of a criminal law which occurs in the jail or within the perimeter of the guard lines of the jail. The jailer may also arrest anyone who has a complaint or arrest warrant pending and surrenders themselves.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 63

(Robertson-29th) Prohibits a local jurisdiction from creating a bail schedule, or policy, that mandates releasing a person from jail on unsecured judicial release. It also modifies the definition of "bail" in the code section. The bill modifies the list of crimes under "bail restricted offenses" to include various crimes, including misdemeanors and second or subsequent violations of certain crimes. No person is eligible to be released on unsecured judicial release if they were charged with a bail-restricted offense. Those individuals are only eligible for release through the use of secured means, professional bondsmen, and approved property. Any person arrested for any offense who has previously been convicted of a felony within the past seven years is not eligible for an unsecured judicial release. The bill removes the exemption for those who were deported from the country by the federal government, meaning that a judgment can be made by a court on a forfeiture of an appearance bond if the person at issue was deported and could not attend court for that reason. A surety is now released from liability if, prior to a judgment, the person at issue participates in an accountability court or enters into a pretrial release program. The bill increases the amount that bail recovery agents can charge for continuing legal education programs, the timeline for when sureties are relived from liability due to a failure to timely file a bench warrant and forfeiture of bond, and the amount of remission of a bond to be paid to the surety.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 169

(Payne-54th) Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-754, which revises the hearing dates for suspensions. A hearing should be held no later than 10 school days from the beginning of the suspension unless there is an agreement between the parents and school system, in which case the hearing must be no later than 15 days after the beginning of the suspension. A hearing can be held later than 15 days upon written request to the school system by a parent or guardian.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 232

(Kennedy-18th) Modifies the types and dollar amounts of fees charged and collected by probate court judges and clerks contained in O.C.G.A. 15-9-60. These fees are charged for filings such as petitions, motions, claims, and certificates, as well as for different applications, licenses, and certified copies. Conforming language in other sections of the Code relating to filing fees, license fees, and fireworks applications is contained in the bill.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED. HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

SB 421

(Dixon-45th) Increases the penalties for a third or subsequent conviction of the offense of making an unlawful request for emergency services assistance in O.C.G.A. 16-10-28 to between 10 and 15 years imprisonment, a minimum fine of \$25,000, or both. If the location of response is a person's home or a place of worship, then a first violation is now treated as a felony with imprisonment of between one and 10 years, a minimum fine of \$5,000, or both. A person who is convicted of this crime is now automatically liable for restitution to any affected natural person or public or private entity for reasonable costs or damages associated with the offense, including damage to property and expenses to treat bodily injuries. Part II of SB 421 broadens the crime of aggravated assault to include when someone discharges a firearm, without legal justification, after immediately exiting a vehicle towards another vehicle or an occupied building. The crime of criminal damage to property in the first degree is broadened to include when someone discharges a firearm, without legal justification, while inside a vehicle or after immediately exiting and when that person causes damage to a building. The bill creates a new crime of drive-by shooting when a person who is either in a motor vehicle or is close to a motor vehicle that they used to drive to the location, discharges a firearm at another person, motor vehicle, occupied dwelling, or dwelling that the person should have known to be occupied, with the intent to injure or damage the property of another. The penalty is imprisonment of between five and 20 years. The crime of drive-by shooting is added to the list of crimes within the definition of "racketeering activity" under the criminal gang statute.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 453

(Payne-54th) Transfers probation and intake services of the Juvenile Court of Gordon County to the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 465](#)

(Goodman-8th) Creates the crime of aggravated involuntary manslaughter that occurs when a person intentionally manufactures or sells a controlled substance that contains fentanyl, or a fentanyl analog, and a person who takes or uses that substance dies, in whole or in part, from the fentanyl overdose. In a prosecution for this crime, the government will not need to prove that the defendant knew fentanyl was in the drug. A person who violates this offense will be guilty of a felony, and subject to imprisonment of between 10 and 30 years. The bill also creates a felony crime for unlawfully possessing, purchasing, delivering, selling, or possessing with intent to sell or deliver a pill press or tableting machine when the "unregulated person" knows, intends, or has reasonable cause to believe that the item will be used to manufacture a controlled substance or counterfeit substance. A person who commits this crime will be subject to imprisonment of between one and 10 years.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 517](#)

(Robertson-29th) Allows for certain uses of force by a law enforcement officer to be considered for immunity from prosecution. The bill adds references to the immunity statute for O.C.G.A. 16-3-20, relating to justification, and O.C.G.A. 17-4-20, relating to authorization of arrests with and without warrants and use of deadly force. The same references are added into the O.C.G.A. 51-11-9, which provides for immunity for civil liability.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 533](#)

(Strickland-17th) Allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to restore an accused person back to mental competency, so that they can stand trial in an appropriate facility within a jail. In order to use these facilities, DBHDD must have a mutual agreement with the local sheriff's office.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SR 570](#)

(Robertson-29th) Creates the Senate Supporting Safety and Welfare of All Individuals in Department of Corrections Facilities Study Committee.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. This is a Senate Study Committee and therefore does not need House approval.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 505](#)

(Cheokas-151st) The amendments to Georgia's legal code include provisions defining and penalizing rioting under Chapter 11 of Title 16, establishing felony charges for those providing material support for terrorism, and introducing civil liability immunity for motor vehicle operators fleeing from riots under Title 51. Rioting constitutes a felony when it involves ten or more individuals and poses grave danger to persons or property, obstructs governmental functions, or intimidates governmental employees. Individuals providing material support for terrorism face up to 20 years' imprisonment or a \$100,000 fine. Motor vehicle operators are immune from civil liability during riots if they reasonably believe fleeing is necessary to protect themselves or their vehicle from harm, unless their actions demonstrate intentional disregard for life or property. Civil actions against these operators are stayed during related criminal prosecutions, and the statute of limitations for tort actions related to crimes is tolled until the prosecution is finalized, with a maximum of six years. These amendments aim to address issues of rioting, terrorism, and civil liability in a precise and comprehensive manner in Georgia's legal framework.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 508](#)

(Ballinger-23rd) Provides for changes to existing licensing requirements for applicants to specified licensing boards, specifically pertaining to use of criminal history records, and also with records restrictions and petitions for the sealing of records. Section 1-1 of SB 157 adds a definition of "covered misdemeanor" as a misdemeanor conviction in the last five years prior to the application and an offense listed in O.C.G.A. 35-3-37(j)(4)(B), which provides for family violence offenses, offenses against children, sexual offenses, and serious traffic offenses. The section also defines "conviction" and "felony". Section 1-2 replaces the "crime of moral turpitude" standard and requires the professional licensing board to bear the burden of denying an applicant for a license due to their criminal record by the standard of "substantially more likely than not". An applicant is also entitled to a hearing before the professional licensing board per the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'. Section 1-3 makes a denial of a request for reinstatement of a revoked license and the refusal to issue a previously denied license a contested case under the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act'. Section 1-4 permits license denial only if a direct relationship is found between a criminal record and the licensed occupation, and the applicant's licensure would pose a direct and substantial risk to public safety because they have not been rehabilitated to safely perform the licensed duties and responsibilities. This section clarifies what rehabilitation evidence will be considered and the disclosure of criminal records to those that are serious, recent, and relevant convictions that have not been expunged or pardoned. A list of specific crimes must always be disclosed, while others must be excluded. Requirements related to character standards are modified to require individualized consideration of applicants, and boards are required to provide a procedure, including written findings that it uses to justify a license denial due to a criminal record. Further, the section requires boards to allow an applicant to apply for a predetermination procedure to determine whether their criminal history record will lead to a denial in the future. Boards are also required to post public information on their websites and application about the criminal record consideration, including the legal standard, disclosure rules, predetermination process, and appeal. By March 31st of each year, the occupational licensing board will be required to file with the

Office of the Secretary of State an annual report containing required information on licensing and criminal records, including the racial and ethnic distribution of applicants who were denied. Section 1-5 changes a referenced definition for the term "felony". Section 1-6 and 1-7 change references to be consistent with the new definitions, and they restrict records when there has been a conviction that has been restricted, sealed, annulled, dismissed, vacated, or pardoned. A plea in which someone is still fulfilling requirements as a first offender will still be visible to the Georgia Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Board when making determinations. These sections add requirements for when the board can consider convictions in its determination, and provides for a predetermination procedure to determine whether a petitioner's conviction would disqualify them from obtaining a relevant license prior to applying for the license. Parts II, III, IV, and VI replace the "crime of moral turpitude" standard, require the review of an applicant's criminal history to be directly related to the profession, require a denial on criminal history records grounds to be due to a substantial risk to public safety standards, and regulate disclosure of criminal records to serious, recent, and relevant convictions, for the following boards: Georgia State Board of Accountancy, Georgia Board of Dentistry, Georgia Composite Medical Board, Georgia Real Estate Commission and Appraisers Board, Structural Pest Control Commission, Professional Standards Commission, and Georgia Board of Pharmacy. Only some of the provisions are applied to requirements of the insurance commissioner due to conflicts with federal law. Part V applies to long-term care facilities and modifies the definition of "criminal record" to exclude certain parties who received a general pardon from the State Board of Pardons and Paroles for their convictions, starting from the date of their conviction or adjudication rather than the completion of their sentence. Part VII allows a person who plead guilty as a first offender and successfully completed the terms to be certified and employed as a firefighter, at the council's discretion, upon meeting the requisite qualifications. Parts VIII and IX revise O.C.G.A. 35-3-37 to make those who commit the crime of theft eligible for a record restriction. The bill removes the limitation that only two misdemeanor convictions, or a series of misdemeanors arising from one incident, could be requested to be restricted through a petition. It increases eligibility for who can petition the court to seal records to those who have had records restricted pursuant to O.C.G.A. 17-10-21 (vacating of sentence for trafficking victim defendants), and an individual cited for a criminal offense that later had the charge dismissed, nolle prossed, or reduced to a violation of a local ordinance. The court is required to order all records held by the clerk to be restricted and unavailable to the public if the record has been restricted through a pardon by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The bill allows restricted information to always be available to criminal justice agencies for law enforcement or criminal investigative purposes. It removes the requirement that the prosecutor must agree with a petition to the court for a retroactive grant of first offender status. The bill does not allow a court to provide retroactive first offender status for a conviction that was used as the underlying conviction pursuant to 16-11-131 (possession of firearms by convicted felons and first offender probationers) or if the conviction was used to enhance a sentence pursuant to 17-10-7 (punishment of repeat offenders). Part X makes the bill effective on January 1, 2025, and applies to all applications for licensure submitted on or after that date.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 509](#) (Ballinger-23rd) Expands the crime of burglary in the first and second degrees to include when a person enters the house, or other specified building or structure, of another person with the intent to commit an act of family violence.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 882](#) (Bruce-61st) Prohibits the release or posting of a booking photograph unless and until the individual depicted therein is convicted.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 909](#) (Hagan-156th) Automatically restricts and seals the record of an offense by an individual after July 1, 2024 who was sentenced to Title 42, Chapter 8, Article 3 ('First Offenders Act'). If first offender status is revoked, then a court will unseal the records, and courts, law enforcement agencies, jails, and detention centers may disseminate the records. Those who were exonerated of guilt and discharged as a first offender prior to July 1, 2024 may petition the court to have the records sealed, and those records will be automatically sealed.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 996](#) (Vance-133rd) States that in any case in which a person has been arrested for, charged by accusation or indictment with, or alleged by petition for delinquency to have committed an AIDS transmitting crime or other crime which involves the transmission of body fluids from one person to another or significant exposure to HIV, upon request by the victim or the parent or legal guardian of a minor or incompetent victim the agency responsible for the arrest or the prosecution of the alleged offense shall request that the person arrested for such offense submit to an HIV test and consent to the release of the test results to the victim. The bill also authorizes jailers who have been certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council as having successfully completed the course of training required by the 'Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Act' to arrest any person in violation of a criminal law which occurs in the jail or within the perimeter of jail guard lines. The jailer may also arrest anyone who has a complaint or arrest warrant pending and surrenders themselves.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1056](#) (New-64th) Enhances penalties for certain persons who manufacture, deliver, distribute, dispense, administer, sell, or possess with the intent to distribute any controlled substance, counterfeit substance, or marijuana when such violation involves the manufacturing, delivering, distributing, dispensing, administering, selling, or possessing with intent to distribute to a person 14 years of age or younger.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1214](#) (Neal-79th) Allows the court to choose not to impose the death penalty or life without parole for a defendant who was less than 18 years of age at the time he or she committed a crime, and provides for retroactive parole consideration of inmates serving prison sentences for a crime committed when they were less than 18 years of age.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1283](#) (Persinger-119th) Clarifies that aggravated assault with a firearm is included within the definition of "Class A designated felony act" in the Juvenile Code.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1307](#) (Holly-116th) Provides for fair market wages for inmate labor and for tracking of inmate labor.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1360](#) (Cummings-39th) Clarifies that the sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession of four grams or more of fentanyl and fentanyl analog structural class is within the prohibition of trafficking certain drugs.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1254](#) (Bell-75th) Amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the legalization and regulation of marijuana; to permit persons 21 years of age or older to purchase marijuana for personal use; to provide for the dedication of fees and taxes from the production, sale, or personal use of such marijuana; and to provide a procedure to vacate previous convictions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1416](#) (Neal-79th) Creates the five-member House Study Committee on Felony Sentencing and Punishment in Georgia to evaluate existing sentencing and punishment for both juveniles and adults. Allowances are authorized for five meeting days, and the study committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 110](#) (Walker-20th) Revises the definition for 'multipurpose off-highway vehicle' and creates a definition for 'self-propelled crane.' Further code sections are revised to account for self-propelled cranes. The bill outlines the procedure to take when passing a funeral procession on any two-lane highway: in processions where the lead and rear vehicles are displaying flashing lights or are being escorted by police, a sheriff, or a sheriff's deputy, vehicle operators not participating in the procession shall yield to the right-hand curb of the road to clear the intersection. Furthermore, the bill does not allow multipurpose off-highway vehicles to be returned for or subject to ad valorem taxation.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 490](#) (Cowsert-46th) Increases the penalties for the felony offense of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 513](#) (Still-48th) Relating to sexual offenses, so as to provide that the provisions of Code Section 16-6-16, relating to masturbation for hire, shall be applicable only to persons 17 years of age or older.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 570](#) (Kennedy-18th) Articulates the intent required for certain offenses of simple assault as such: "With the intent either to inflict injury upon or arouse the apprehension of another person commits an act which places such person in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury."

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

Child Welfare & Protection

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

[HB 218](#) (Hilton-48th) Defines "mentally incapacitated" as a mental impairment significantly affecting a person's ability to provide personal protection, necessities, carry out daily activities, or manage resources. It establishes that statements made by mentally incapacitated individuals aged 17 or older, describing nonconsensual sexual contact or physical abuse, are admissible as evidence if the person testifies at trial and the proponent provides pretrial notice to the adverse party. However, the adverse party can waive the testimony's use, and the individual who heard the statement can be cross-examined about it during trial.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 499](#) (Hitchens-161st) Provides a court the discretion to require either one spouse, or both spouses, to pay child support for a disabled child who has become an adult but lacks the ability to take care of themselves independently. The spouses can be in a divorce proceeding, living separately, or in a state of separation. A "disabled child" is defined to be an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and that meets a disability under state or federal law. The bill allows for modification of the award for child support if there has been a substantial change in the child's or parent's ability to provide support for themselves. The court can direct one or both parents to maintain life insurance for the benefit of a disabled child who has become an adult but lacks the ability to take care of themselves independently.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 984](#) (Lumsden-12th) Allows certified law enforcement officers employed by the office of safety fire commissioner to use a department vehicle while off-duty under certain circumstances. The bill also repeals O.C.G.A. 33-10-13 to comply with National Association of Insurance Commissioners accreditation standards. The bill also allows for developmentally or physically disabled individuals to remain on their parent or guardian's insurance beyond the cutoff age. Lastly, it changes the default communication from insurers to consumers from paper to electronic format under certain circumstances.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 993](#) (Powell-33rd) Creates a criminal penalty for those who groom a minor through a pattern of activity or communication, and either through a third party or through the use of electronic means to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce that minor to engage in a sexual offense, human trafficking, or any other offense within Chapter 6 of Title 16. A person who commits this crime will be subject to felony imprisonment of one to five years. This crime only applies to a person over the age of 18 and who is not within four years of age of the alleged victim. This applies to conduct completed within or outside of the state or conduct aimed at a minor outside of this state if the actions occurred within this state.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 324](#) (Jackson-41st) Prohibits courts from issuing or approving mutual protective orders in certain instances. The bill provides for the issuance of dating violence protective orders. The bill creates a victim-centered address confidentiality program within the Office of the Secretary of State. The program allows certified participants to utilize an address confidentiality card in lieu of disclosing their address to governmental entities to prevent the publication of a confidential address.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 335](#) (Albers-56th) The 'Safeguarding Adopted Children from Sexual Violence Act' and expands the crime of incest to include those whose familial relationships are created by adoption.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 342](#) (Robertson-29th) Allows the Department of Human Services to use records of child abuse or neglect from the child abuse and neglect registry, or from another state, to locate, recover, or provide services to a child who is determined by the department to be missing or a victim of sexual exploitation. It also amends who can have reasonable access to records of child abuse to include the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED. HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

SB 370

(Hodges-3rd) Adds convenience stores, body art studios, manufacturing facilities, and medical offices to the list of establishments that must post a notice containing the human trafficking hotline information. The bill also requires that each board member of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy complete at least 30 minutes of training on human trafficking awareness.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 376

(Tillery-19th) Amends various Code sections related to dependency proceedings to require that a court determine whether the parent has made substantial progress towards completion of the case plan at the initial 75-day periodic review. During a review that is after an initial 75-day review, the bill requires the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to develop a case plan within 14 days of the review. The bill would also require that the court review and adopt the revised case plan within 45 days of the review or at a previously-scheduled hearing. O.C.G.A. 15-11-232 is revised to correct a reference involving a court's written findings during a permanency plan hearing involving a child who has attained the age of 14. The bill revises O.C.G.A. 15-11-233, relating to termination of parental rights, to narrow one of the situations in which termination of parental rights may not be in the best interests of a child adjudicated as a dependent. The bill limits that situation to only include when a relative intends to be a permanent placement for that child as part of a permanency plan and in which the timeline is consistent with the developmental needs of the child. SB 376 requires the court, at least 30 days prior to the 15th month that a child has been in foster care and when the court deems appropriate, to review DFCS's determination that terminating the parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child. The court can appoint an attorney guardian ad litem who can file a petition to terminate parental rights on behalf of the child. The court is also permitted to make additional rulings at its own discretion.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

SB 387

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Allows an eligible child who is between the ages of 14 and 17 and who does not have an address or is in the custody of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to apply for an identification card without having a parent, guardian, or other adult sign or verify the application. The bill the Department of Driver Services (DDS) from collecting a fee for an identification card from a child who is in DFCS custody or who is receiving extended care youth services from DFCS. The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide each child who has entered foster care with a photo of themselves within 90 days of entrance. If the child is under 14 years old, then the foster parent or placement will be provided with the photograph of the child. DFCS is required to ensure that each child receives a photograph, and each child is also required to receive an identification card.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 401

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Requires each juvenile court to collect data on all cases in which a child is alleged or adjudicated to be a dependent child placed in foster care. This data will be incorporated into the Georgia Juvenile Data Exchange, and the form of entry will be specified by the Administrative Office of the Courts. This data will include various dates related to the disposition of cases and deadlines imposed by statute. The bill requires each juvenile court to maintain a "ready-accessible docket" that is accessible by the parties and to utilize its local case management system to collect required data. By April 15, 2025, the Administrative Office of the Courts must put together a report for the General Assembly. Further, a petition to terminate parental rights must be immediately filed and docketed when presented to the clerk of a juvenile court.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 454

(Strickland-17th) Revises the child support award calculation worksheet and the rates, clarifies that the definition of custodial parent applies to the parent who earns the lesser amount of gross income, and changes the process of editing child support awards to include a low-income adjustment system rather than a deviation. The bill allows disability benefits received by the child from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to count against the noncustodial parent's final child support amount.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 483

(Hatchett-50th) Enters Georgia into the updated version of the 'Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children Act' and replaces existing language of the previous version of the compact if at least 35 states total join the compact. Sixteen states have currently joined the revised compact, which provides a streamlined procedure for coordinating the placement of juveniles in different states, whether from public or private child placing agencies.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 493](#)

(Hatchett-50th) Section 1 of SB 493 adds a defined minimum fine of \$1,500 for the crime of intentionally photographing a minor without the consent of the parent or guardian, if the court elects to impose a fine. On a second or subsequent violation, the penalty will be a felony with imprisonment of between one and 30 years and a fine of between \$5,000 and \$100,000. A conviction will also encompass a plea of nolo contendere. Further, a person who is on the sex offender registry is prohibited from knowingly owning or operating an unmanned aircraft system with the intent to photograph or observe any person in a manner that violates that person's reasonable expectation of privacy. Section 2 allows a court to add a term of probation for someone who is subject to O.C.G.A. 42-8- 35(b) that prohibits a sex offender from possessing, owning, or operating an unmanned aircraft system. Section 3 allows an individual on the sex offender registry to petition the superior court to be released from the registry when they have reached the age of 80 years old and have completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation for the offense that required registration. A person can also petition the superior court to be released from the registry when they: 1) were convicted and required to register under the laws of another jurisdiction and have been removed from that other jurisdiction's registry; 2) have completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements for the offense that required registration, and 10 years have elapsed since the requirements have been met; and 3) the individual has been classified by the board as a Level I risk classification. When a person petitions the court to be removed from the registry solely on the basis that they completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements, then they may do so if five years have elapsed since completing the requirements and if they are a Level I risk classification.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 520](#)

(Cowser-46th) Adds definitions for "income withholding" and "income withholding notice" and replaces previous terms within the Code. It also requires that an income withholding notice be provided to the payor to initiate income withholding. In cases involving Title IV-D child support withholding through an income withholding notice, all objections will be placed on the calendar for a hearing before an administrative law judge. The notice will remain in effect until the objection is heard and a decision is rendered.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 144](#) (Lewis-Ward-115th) Updates the rights of a ward in a guardianship by clarifying that a ward can communicate freely and privately with people other than the guardian through visitation, telephone calls, email, or personal mail. If a guardian violates the right of the ward to communicate, visit, or interact with others, in O.C.G.A. 29-4-22(b), then a ward or interested party can petition the court with evidence alleging that the guardian violated that right. If the court finds the guardian violated the ward's right, then a court can impose a maximum fine of \$1,000 for each violation. After two violations have been reported and ruled on by a court, the court can impose temporary suspension of the guardianship and appoint another guardian until the violations are resolved.)

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 298](#) (Daniel-117th) Mandates the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish a course in pregnancy, health, and human development for grades nine through 12 by July 1, 2025. The course will cover human biology related to pregnancy and various topics including gestational development stages, comorbid conditions in pregnant women, complications of delivery, and maternal mortality causes. This course will be incorporated into the health and physical education curriculum, distinct from sex education, and will not address sexual intercourse.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 327](#) (Cameron-1st) Includes grandparent and grandchild of the whole blood or of the half blood or step-grandchild in the list of relatives who are able to be charged with incest.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 425](#) (Gullett-19th) Allows an individual who is registered as a sex offender to petition the superior court to be released from the registry when he or she has reached the age of 80 years old and has completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation for the offense that required registration. A person can also petition the superior court to be released from the registry when he or she: 1) was convicted and required to register under the laws of another jurisdiction and been removed from that other jurisdiction's registry; 2) has completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements for the offense that required registration and 10 years have elapsed since the requirements have been met; and 4) the individual has been classified by the board as a Level I risk classification. When a person petitions the court to be removed from the registry solely on the basis that he or she completed all prison, parole, supervised release, and probation requirements, then he or she can do so if five years have elapsed since completing the requirements and if he or she is a level I risk classification. HB 425 also amends O.C.G.A. 42-1-15 to add a definition for "place of worship" and to incorporate places of worship into distance requirements for those on the sexual offender registry. The bill revises certain distance requirements with different distinctions for those who are classified as Level I and Level II.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 565](#)

(Smith-18th) Extends the lifetime maximum cash assistance available through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program from 48 months to 60 months, and increases the monthly benefit amount to 30 percent of the federal poverty guidelines effective July 1, 2024. The bill increases the resource limit of an applicant to \$5,000, excluding the value of a vehicle if it is used for activities related to work, training, or education. If there is an additional vehicle not used for these purposes, a \$4,650 exclusion is applied.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 839](#)

(Dempsey-13th) Allows Georgia to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Social Work Licensure Compact" and authorizes the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to administer the compact in this state.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 840](#)

(Fleming-114th) Provides for a right of action against any person who knowingly or negligently engages in sexually explicit conduct in the presence of a minor or who knowingly or negligently allows, permits, encourages, or requires a minor to be present while another engages in sexually explicit conduct in the presence of such minor.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 910](#)

(Jasperse-11th) Delineates various terms and regulations regarding the dissemination and access of material deemed harmful to minors on public websites by commercial entities. It defines terms such as 'commercial entity,' 'digitized identification card,' 'distribute,' 'material harmful to minors,' 'minor,' 'news-gathering organization,' 'publish,' 'reasonable age verification,' and 'substantial portion.' Commercial entities are required to implement reasonable age verification methods before allowing access to websites containing a significant amount of harmful material for minors. Failure to do so can result in liability for damages, court costs, and fines of up to \$10,000 per violation. The section also specifies that no identifying information should be retained after age verification, with penalties for non-compliance. Exclusions are made for news-related content and cloud service providers. Additionally, internet service providers are not held accountable solely for providing access to harmful material if they are not responsible for its creation or dissemination.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 959](#)

(Corbett-174th) Establishes a Victims of Human Trafficking Fund Commission, administratively assigned to the Division of Family and Children Services. It creates a separate fund in the state treasury for disbursements, including for care, rehabilitative services, residential housing, health services, and social services for victims. The commission, comprised of appointed members, is tasked with overseeing fund disbursements, maintaining records, and adhering to state standards. The commission is empowered to recommend changes in state programs and policies relating to the care of exploited victims, solicit federal funds and donations, and impose additional penalties for certain offenses, with funds directed to the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Additionally, it grants victims a cause of action against perpetrators and allows for the forfeiture of property used in the commission of related crimes, and provides for a required human trafficking training program for hotels.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1022](#)

(Sainz-180th) "Colton-McNeill Act" - Increases penalties for committing the crime of cruelty to children against a disabled minor. The first degree of the crime now carries a penalty of between 15 and 30 years, while the second degree of the crime now carries a penalty of between 10 and 30 years.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1057](#)

(Park-107th) Revises the tax credit for qualified caregiving expenses, allowing a family caregiver a tax credit against for qualified caregiving expenses in an amount not to exceed 10% of the total amount expended for qualified caregiving expenses, with an annual maximum of \$1000. Additionally, the bill adds individuals at least 18 years of age who requires assistance with one or more activities of daily living (as determined by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner) and qualifies as a dependent of the family caregiver to the definition of "Qualifying family member."

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1090](#) (Newton-127th) Amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.24, relating to tax credits for contributions to foster child support organizations, to expand qualified expenditures for the credit to include wraparound services for aging foster children and justice involved youth that meet one of the following: are enrolled in a public postsecondary education institution; enrolled in a program to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent; enrolled in a vocation school; or participating in a registered and compliant apprenticeship program. The bill defines "aging foster children" as former foster children between 16 and 18 years old who were either in foster care for at least six months after the age of 14 and were not adopted or reunited with family by the age of 18; adopted after the age of 14; or in foster care for at least six months after the age of 14 and meet the definition of "homeless children and youths" or qualify by reason of low income for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). HB 1090 defines "justice involved youth" as between the ages of 16 and 25 who are currently or previously committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice and were placed, or are currently placed, in a nonsecure facility or community setting. The bill includes mentorship services provided to justice involved youth as a qualified expense. The annual compensation threshold to receive the credit is increased from \$500 to \$1,200 per year, and payments made to employees of a qualified mentorship organization that provide services other than mentorship are a qualified expense. The bill adds business enterprises, defined as an insurance company required to pay the tax provided for in O.C.G.A. 33-8-4, to be eligible for the credit for qualified expenditures related to wraparound services. HB 1090 authorizes the tax commissioner to share information necessary to efficiently administer and enforce provisions when another state agency has statutory authority to administer such tax credits.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The Senate disagreed to changes the House made to the bill and therefore, it DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1110](#) (Crawford-84th) Provides for dating violence protective orders.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1129](#) (Holcomb-81st) States that a victim of human trafficking is not criminally liable for any sexual crime (as defined in Code Section 16-3-6) or any other criminal act committed as a direct result of, or incident to, being a victim of human trafficking (under Code Section 16-5-46).

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1130](#) (Holcomb-81st) States that individuals who commit an offense as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking (under Code Section 16-5-46) are immune from criminal prosecution. The immunity motion may include documentation of the victim's status as a trafficking victim, creating a rebuttable presumption. Official documentation can include records from legal proceedings or affidavits from professionals. The burden of proof in an immunity hearing lies with the defendant. The legislation clarifies that participating in an immunity hearing does not waive any defenses or objections at trial. Additionally, the bill specifies that certain factors, such as the failure to plead an affirmative defense or prevail at trial, are not relevant to proceedings related to trafficking victim defendants.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1136](#) (Mainor-56th) Clarifies that stalking and aggravated stalking can be committed both directly and indirectly; to provide that each violation of stalking and aggravated stalking constitutes a separate offense and shall not merge with any other offense. The bill also revises the information to be supplied in family violence reports and provides for periodic audits of police agencies with regard to the completion and filing of such reports.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1184](#) (Anulewicz-42nd) Adds communications made in the context of victim centered programs, including restorative justice practices, and sanctioned victim-offender dialogues in the list of conversations which are considered privileged.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1209](#) (Clark-100th) "Ethan's Law" - Prohibits the court from mandating family reunification treatments, programs, or services that impose certain conditions on enrollment or participation. These conditions include violating court orders for no contact between a child and their parent or legal guardian, requiring overnight, out-of-state, or multiday stays, transferring physical or legal custody of the child, involving private youth transporters using force or threats, and employing coercion, verbal abuse, isolation, or other distressing circumstances. This ensures that family reunification efforts are conducted in a manner that prioritizes the well-being and safety of the child and avoids potentially harmful or coercive practices.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1264](#) (Stephens-164th) Authorizes the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and the Georgia Board of Nursing to establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals. The bill also adds provisions of SB 529, which provides a provisional license to people who are foreign trained. The provisional license requires they work at a place in an underserved area. Such license is good for two years, and can be extended for 2 years, and then the licensee must sit for the board.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1361](#) (Thomas-21st) Outlines definitions and penalties regarding offenses related to trespassing and harassing wild animals. It defines "harassment" as any act that disregards the well-being of a wild animal or disrupts its normal behavior patterns. A "wild animal" encompasses any land or sea creature found in the wild, excluding domestic animals or livestock, even those housed in facilities for public visitation, conservation, or education. The code delineates degrees of criminal trespass involving wild animals, with first-degree offenses resulting in injury or death of the animal being a felony punishable by imprisonment for one to ten years, and second-degree offenses being misdemeanors punishable by up to 12 months' imprisonment. Offenders are liable for damages to property, including harm to the animal. The code specifies that certain defenses, like lack of sufficient guarding or provocation, are not valid excuses for trespassing or harassing wild animals. Additionally, it exempts individuals aiding others or animals in need from certain trespassing restrictions. Furthermore, the section introduces definitions pertinent to obscenity laws, such as "artificial intelligence system," "child," and "sexually explicit conduct," providing clarity for legal interpretation and enforcement. The bill also adds provisions of SB 182, relating to stalking, so as to provide for the offense of doxing.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1214](#) (Reese-140th) Creates the House Study Committee on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's Legitimation Process.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1255](#) (Bell-75th) Creates the House Study Committee on Combating Human Trafficking in Major Transportation Areas.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 36

(Robertson-29th) Includes provisions related to pimping and pandering; detainment of people within Georgia by federal law enforcement officers; revisions to the crime of incest; computer generated obscenity involving materials that appear to be of minors; and increased penalties for committing the crime of cruelty to children against a disabled minor. Section 1-1 of SB 36 is known as the 'Colton-McNeill Act' and increases penalties for committing the crime of cruelty to children against a disabled minor. The first degree of the crime now carries a penalty of between 15 and 30 years, while the second degree of the crime now carries a penalty of between 10 and 30 years. Section 2-1 makes the crimes of pimping and pandering a felony with a penalty of one to 10 years of imprisonment. A person who commits a second or subsequent offense of pimping, or who commits a second or subsequent offense of pandering, will be penalized by a felony, with imprisonment of one to 10 years, and a mandatory minimum of one year. The court can depart from either crimes' mandatory minimum if it deems in its discretion that the sentence is not in the interest of justice, although the court must state its findings on the record when doing so. Section 2-2 adds a grandparent and step-grandchild relationship to O.C.G.A. 16-6-22(a)(4), which is a list of people whom it is prohibited to have sexual intercourse or sodomy with. Existing language applies to a grandparent and grandchild. Section 2-3 adds the offense of computer-generated obscene material depicting a child. A person who knowingly distributes, solicits, or possesses with intent to distribute a visual depiction that is obscene, appears to be of a child, involves sexually explicit conduct, and was created through the use of artificial intelligence, will be subject to felony punishment of between one and 15 years and potential reporting requirements if the sentence is probated. This section applies to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2024. Section 3-1 allows a federal law enforcement officer to detain an individual after a request by a state law enforcement officer with or without a warrant when the federal law enforcement officer is a fulltime employee, in good standing, and authorized to arrest others and carry a firearm. The request by the state law enforcement officer may be retracted at any time after which a federal officer would no longer be able to detain an individual.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 230

(Brass-28th) Adds a new item to the bill of rights for foster parents, which says that they have the right to a reasonable and prudent parent standard when determining the ability of a child in foster care to engage in certain extracurricular activities. This clarifies that foster parents have the right to a certified volunteer advocate of the foster parent's choosing during an investigation and also during meetings, as well as the right to a fair, timely, and impartial investigation. It also changes the date that the Department of Human Services must develop a grievance procedure for dealing with grievances of foster parents from 2007 to 2024.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 378

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 428](#)

(Tillery-19th) States that in cases involving personal injury or death resulting from a foster child's use of a motor vehicle, the damages awarded against the foster parent, based solely on the family-purpose car doctrine or the negligent entrustment doctrine, cannot exceed the applicable policy limits of the foster parent's motor vehicle liability insurance coverage. This applies if the insurance coverage complies with the minimum requirements under Chapter 34 of Title 33, known as the 'Georgia Motor Vehicle Accident Reparations Act,' at the time of the incident leading to the legal action.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 466](#)

(Hatchett-50th) Provide for limitations of defense that a sexually exploitive visual medium is digitally altered for the offense of sexual exploitation of children.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 498](#)

(Jackson-41st) Creates the Georgia Interagency Council for the Homeless.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 512](#)

(Still-48th) Automatically restricts and seals the record of an offense by an individual after July 1, 2024, who was sentenced pursuant to Title 42, Chapter 8, Article 3 ('First Offenders Act'). If first offender status is revoked, then a court will unseal the records, and courts, law enforcement agencies, jails, and detention centers may disseminate the records as authorized by law, for criminal justice agencies for purposes of employment, pursuant to disclosure required by federal or state law, or for the purpose of a firearm determination pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-11-129. If a court that has jurisdiction determines that a defendant has violated their first offender sentence, that person's records will become unsealed and visible to the public. The parties that will have access to the records while a defendant is serving a first offender sentence, and prior to exoneration or discharge, are: judges, public defenders, prosecutors, the Judicial Qualifications Commission; the individual who is the subject of the records; the Department of Community Supervision; a party fulfilling a disclosure pursuant to federal or state law; a party making a determination related to the transfer or licensure of a firearm; and a party that has a court order for inspection, copying, and use of the records. A person who has been exonerated of guilt and discharge without guilt or pursuant to a court order prior to July 1, 2024, can petition the court that granted the discharge to seal their records related to the criminal charge. Within 90 days of this petition, the court will order that the records be sealed, and within 60 days of exoneration and discharge or the filing of the court's order, the clerk of court will seal the records. When a court orders the sealing of records, it will also order that the records maintained by law enforcement agencies, jails, and detention centers be sealed and restricted from the public, and those agencies will comply within 30 days of the receiving a copy of the order.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 514](#) (Still-48th) Provides for a required human trafficking training program for hotels.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 545](#) (Harbison-15th) Provides for judicial discretion in determining the right of a surviving parent to custody of a child when such surviving parent is criminally charged with the murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 616](#) (Still-48th) Amends the Constitution so as to provide that the General Assembly by general law may provide for the allocation of certain additional penalties and assessments to the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund for the purpose of providing care and rehabilitative and social services to individuals in this state who have been or may be sexually exploited.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 806](#) (Harrell-40th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Social Media on Children and Platform Privacy Protection.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Health & Behavioral Health

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

[HB 82](#) (Jackson-128th) Amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29, relating to tax credits for rural physicians, limiting eligibility for the current tax credit to rural physicians who qualify on or before May 15, 2023 and repealing the credit on December 31, 2029. 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, provided that the healthcare professional continues operating in a rural county. No healthcare professional practicing in a rural county on or before May 15, 2023 is eligible for the tax credit unless they have practiced in a non-rural county for at least three years. If a healthcare professional qualifies for less than the full 12 months in their first year, they will receive a prorated amount of the credit. The tax credit for this program shall not exceed \$2 million for any calendar year.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 181

(Townsend-179th) The bill introduces several regulations regarding kratom and kratom products. It includes the addition of the metabolite 7-hydroxymitragynine to the definition of "kratom" and defines a "kratom product" as any product containing any part of the leaf of the mitragyna plant. It is made illegal to knowingly sell or transfer any kratom product or kratom extract to anyone under the age of 21, and it is unlawful for anyone under 21 to purchase or possess such products. The bill prohibits the ingestion of kratom using heating elements or other chemical, electronic, or mechanical means, as well as selling or delivering kratom in such a manner. It mandates that all kratom products must be sold behind the counter or in secured displays in stores, and violations of these provisions are considered misdemeanors. The legislation requires all kratom products to be derived from the natural kratom plant and sets limits on the levels of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine allowed in products. Any processing or manufacturing that increases these levels beyond specified thresholds is prohibited. Additionally, kratom processors must not sell adulterated products and must maintain a registered agent in the state. Penalties for violations vary, ranging from misdemeanors to felonies, with fines reaching up to \$100,000 and imprisonment for up to 15 years for repeat offenses. The bill also mandates warning statements on kratom product labels. Effective January 1, 2025, the bill aims to regulate the production, sale, and consumption of kratom products in the state.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 441

(Dempsey-13th) Defines terms such as "authorizing dentist," "dental hygienist," and "teledentistry," providing clarity on their roles and responsibilities within the context of remote dental care. Provides that licensed dentists intending to practice teledentistry must adhere to stringent requirements including establishing formal referral relationships with in-state dentists and notifying the board of their intent to practice teledentistry. Dentists must also ensure informed consent from patients, emphasizing the limitations of remote care compared to traditional in-person examinations. The code also delineates the role of dental hygienists in teledentistry. Dental hygienists must be licensed and in good standing, meeting specific requirements to perform dental hygiene functions permitted under general supervision. The bill also mandates that health insurance plans cover teledentistry services as directed by Department of Insurance regulations. Insurers are prohibited from excluding such services or imposing additional costs based solely on their mode of delivery. Enforcement of these regulations falls under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Insurance, who is empowered to ensure compliance by health insurers with the provisions related to teledentistry coverage. Furthermore, the code empowers the Board to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of teledentistry practices, providing guidance and standardization for practitioners statewide, including dental hygienists.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 557](#)

(Stephens-164th) Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe hydrocodone, oxycodone, or their compounds in emergency situations under certain circumstances. These circumstances include good standing with the applicable medical board and at least one year of post-licensure clinical experience. The patient receiving the prescription must be at least 18 years old. The bill only allows for an initial prescription that does not exceed a five-day supply. Authorization must be included in the provider's nurse protocol agreement and physician assistant's job description. The bill also allows licensed chiropractors, licensed advanced practice registered nurses, and licensed physician assistants to provide an affidavit so that persons with disabilities may be issued temporary, permanent, and special permanent parking permits. The bill also outlines provisions protecting healthcare professionals that seek mental health or wellness services. Participation by a healthcare professional will not be reported to the licensing board unless the participant is not competent to practice or is a danger to themselves or others. Those involved in evaluating the program will be immune from civil liability under certain circumstances and neither oral or written findings or notations will be subject to discovery or evidence in civil action under certain circumstances. The bill prohibits the imposition or enforcement of restrictive covenants by hospitals or hospital systems against staff if the hospital is permanently closed or is acquired by a third party that then reduces a staff person's compensation.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 663](#)

(Hatchett-155th) Allows for a designated essential caregiver to be present with a patient or resident of a hospital or long-term care facility while they are receiving care. This designated caregiver must adhere to the policies of the hospital or long-term care facility, and their access may be suspended or terminated under outlined circumstances.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 872](#)

(Hawkins-27th) Allows for dental students to be eligible for the service cancelable loan program when they agree to practice in rural counties with a population of 50,000 or less.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 874](#)

(Hawkins-27th) Requires all public schools to always have a functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on site during school hours and during any school-related function. Each school will ensure that the following requirements are met: designate an internal response team; ensure that all internal response team members and any other expected users receive training; ensure that emergency medical services are aware of the AED's location; ensure the AED is maintained/tested appropriately; ensure involvement of a licensed physician for training, notifications, and maintenance; establish a written emergency action plan; and conduct a minimum of two emergency action practice drills each school year.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

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

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1028](#) (LaHood-171st) Clarifies certain rules/regulations relating to the Department of Public Health including adding certain conditions to the definition of sexually transmitted diseases, adding opioid antagonists and post-exposure prophylaxis drugs to the commissioner's standing order, and removing certain outdated code sections.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1046](#) (Clark-100th) Allows advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to complete and sign death certificates under the authority of a physician. These healthcare professionals must complete biennial continuing education as approved by the board. There must also be a selection box added to the death certificate to indicate whether a physician or non-physician completed the certificate. Additionally, HB 1046 creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health to make policy recommendations regarding perinatal care programs and develop quality metrics. The commission will consist of 14 members with six appointed by the governor, three by the lieutenant governor, and three by the speaker of the House of Representatives. The commissioner of the Department of Public Health and chief executive officer of the Georgia Research Alliance will also serve as members. A report of findings and recommendations is due on July 1, 2026 and the commission will be repealed.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1183](#) (Dempsey-13th) Requires local school systems to provide certain information to parents and guardians of students in grades six through 12 on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes whenever other health information is provided.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1339](#) (Parrish-158th) Modifies and updates statutes relating to the state's certificate of need (CON) processes. The Department of Community Health (DCH) is required to review and update the state health plan every five years. The time period to submit a letter of intent is reduced from 30 to 25 days before application submission. The 120-day period for DCH to review the application begins upon receipt of the application and within 30 days of receipt, an applicant will be provided an

opportunity to meet and review with DCHS. Opposition is required to be submitted within 30 days of receipt of the application. Additionally, expenditure thresholds for the construction, remodeling, and installation of capital projects are removed. HB 1339 expands several provisions relating to CON exemptions. The expansion of hospital bed capacity up to 10 beds or 20 percent within a three-year period when occupancy exceeds 60 percent for the previous 12 months is exempt. The maximum distance for certain healthcare facilities to relocate with a CON is extended from a three-mile radius to a five-mile radius of the original location. Psychiatric or substance abuse inpatient programs or beds for Medicaid and uninsured patients are now exempt when an agreement is reached with a nearby hospital. New or expanded rural hospital perinatal services are exempt when an agreement is reached with a nearby hospital, including new or expanded birthing centers. New acute care facilities in rural counties are exempt under certain circumstances. New short-stay general hospitals are exempt if the new facility is replacing a closed facility within a 48-month timeframe and within five miles of the main campus of a medical school. Transfers of existing beds and services are exempt when they occur within the same hospital system and are within a 15-mile radius of the original campus. DCHS and the General Assembly's Office of Legislative Counsel will review and make recommendations to update and rewrite Title 31, Chapter 6 and other such provisions relating to CON in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Recommendations will be made to the General Assembly by December 1, 2024. Penalties associated with delayed or unsubmitted reports are increased from \$500 to \$2,000 per day up to 30 days, and from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per day for every day after 30 days. The maximum limit on the rural hospital tax credit is increased from \$75 million to \$100 million per taxable year and the sunset is extended from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2029. HB 1339 creates the Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission, which will advise the General Assembly, governor, and DCH on matters related to the quality of and access to healthcare by low-income and uninsured populations, including reimbursement, funding, quality improvement, and service delivery enhancement opportunities. The commission will consist of nine members, including: a chairperson appointed by the governor; three non-legislative members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; three non-legislative members appointed by the

president of the Senate; one non-legislative member appointed by the House minority leader; and one non-legislative member appointed by the Senate minority leader. The commission's initial report will be submitted no later than December 1, 2024 and the commission will be abolished on December 3, 2026.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1344](#)

(Dempsey-13th) Revises provisions related to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The commissioners of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Early Care and Learning, Department of Community Health, Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, Department of Community Supervision, Department of Community Affairs, Technical College System of Georgia, Department of Labor, and the State School Superintendent will be authorized to attend or send a delegate to attend meetings. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists can waive experience requirements for licensure applicants from other jurisdictions when their license is in good standing for at least two years.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1409](#)

(Leverett-123rd) Pertains to the legal liability of inpatient mental health providers in the delivery of care to individuals under the age of 21 and are in Department of Human Services. Mental health care providers will not be held liable unless gross negligence. In such cases, the jury will be instructed to consider the patient's medical history, previous provider-patient relationships, and circumstances surrounding delivery and provision of services.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HR 1283](#)

(Powell-33rd) Creates the House Study Committee on Safety and Consumer Protection of Nicotine Vapor Products.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Since this is a House Study Committee, no further action is needed and the bill is therefore passed.

[HR 1360](#)

(Dempsey-13th) Creates the House Study Committee on Alternatives to Opioids for Pain Management. This committee will be made up of 14 members, seven members of the House of Representatives, five non-legislative members, and two agency representatives. This committee will be abolished December 1, 2024.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Since this is a House Study Committee, no further action is needed and the bill is therefore passed.

[SB 195](#)

(Walker-20th) Allows Georgia to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Social Work Licensure Compact" and authorizes the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to administer the compact in this state. The bill also requires that an expedited license by endorsement be issued by a board 30 days from the date of receipt of the application rather than 90 days. Additionally, the bill alters provisions regarding land surveying licenses.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 293](#)

(Watson-1st) Revises the selection and qualifications of district health directors. The commissioner of the Department of Public Health will appoint district health directors to serve as chief executive officers of each local health department in the respective district. The director must be licensed to practice medicine or have a master's degree in public health or a related field. If the director is not licensed to practice medicine, then a licensed physician must serve as the chief medical officer. If a position for district health director becomes vacant, the commissioner can appoint an interim without board approval until a permanent director is appointed and approved by the county boards of health.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 373](#)

(Walker-20th) Amends the definition of "supervisor" related to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists to remove the requirement that an applicant be a psychiatrist or a psychologist. It also removes the requirement that applicants to become a professional counselor have a doctoral degree in order to be licensed. Further, an associate professional counselor would be required to have 90 quarter hours in relevant education rather than 80 hours in order to be licensed. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists is required to issue expedited licenses by endorsement within 30 days from the date of application for those individuals who have the same type of license in another state and meet other requirements, such as being in good standing. This will not apply to licenses for an associate marriage and family therapist.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 377](#)

(Tillery-19th) Defines and clarifies qualified residential treatment programs as a type of licensed child-caring institution.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 395](#)

(Dixon-45th) Wesley's Law'- Makes any opioid antagonist exempt from classification as a dangerous drug when used for overdose prevention. Section 2 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-776.5. known as 'Wesley's Law', allows for visitors and school employees to possess and administer an opioid antagonist if the person believes someone is suffering from a drug overdose on

school property or at a school-sponsored activity. No cause of action can be brought whether a school personnel administers or chooses not to administer an opioid antagonist when this decision is brought in good faith. Section 3 clarifies that prescription drugs may not be dispensed by a vending machine in O.C.G.A. 26-4-89. Section 4 allows for the sale and supply of opioid antagonists in vending machines. Additionally, persons and harm reduction organizations that dispense, supply, and administer opioid antagonists are immune from liability when acting in good faith. Section 5 requires that government buildings, courthouses, and schools with automated external defibrillators provide opioid antagonists to assist in the event of an opioid overdose.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 449](#)

(Walker-20th) Requires the Department of Community Health, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, to create a program in which military medical personnel can be certified as nurse aides, paramedics, cardiac technicians, emergency medical technicians, or licensed practical nurses without having to meet certain additional requirements. The term "military medical personnel" is added by the bill and relates to those who have relevant experience within the past 24 months prior to seeking certification or recertification as a medic, medical technician, or corpsman, within the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, or Coast Guard. The bill amends the definition of "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) to specify that APRNs engage in advanced nursing within one of the following roles: certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, certified nurse anesthetist, or a clinical nurse specialist. The bill revises the requirements for those applying to become an APRN, starting on September 1, 2025. The license must be renewed every two years, and it is a misdemeanor offense to practice as an APRN without a proper license. Further, the bill provides that any reference to a rural hospital organization within the chapter of the Code will include a hospital located in any county that satisfies the definition of rural hospital organization in O.C.G.A. 31-8-9.1.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 480](#)

(Hodges-3rd) Provides student loan repayment to mental health and substance use providers who provide services to underserved youth or who practice in an unserved geographic area. The total amount of repayment will be determined by the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce and will be paid for a maximum of five years.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 494](#)

(Watson-1st) Creates definitions for “attractive to children,” “consumable hemp product,” “contaminant,” “Delta-9-THC,” “Delta-9-THCA,” “full panel certificate of analysis,” “hemp grower license,” “industrial hemp product,” “manufacture,” “manufacturer license,” “measurement of uncertainty,” “QR code,” “registered laboratory,” “retail consumable hemp establishment license,” “total delta-9-THC concentration,” and “wholesale consumable hemp license.” The bill outlines the way in which delta-9-THC concentration is established and allows for an applicable measurement of uncertainty when measuring this concentration. Furthermore, the bill makes it unlawful for anyone to process, handle, manufacture, or sell to consumers or to retailers hemp in the state without a processing permit granted by the Department of Agriculture. In order to perform state tests or analyses of any plant with the Cannabis genus or any product derived from the plant, the individual must register with a one-time \$250 fee with the Department. Criminal penalties in regards to violations of this sort shall be subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 per violation. The annual price of hemp processor permits is decreased to be between \$500 and \$2,000 annually. Retail consumable hemp establishment licenses shall be issued for one calendar year at an annual fee of \$250 and are applicable for single retail locations where consumable hemp products are sold. Wholesale consumable hemp licenses, likewise, shall be issued for one calendar year, but at an annual licensing fee between \$500 and \$10,000. Manufacturer licenses are also issued yearly and require an annual licensing fee of \$5,000 unless the individual holds a hemp processor permit and is not required to pay the annual fee. Consumable hemp products may only be sold or distributed if the processor or manufacturer has contracted a full panel certificate of analysis on the product. Random inspections by the Department are authorized to ensure compliance. SB 494 further prohibits consumable hemp products from resembling existing candy or snack products or from being attractive to children. Additionally, retail establishments selling consumable hemp products may not sell or distribute these products if located within 500 feet of any K-12 educational institution. It is further unlawful to knowingly sell directly, or indirectly, consumable hemp products to individuals under the age of 21. However, nothing prohibits individuals under the age of 21 from selling or handling consumable hemp products as part of their employment.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 495](#)

(Watson-1st) Stipulates that a registration card for low THC oil is valid for five years from the date of issuance so long as the individual continues to remain eligible for a card based on the continued diagnosis of the condition. The Department of Public Health will deliver the registration cards through certified mail or by electronic means, such as email.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

- [HB 101](#)** (Crowe-118th) Revises the Code relating to rural hospital tax credits by expanding the definition of a rural hospital and increasing the amount corporations can donate for tax credit purposes. It also creates a tax credit for mortgage loan originators, and clarifies bill language on data centers that have applied for a certificate of exemption.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 143](#)** (Mathis-149th) Relating to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, so as to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; and for collaboration with state licensing boards.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 174](#)** (Bentley-150th) Requires the Department of Education to provide information regarding recommended vaccination for meningococcal meningitis, human papillomavirus virus (HPV), and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (TDAP) to parents and guardians of students entering the sixth grade.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 215](#)** (Powell-33rd) Establishes the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification (CHWC) Committee, detailing its composition, responsibilities, and procedures. It defines key terms such as accreditation, certification, certification programs, certified community health worker, community health worker, and core competency. The CHWC Committee comprises eleven voting members appointed by the Commissioner, representing various professional backgrounds related to healthcare and public health policy, along with two agency representatives as nonvoting members. Members are subject to specific eligibility criteria and term limits, with provisions for reimbursement of expenses. The Committee is tasked with setting standards for accreditation and certification programs, assessing community health worker competency, facilitating reciprocity for certified workers from other jurisdictions, establishing disciplinary procedures, and ensuring compliance with public health standards. All certification programs must be accredited by the CHWC Committee, with the Department overseeing the process and providing necessary administrative support. Applicants seeking accreditation must fulfill specified requirements and pay a designated fee. Additionally, the Department is mandated to publish accreditation criteria and application procedures on its website to ensure transparency and accessibility.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. The bill did not get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [HB 308](#) (Newton-127th) Revises a tax credit for certain medical preceptor rotations; to add dentistry; to increase the value of the tax credit, and caps the aggregate amount at \$6 million per year.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 363](#) (LaHood-175th) Increases the aggregate amount of rural hospital organization tax credits allowed from \$75 million to \$80 million. The limit for a member of a limited liability company, a shareholder of a Subchapter 'S' corporation, or a partner in a partnership is increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The sunset provision for the credit is changed to December 31, 2029. The bill also amends O.C.G.A. 31-8-9.1 to add "rural freestanding emergency department" to the definition of eligible "rural hospital organization".
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 546](#) (Jasperse-11th) Amends the definition of "pharmacy care" within the 'Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act' to allow for adaption of a prescription drug order. The bill allows a pharmacist to adapt a prescription drug order, under certain circumstances, by changing the quantity of medication prescribed, changing the dosage form of the prescription, and completing missing information on a prescription drug order. Adaptions must be documented and done with patient consent.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 576](#) (Gullett-19th) Prohibits an individual's vaccine status from being used to determine priority status on an organ transplant waiting list.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 793](#) (Barton-5th) Allows an applicant for a license in social work who is enrolled in the last semester of their master's degree program for social work to sit for the master's social work licensing examination.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [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 to allows the pharmacy to collect a co-payment not to exceed \$75.00 for insulin dispensed through this program.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 861](#) (Schofield-63rd) Requires ingredients to be listed on packages containing menstrual products.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 924](#) (Ballinger-23rd) Prohibits insurance companies from requiring the practice of "white bagging" by in-network providers for certain specialty medications. "White bagging" is the practice of requiring that these drugs be purchased through third-party pharmacies.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1005](#) (Lim-98th) Requires that every health benefit policy to provide coverage for rabies immune globulin and vaccinations administered after potential exposure to rabies.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [HB 1006](#) (Lim-98th) Requires local school systems or public schools issuing identification cards to include certain information regarding suicide prevention resources.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1029](#) (Mathiak-74th) Requires the newborn screening system to include Duchenne muscular dystrophy.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1035](#) (Cooper-45th) Allows for the sale and supply of opioid antagonists in vending machines. Additionally, persons and harm reduction organizations that dispense, supply, and administer opioid antagonists are immune from liability when acting in good faith.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1050](#) (Mathiak-74th) Modifies the licensing requirements for social workers and marriage and family therapists, as well as increases the required quarter hours for an approved supervised internship to 90 hours in order to be licensed as a professional counselor.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1064](#) (Schofield-63rd) "Trauma Informed School Counselors Act" in Georgia amends the "Quality Basic Education Act" to ensure funding for school counselors. It establishes program weights to pay for at least one school counselor for every 450 students. Additionally, starting in Fiscal Year 2027, it introduces a new category of "trauma informed school counselors" with program weights to support their salaries for every 150 students. The Act mandates the creation of a trauma informed counseling endorsement by December 31, 2024, and outlines topics that must be covered in the associated training program. The Professional Standards Commission will assess the fidelity of training and implementation for those receiving the endorsement.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 1065

(Scott-76th) Establishes the "Temporary Youth Behavioral Health Services Program" within the Department of Public Health in Georgia. The program aims to enhance access to behavioral health care providers for individuals under the age of 18, including those up to 22 years old receiving special education services. Key provisions include defining terms such as "behavioral health care provider," "client," "portal," "telehealth," and "treatment." The department is tasked with developing the program's framework, including provider application processes, reimbursement rates, and a statewide public awareness campaign targeting organizations interacting with youth at the local level. The program is designed to offer behavioral health services through telehealth and in-person sessions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 1077

(Cooper-45th) Creates a student loan repayment program for behavioral health providers. Eligible providers include but are not limited to licensed psychiatrists, addiction medicine specialists, psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, and marriage/family therapists. Repayment can be received for up to six years, and annual amounts range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 depending on the share of Medicaid patients seen. Total repayment may not exceed \$220,000. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is also required to sponsor clinical behavioral health training programs at eligible institutions.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 1104

(Crawford-84th) Requires athletic associations to post on their website guidelines and relevant materials informing and educating students, parents/guardians, school personnel, and coaches about screening for mental health risks and available resources. Coaches will annually view approved educational videos, if available, and review guidelines/materials related to mental health risks in student athletes. From SB 365: 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. From SB 532: Prohibits sex education for public school students in this state before sixth grade; requires the State Board of Education to approve age- and grade-appropriate content standards for sex education curricula; and revises the "Parents Bill of Rights" to provide for parents to revocably opt-in to sex education for their children. From SB 240(?): addresses benefits to teachers in charter schools. From Sb 438: Defines "gender" as a person's biological sex determined by reproductive biology and genetics at birth, as stated on the official birth certificate. "Gender identity" is defined as a person's self-perceived or claimed gender. The legislation prohibits schools from allowing a person whose gender is male but identifies as female to participate in female-designated interscholastic athletics. It also restricts the use of multiple occupancy restrooms or changing areas designated for the opposite gender in the context of interscholastic athletics. Students or parents aggrieved by violations have the right to file grievances, appeal decisions to the local board of education, and seek private legal action for injunctive or declaratory relief. The provision explicitly notes that it does not override requirements or protections under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The bill also repeals a grant of discretionary authority to athletic association executive oversight committees by deleting "prohibit students whose gender is male from participating in athletic events that are designated for students whose gender is female, then

the athletic association may adopt a policy to that effect; provided, however, that such policy shall be applied to all of the athletic association's participating public high schools;" from current law.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1107](#) (Mainor-56th) Requires notice of admission and daily updates from a mental health facility to the parent or legal guardian of an involuntary minor patient under 12 years of age.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1170](#) (Hawkins-27th) Requires that government buildings, courthouses, and schools with automated external defibrillators provide opioid antagonists to assist in the event of an opioid overdose. The bill also bans providers from offering medicines that temporarily pause puberty to Georgians under the age of 18.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1179](#) (Cooper-45th) Provides that step therapy protocols may not be required for medications prescribed for the treatment of serious mental illness under health benefit plans or Medicaid.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1252](#) (Scott-76th) Prohibits smoking and vaping inside any motor vehicle when a person who is under 18 years of age is present.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1260](#) (Gaines-120th) Requires the Dept. of Revenue to establish and maintain a directory of nicotine vapor products authorized for sale in this state; and prohibits the sale of any nicotine vapor product not listed in the directory. The bill also provides for compliance checks, civil penalties and enforcement and rules and regulations. The bill also requires the Commissioner to provide an annual report to the General Assembly.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1314](#) (Romman-97th) Designates emergency medical services, including ambulance service, as an essential service.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [HB 1322](#) (Cannon-172nd) Regulates consumable hemp products; and requires such products be packaged in certain containers. The bill also puts restrictions on advertisements of such products, on the location of retail establishments that sell such products.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1340](#) (Hilton-48th) Provides for credentialing of qualified behavior analysts and qualified autism services practitioner-supervisors.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1343](#) (Lim-98th) Provides Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1377](#) (Holcomb-81st) Repeals the prohibition on expenditure or use of state resources to advocate for or intend to influence citizens in support of Medicaid expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1424](#) (Lim-98th) Provides that a person shall have the right to obtain contraceptives and to engage or refuse to engage in the use of contraception. A health care provider shall have the right to provide access to contraceptives and contraception related information.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1437](#) (Scoggins-14th) Requires insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) in accordance with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1490](#) (Newton-127th) Prohibits the enforcement of certain covenants and restrictions on physicians in employment or partnership contracts or agreements and delineates covenants not to compete which are valid and enforceable.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 547](#) (Mathiak-74th) Creates the House Study Committee on Rural Medical Personnel Recruitment.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 12](#) (Albers-56th) The bill introduces a comprehensive set of revisions to various aspects of guardianship and conservatorship petitions, expanding the scope of professionals authorized to sign affidavits, conduct evaluations, and participate in emergency situations. In Section 2, the bill broadens the list of individuals eligible to sign affidavits supporting petitions for guardian appointments, encompassing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric or mental health, and marriage and family counselors. Similar expansions are reflected in Sections 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15, where these professionals are granted the authority to sign affidavits for different types of petitions related to guardianship and conservatorship. Additionally, Sections 3, 5, 10, 12, 16, and 17 extend the qualifications for evaluators tasked with assessing the necessity of appointments or modifications in guardianship and conservatorship matters, incorporating the same categories of professionals. Moreover, Section 13 outlines the definition of "gross settlement" concerning conservatorships and guardianships. Lastly, Sections 18 through 20 empower relevant boards to establish a professional health program designed to monitor and rehabilitate impaired healthcare professionals, ensuring the involvement of appropriate authorities in addressing potential issues within the healthcare sector related to guardianship and conservatorship matters. These amendments collectively seek to enhance the efficiency and inclusivity of the processes governing guardianship and conservatorship arrangements.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 32](#) (Anavitarte-31st) Requires local education agencies to implement a mobile panic alert system, known as 'Alyssa's Alert', capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies. The system must be able to alert state and local law enforcement, and other first responders simultaneously. If a local education agency has already procured and implemented a mobile panic alert system with capabilities which meet the requirements of this Code section, the agency will not have to purchase a new system. No later than December 1, 2025, the Department of Administrative Services will identify whether an existing competitive source of supply is available for a system that meets the requirements of this Code section.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 76](#) (Merritt-9th) Increases the dollar value trigger of certain considerations related to in-state purchasing preferences for certain contracts and purchases. (The bill used to be about the cost of insulin but was changed.)

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 307

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Requires that insurers create a program that reduces prior authorization requirements for providers based on quality metrics. HB 924 prohibits insurance companies from requiring the practice of "white bagging" by in-network providers for certain specialty medications. "White bagging" is the practice of requiring that these drugs be purchased through third-party pharmacies. HB 945 was added that requires state health plan insurers to continue coverage when a hospital that is in-network becomes out-of-network with the insurer before the end of the plan year. This will apply to contracts on and after July 1, 2024.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 419

(Walker-20th) Allows certified registered nurse anesthetist to administer anesthesia pursuant to an order by a duly licensed physician, dentist, or podiatrist.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 437

(Robertson-29th) Gives the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture enforcement authority regarding the regulations provided in Titles 2, 4, 10, 16, 26, and 43. The bill adds definitions in the 'Georgia Hemp Farming Act' for "consumable hemp product", "contaminants", "full panel certificate of analysis", "QR code", and "registered laboratory". When tests are used to measure the delta-9-THC levels of hemp or a hemp product, the applicable measurement of uncertainty for the test will be considered. The bill outlaws the sale of consumable hemp products unless a processor or manufacturer has contracted a full panel certificate of analysis within the past 12 months. Random inspections of consumable hemp products may be conducted by the Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance with this Code section. SB 437 outlaws the ability to sell hemp products directly, or indirectly, through another person, to any individual under the age of 21. Proper

identification must be presented to confirm that a purchaser is of required age. Places of business that sell consumable hemp products are required to display a statement noting the prohibition of the sale of the product to individuals under the age of 21. The bill gives authority to the commissioner, through special agents, enforcement officers, or other law enforcement agencies, to conduct random, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 441](#)

(Merritt-9th) Requires prescribers to discuss with patients, their parent, or guardian the risks of addiction, dependence, and fatal overdose associated with opioid use and all available alternative treatments; and to document the notification in the patient's file. The bill also requires prescribers to provide information regarding the safe disposal, if available, to patients, their parent, or guardian; and excludes prescribers providing prescription for a patient who is currently in active treatment for cancer, receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice or palliative care facility, or is a resident of a long-term care facility, or to any medications that are being prescribed for use in the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 445](#)

(Sims-12th) 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. Vaccines include meningococcal meningitis disease, human papillomavirus (HPV), and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (TDAP).

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 455](#)

(Strickland-17th) Removes the requirement of the step therapy protocol for the treatment of serious mental illness. The bill requires acceptance of payment for health care items or services regardless of when authorization is obtained. The bill requires reimbursement to an independent pharmacy be no less than the average reimbursement for retail chain pharmacies.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 460](#)

(Dixon-45th) Revises provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants that a physician can authorize and supervise at any one time.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 481](#)

(Hodges-3rd) Relating to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, so as to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; and for collaboration with state licensing boards.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 487](#)

(Lucas-26th) Provides for a Medicaid waiver expansion to cover eligible adults below 95 percent of the federal poverty level, integrate behavioral health and housing services with Medicaid accountable care organizations, and establish reporting requirements to the General Assembly.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 519](#)

(Watson-1st) Prohibits prescribing or administering certain hormone replacement therapies and puberty blocking medications for certain purposes to minors; and prohibits prescribing or administering certain hormone replacement therapies and puberty blocking medications for the treatment of gender dysphoria for certain purposes.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 524](#)

(Anavitarte-31st) Provides for the certification of community health workers; and for the establishment of the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee. The bill also provides for Medicaid reimbursement and insurance coverage.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 537](#)

(Merritt-9th) Increases the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 539](#)

(Merritt-9th) Increases the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 564](#)

(Parent-42nd) Provides that a person shall have the right to obtain contraceptives and to engage or refuse to engage in the use of contraception. A health care provider shall have the right to provide access to contraceptives and contraception related information.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Maternal & Infant Care

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1037](#) (Daniel-117th) Creates the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health to make policy recommendations regarding perinatal care programs and develop quality metrics. A report of findings and recommendations is due on July 1, 2026 and the commission will be repealed.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1081](#) (Taylor-173rd) "Georgia Preeclampsia Biomarker Testing Act of 2024" Requires private insurers and Georgia Medicaid to provide coverage for testing that allows pregnant women to be screened for preeclampsia through biomarker testing.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1154](#) (Cannon-172nd) Mandates Medicaid coverage when pediatricians offer and perform maternal screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1155](#) (Cannon-172nd) "Newborn Baby and Mother Protection Act" - Requires minimum health policy coverage, prohibited actions by insurance providers, and required notice to mother, so as to mandate coverage when pediatricians offer and provide mothers with screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1176](#) (Kelley-16th) Provide for coverage by private insurance, the State Health Benefits Plan, and the state Medicaid program of infant formula when a woman is medically unable to breastfeed.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1215](#) (Cannon-172nd) "Georgia Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act" - Requires perinatal facilities in this state to implement evidence-based implicit bias programs for its healthcare professionals, and for the compilation and tracking of data on severe maternal morbidity and pregnancy related deaths.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1216](#) (Cannon-172nd) Provides for a pilot program to provide coverage under the Medicaid program for doula care for pregnant Medicaid recipients.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1301](#) (Mathiak-74th) Requires the newborn screening system to include Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1302](#) (Bennett-94th) Provides for mandatory maternal mental health screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders for Medicaid recipients at specific points during and after pregnancy, and for additional screening as deemed necessary by healthcare providers. The bill also requires mandatory education regarding postpartum depression to women after childbirth; and authorizes the department to submit necessary amendment or waiver requests to implement such screening as part of the state Medicaid program.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [HB 1497](#) (Anulewicz-42nd) Provides that a human egg or human embryo is not considered an unborn child, a minor child, or a person for any purpose under law.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1499](#) (Cannon-58th) Provides for a grant program to prevent maternal mortality by managing risk factors, conditions, and circumstances and establishes the Maternal Mortality Prevention Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Public Health.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HR 1231](#) (Newton-127th) Creates the House Study Committee on Trauma, Maternal, Prenatal, and Pediatric Care Access and Funding.
- STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [SB 283](#) (Strickland-17th) Provides for reasonable accommodations to job applicants and employees for circumstances related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [SB 544](#) (Harbison-15th) Provides that arrested women submit to pregnancy testing protocols under certain circumstances and revises provisions relating to the treatment of pregnant and postpartum female inmates. The bill also enacts a provision regarding delayed sentencing for pregnant or postpartum female inmates; and provides for the reporting of certain information.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [SB 546](#) (James-35th) Provides for the licensure and regulation of community midwives.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 565](#) (Parent-42nd) Provides that a human egg or human embryo is not considered an unborn child, a minor child, or a person for any purpose under law.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

[HR 1608](#) (Jones-47th) Recognizes October 7-11, 2024, as Georgia Pre-K Week.

STATUS: ADOPTED

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

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. This is a Senate Study Committee and therefore does not need House approval.

[SR 587](#) (Dixon-45th) Recognizes February 14, 2024, as Afterschool Day at the state capitol.

STATUS: SENATE ADOPTED.

[SR 829](#) (Hickman-4th) Recognizes October 7-11, 2024, as Georgia Pre-K Week.

STATUS: Senate Adopted

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1393](#) (Bell-75th) Provides for a minimum salary schedule for Georgia's Pre-K Program lead teachers, subject to appropriations.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1230](#) (Campbell-35th) Amends the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the creation of a Children First Trust Fund; providing for the appropriation of moneys into such fund, including a one-time appropriation from the Revenue Shortfall Reserve; and providing that returns on such investments shall be used for financial assistance for child care services.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to get a vote on the House floor and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 550](#) (Mallow-2nd) Provides for a minimum salary schedule for Georgia's Pre-K Program lead teachers, subject to appropriations.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.



K-12 Education

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

[HB 51](#) (Pirkle-169th) Ensures athletic associations include and recognize all other voluntary nonprofit school activities associations of Georgia high schools as a member, and allows local boards of education to utilize alternative means of transportation other than school buses to transport students to school and school-related activities where appropriate.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 318

(Hilton-48th) The legislative update encompasses several significant changes. Firstly, it involves the reestablishment of the Office of Charter School Compliance and the establishment of the Office of District Flexibility. These offices aim to streamline the administration and oversight of charter schools within the state's education system. Secondly, the bill mandates that administrative fees withheld by the state or local school systems for charter school administration must be exclusively utilized for that purpose. Up to three percent of charter school funding can be retained by local boards of education for administrative services, with any unused funds required to be remitted to the charter school annually. The Department of Education is also authorized to retain up to 3% for the administration of state-chartered special schools, with any remaining funds to be returned to the respective schools. Moreover, the legislation revises the eligibility criteria for project-specific capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems, taking into account factors such as revenue rankings and the age of educational facilities. Additionally, it empowers the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations to implement the provisions outlined in the bill. Lastly, the update includes changes to the definitions of energy cost savings measures and contracts, reflecting adjustments in terminology and scope within the energy efficiency sector.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 970

(Dickey-145th) The bill expands the eligibility criteria for the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) scholarship program to include victims of human trafficking. Under HB 970, REACH participating school systems are empowered to designate REACH scholars annually, pending available appropriations. It mandates that participating school systems allocate \$1,000 and have the authority to provide an additional \$9,000 for each REACH scholar enrolled in their system.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 995

(Bonner-73rd) Requires local school systems to provide an optional nationally recognized multiple-aptitude battery assessment to predict future academic and occupational success in the military to students in grades 11 and 12. This assessment will be provided to students during school hours at least once a school year.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

HB 1122

(Hilton-48th) Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-186, which outlines specific funding criteria based on student enrollment for state charter schools to earn a superintendent, and state and local charter schools to earn principals. Section 2 includes part-time teachers and paraprofessionals as allowable employees in O.C.G.A. 20-2-239 to enroll a student in a school other than the student's residence if the student's parent works at the school. Section 3 includes full-time or part-time paraprofessionals as allowable employees in O.C.G.A. 20-2-2066 to enroll a student at a start-up charter school, a conversion charter school, or a state-chartered special school as the parent of such student. Section 4 prohibits state charter school governing board members from being an officer, member, or executive-level employee of a local board of education or a local school system. Section 5 provides additional requirements for schools relating to publishing the Office of Students Achievement's school rating.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

SB 50

(Burns-23rd) Requires the State Board of Education to create content standards in lifeguard and aquatic safety beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Local boards of education may adopt curriculum and provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety. Curriculum should provide sufficient training to allow students to successfully complete certification as a lifeguard upon course completion.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 105

(Walker-20th) Increases the benefit multiplier for Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) members from \$16.50 to a minimum of \$17.00 per month for each year of creditable service. This bill also removes the benefit multiplier for members, including those members who retired after August 1, 2012. The bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation estimates the annual employer contribution rate will increase from \$983.94 to \$1,160.67 per active member, for a total state cost of \$5,625,000.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 233

(Dolezal-27th) Creates the Georgia Education Savings Authority and the 'Georgia Promise Scholarship Act'; changes program weights in the Quality Basic Education formula; allows capital outlays funds to be used for pre-kindergarten programs; caps tuition fees for out of district student transfers; revises grants to low-performing schools; and amends the tax credit for qualified education donations. PART I Section 1-1 creates the Georgia Education Savings Authority to establish and administer student assistance programs. The powers, duties, functions, and organization of the authority are outlined in the newly created Title 20, Chapter 2B, Article 1. PART II Section 2-1 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; purchase of curriculum; professional services; transportation; fees for the management of account funds; other expenses authorized by the State Board of Education or the Georgia Education Savings Authority; or individual education expenses authorized by the parent review committee under Code Section 20-2B25. 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 or a state-wide assessment annually. The Education Savings Authority will report annually to the General Assembly on the number and demographics of participating students and schools; student performance on assessments; parental satisfaction; percent of funds utilized for each qualified education expenses; and the fiscal impact of the program on the state and school systems. PART III Section 3-1 revises the weights under the Quality Basic Education formula for instructional programs. Section 3-2 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-260(5), relating to capital outlay funds, to include Georgia's prekindergarten programs provided and operated by the local school system to be included as an allowable use. School systems are currently unable to use capital outlay funds for this purpose. PART IV Section 4-1 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-293 relating to a student attending a school in a system other than the system of the student's residence. Beginning July 1, 2026, if a student attends a school outside of the student's local school system, the new school system cannot charge more than the local share of funding for tuition to transfer students. PART V Section 5-1 amends the Georgia Foundation for Public Education to provide that schools in the lowest 25 percent of schools should be prioritized to receive funding to implement academic and organizational innovations to improve student achievement. Section 5-2 increases the maximum allowable income tax credit for individuals and businesses for qualified education donations for grants to public schools. The tax credit cap will increase from \$5 million in 2023 to \$15 million in 2024.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

SB 440

(Brass-28th) Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-149.2, known as the Accelerated Career Diploma program, to simplify the dual enrollment program and allow for academic flexibility to better align with pathway programs. This diploma path is only available for an associate degree for applied science within the Technical College System of Georgia. The Dual Enrollment ACE (Accelerated Career Education) grant program creates a grant for students participating in the Accelerated Career Diploma program. These students will not be subject to the 30-hour dual enrollment cap and will allow dual enrollment funding to distinguish between academic and technical students. The sunset for this program is June 30, 2027.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 464](#)

(Dixon-45th) Revises the Georgia Early Literacy Act to create an executive committee of voting members of the Council on Literacy made up of five members appointed by the governor, president of the Senate, speaker of the House, a representative from the State Board of Education, and the chairperson of the council. Section 2 provides for the identification of universal reading screeners by the Department of Education and Georgia Council on Literacy, one of which will be free to local school systems, for use by public schools and local school systems by May 15, 2025. Section 3 establishes the 'School Supplies for Educators Act' to provide financial/technical assistance to educators to purchase school supplies online subject to appropriations.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SR 251](#)

(Davenport-44th) Creates the Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Because this is a Senate Study Committee, it does not need approval from the House.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 81](#)

(Corbett-174th) 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 percent 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 percent 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. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 127](#)

(Mainor-56th) Directs the State Board of Education to develop rules and regulations for local school systems to follow when interpreters are needed for limited English-proficient students and their parents during Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. HB 127 further requires community outreach efforts by local school systems to provide parents with information regarding the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 282](#)

(Mainor-56th) States that local boards that use state funds to implement programs “shall give priority” to patriotic societies, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, to use school facilities, but local boards can deny them that right if they provide reasons for denial in writing. Also states that each local board of education may require students in grades 9-12 to complete and pass a course on the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America that includes “an interactive taxpayer receipt web-based application and a budget simulator web-based application” along with the “the principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt” (in current law). The web-based app for the taxpayer receipt and budget simulator will be provided free to local boards from GaDOE if the legislature appropriates funds. The bill provides schools a minimum course of study in career readiness education that includes instruction and training experiences focused on employability and career readiness skills; and it includes language from HB 127 that requires the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations regarding interpreters for IEP meetings with students in the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) program. The bill also permits local school boards to allow family members of school board members to receive health insurance coverage. (Thanks to GSBA for help with this summary!)

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE, but failed to get agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 338](#)

(Erwin-32nd) Student Technology Protection Act' - amends the 'Quality Basic Education Act' by revising O.C.G.A 20-2-324 to provide that schools promote the safe and appropriate use of technology. By October 1, 2023, each local board of education and charter school governing body will adopt an acceptable use policy with the purpose of preventing and prohibiting any computer or network from accessing obscene materials. Each system will take necessary steps to implement and enforce the acceptable use policy to filter grade-appropriate content on school-owned devices. Language from SB 405 was added which lowers the age from 18 to 16 for State Completion Schools and has accountability in it to report graduation rates for cohorts.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 579](#)

(Barrett-24th) Relating to the 'Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act' to allow students who previously qualified for the scholarship to remain eligible throughout the students' education. HB 579 requires the Department of Education to electronically deposit payments into the accounts of participating schools.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 585](#)

(Jones-25th) Allows local boards of education of high-growth school systems to impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees. The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2025, which is dependent on passage of a constitutional amendment to authorize educational development impact fees.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 822](#) (Carpenter-4th) In relation to sex education courses, to ensure the prescribed course of study is age-appropriate and medically accurate. The language of this Code section relating to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is replaced with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) throughout. Parents or any legal guardian of a student maintain the right to review course materials and opt-out participation in the sex education course. Sex education curricula and course instruction must emphasize sexual abstinence.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 846](#) (Leverett-123rd) Requires public schools to notify public school employees about whether or not they receive Social Security benefits when they are hired, after five years, and upon exiting employment. Language from HB 1384 was added which increases personal leave for teachers from 3 to 5 days.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 987](#) (Cannon-172nd) The term "qualified local school system" is amended to reduce the minimum required millage rate or effective millage rate from 14 to 10 mills beginning July 1, 2024. School systems that receive equalization must meet these requirements or risk a 25 percent midterm adjustment of the initial equalization grant amount.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1027](#) (Ballard-147th) Implements a new graduation requirement. Beginning in the 2030- 2031 school year, students must have earned a full-credit computer science course in grades eight through 12 in order to graduate. The computer science course shall be in-person, virtual, or through remote instruction. The computer science course can replace a math, science, CTAE, or elective credit, with some limitations, in order to satisfy this graduation requirement.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1082](#)

(Mainor-56th) States that no local board of education, public school administrator, or other school personnel, acting in an official capacity, can prohibit public school students from voluntarily praying or engaging in privately initiated religious speech and activities as long as it doesn't disrupt classwork or infringe on the rights of others. However, reasonable rules of order can be imposed to maintain order. The provision also prohibits promoting or favoring any religion or compelling students to participate in or refrain from religious activities. Public school personnel, while on duty, are allowed to engage in privately initiated religious speech and activities on the same terms as other private conversations, but they must not compel or persuade students to join in such activities.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1131](#)

(Townsend-179th) Provides for evidence-based suicide awareness and training programs, youth violence prevention training programs, and student violence prevention clubs in elementary and secondary education. The bill also requires local policies for anonymous reporting of a dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity which occurs or is threatened to occur on school property or which relates to students or school personnel.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1133](#)

(Mainor-56th) Requires training programs for local boards of education to include certain provisions, and for annual completion of such training programs.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1167](#)

(Townsend-179th) Relating to grants awarded to public schools by the Georgia Foundation for Public Education to improve student achievement and removes a provision requiring that priority be given to schools in the lowest five percent of performance. The bill amends O.C.G.A 48-7-29.21, relating to tax credits for qualified education donations for awarding grants to public schools, to increase the maximum amount of tax credit available from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for individuals, from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for a joint return, and from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for a member of a limited liability company, shareholder of a Subchapter 'S' corporation, or partner in a partnership. The aggregate amount of tax credits allowed is increased from \$5 million to \$10 million. HB 1167 removes a provision that prohibits a taxpayer from directing a donation to a school or program that the taxpayer's child or children attend.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1186](#) (Hilton-48th) Requires the Office of Student Achievement to calculate a single score between 0-100 for each public school and school system annually. The score must be posted on the websites of each school, school system, the Office of Student Achievement, and the Department of Education within 30 days of completing the calculations for the score.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1194](#) (Dubnik-29th) Requires the State Board of Education to provide for procedures for student transfers between local school systems; and that only the receiving local school system shall have the authority to grant or refuse permission for such transfers.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1198](#) (Bazemore-69th) Establishes a three-year pilot immersive writing program for eligible public elementary schools and provides for grant funds for eligible public schools to develop and implement immersive writing programs for students in grades two through four.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1221](#) (Smith-18th) Relating to a student attending a school in a system other than the system of the student's residence. Beginning in July 1, 2026, if a student attends a school outside of the student's local school system, the new school system cannot charge more than the local share of funding for tuition to transfer students. If a transfer student is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch the new school system cannot charge tuition.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1226](#) (Hilton-48th) Provides for public school students to be permitted to attend courses in religious moral instruction provided by a person or organization independently of a public school, subject to certain conditions. The bill also to provides for students to receive academic credit for such courses, requires local education agencies to adopt certain policies, and prohibits students who participate in such courses from being counted as absent from school.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1262](#) (Mainor-56th) Provides for a cause of action by aggrieved students against local education agencies for breach of the duty to provide for an adequate public education.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1276](#) (Cox-28th) Provides for high school student athletes and prospective student athletes to receive name, image, or likeness compensation.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1290](#) (Bazemore-69th) Requires that any course of study in sex education and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction is age appropriate and provides instruction on consent and intimate partner violence and abuse; establishes new requirements on the prescribed course for human trafficking awareness; and requires the course on awareness and prevention of sex abuse and assault be taught through the twelfth grade.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1328](#) (Glaize-67th) Adds a program for students living in poverty to the table of quality basic education instructional programs with weights and student-teacher ratios.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1350](#) (Reese-140th) Stipulates that student performers participating in productions during school days shall not be marked absent, provided their absence is certified by a parent or guardian and a designated coordinator using a form issued by the Department of Labor. It also mandates that instruction and related services for student performers must align with state educational standards, with specific requirements for performances lasting three or more consecutive school days. Additionally, it establishes procedures for communication between studio teachers, school personnel, and parents or guardians regarding the student performer's education. The Department of Labor is tasked with developing necessary forms and policies in consultation with the Department of Education to ensure compliance with the code.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1351](#) (Glaize-67th) Provides for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration to support students living in poverty; and provides that a minimum required portion of grant funds must be used by local units of administration for direct program expenditures for the benefit of the students living in poverty.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1375](#) (Neal-79th) Exempts the sale or use of materials used in construction of capital outlay projects for educational purposes that were approved and funded through a constitutionally authorized education special purpose local option sales tax.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1381](#) (Evans-89th) Establishes standards for literacy coaches under the Professional Standards Commission.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1384](#) (Cox-28th) Increases from three to five the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1387](#) (Adesanya-43rd) Provides for coursework and educational programs and activities on the history of Black Americans through the history of the United States and their contributions to American society.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1396](#) (Bell-75th) Requires public schools to implement an English and Spanish dual language immersion program for students in kindergarten through grade five.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1452](#) (Gaines-120th) Establishes criteria for GaDOE in determining eligibility for state-funded special education programs, with a maximum age limit set to gradually increase from 22 years for the 2024-2025 school year to 30 years by the 2032-2033 school year and beyond. Individuals who meet these criteria will remain eligible for the remainder of the current school year, regardless of their date of birth. Additionally, individuals over the age of 23 seeking eligibility must have been enrolled and reported by a public school in Georgia during the two most recent full-time equivalent (FTE) program counts.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1114](#) (Mainor-56th) Amends the Constitution so as to provide that sales tax for educational purposes may be used and expended for the benefit of public charter schools located within local school systems.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1165](#) (Smith-18th) Amends the Constitution so as to provide that the qualifications, duties, and salary of the school superintendent shall be established by the board of education as provided by general law and authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law that local school superintendents shall be elected by voters as an alternative to being appointed by local boards of education, if approved by local referendum.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 88](#) (Summers-13th) Requires that parents at private schools opt-in before students attend classes “addressing issues of gender identity, queer theory, gender ideology, or gender transition.” The bill also requires local boards to set policies providing guidelines for staff and students.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 202](#) (Rahman-5th) Provides for the GaDOE to establish and study a pilot program of outdoor learning spaces on elementary and secondary school property in order to determine whether and how to implement best practices and design standards for outdoor learning spaces.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 208](#) (Dolezal-27th) Allows local boards of education of high-growth school systems to impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees, upon approval to do so by local referendum. The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2025, and is dependent on the passage of a constitutional amendment to authorize educational development impact fees.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. The bill was postponed on the House Floor and never taken up, and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 240](#)

(Walker-20th) Prohibits anyone hired after June 1, 2023 from becoming a member of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, if the operator or management company of the public charter school in which they are employed offers an alternative retirement plan. The bill requires the Employees Retirement System (ERS) of Georgia to identify each school system that does not extend Social Security coverage to members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). The ERS must submit a report of all school systems that do not offer this benefit to the chairmen of the House and Senate Retirement Committees by September 1, 2023. Any school system not offering coverage must revise their plan to extend coverage by January 1, 2024. On or after September 1, 2023, the ERS is not authorized to approve any plan that does not extend Social Security benefits to PSERS members. The bill allows the ERS of Georgia to invest up to 10 percent of assets in alternative investments. Currently, ERS can only invest up to five percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The Conference Committee report on the bill failed in the Senate and therefore the bill DID NOT PASS.

[SB 284](#)

(Estevez-6th) Add a program for students living in poverty to the table of quality basic education instructional programs with weights and student-teacher ratios.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 379](#)

(Harbin-16th) Authorizes a local school system or public school to employ or accept as a volunteer a school chaplain to provide ancillary support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the local school superintendent or the local board of education or other public school governing body. The bill also states that "A school chaplain employed or accepted as a volunteer under this subsection is not required to be a certificated professional personnel or otherwise subject to any rule or regulation of the Professional Standards Commission."

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 423

(Halpern-39th) Mandates that, by July 1, 2025, each public high school in Georgia with interscholastic athletics must have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) on-site, following a cardiac emergency response plan. It also requires public school safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) for responding to incidents of sudden cardiac arrest, with specified guidelines and annual reviews. Schools can request state funding for safety improvements.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 432

(Harrell-40th) Starting from the 2024-2025 school year, elementary schools are required to schedule an average of 30 minutes per school day for recess for students in kindergarten through grade five. Schools with grades six through eight must schedule an average of 20 minutes per school day for recess. Recess cannot be withheld for disciplinary or academic reasons for students in kindergarten through grade eight. By August 1, 2024, each local board of education must establish a written policy ensuring recess and addressing personnel authorization, safety measures, and support for academic learning during recess. By September 1, 2024, each local board of education must provide the State Board of Education with a copy of the recess policy. This Code section prioritizes the physical health and safety of students and is not subject to waivers for strategic waivers school systems or local flexibility options.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

SB 438

(Summers-13th) Defines "gender" as a person's biological sex determined by reproductive biology and genetics at birth, as stated on the official birth certificate. "Gender identity" is defined as a person's self-perceived or claimed gender. The legislation prohibits schools from allowing a person whose gender is male but identifies as female to participate in female-designated interscholastic athletics. It also restricts the use of multiple occupancy restrooms or changing areas designated for the opposite gender in the context of interscholastic athletics. Students or parents aggrieved by violations have the right to file grievances, appeal decisions to the local board of education, and seek private legal action for injunctive or declaratory relief. The provision explicitly notes that it does not override requirements or protections under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The bill also repeals a grant of discretionary authority to athletic association executive oversight committees by deleting "prohibit students whose gender is male from participating in athletic events that are designated for students whose gender is female, then the athletic association may adopt a policy to that effect; provided, however, that such policy shall be applied to all of the athletic association's participating public high schools;" from current law.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 459](#) (Dixon-45th) Requires the State Board of Education to develop a comprehensive civics education program for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Georgia Commission on Civics Education, to curate oral history resources to be known as "Portraits in Patriotism" as part of such civics education program and develop civics education program workshops for public school personnel.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 501](#) (Harbin-16th) Authorizes public elementary and secondary schools to display the Ten Commandments and provides for the display of the Ten Commandments in each public elementary and secondary school classroom in this state, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly or other available funding. The bill also authorizes the expenditure of public funds for the purchase of such displays.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 527](#) (Islam-Parkes-7th) Exempts sales of clothing and school related supplies for limited periods of time.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 530](#) (Anavitate-31st) Provide for the placement of certificated professional personnel on the state minimum salary schedule under the "Quality Basic Education Act."

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 532](#) (Dixon-45th) Prohibits sex education for public school students in this state before sixth grade; to require the State Board of Education to approve age- and grade-appropriate content standards for sex education curricula; to provide for definitions; to provide for construction; to revise the "Parents Bill of Rights" to provide for parents to revocably opt-in to sex education for their children.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 555](#) (Williams-25th) Exempts sales of clothing and school related supplies during the second week of August each year.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 556](#) (Halpern-39th) Establishes a three-year pilot robotics program for eligible public schools.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 582](#) (Harrell-40th) Requires the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Community Affairs and the Board of Community Affairs, to establish standards for building inspection and code enforcement. The State Board of Education is granted authority to adopt policies, rules, regulations, or guidelines to implement these standards. Local boards of education or other public school governing bodies are required to develop building inspection plans, coordinate joint inspections with relevant authorities, and report findings to the Department of Education using provided forms. They must also cooperate with state and local authorities involved in code enforcement activities following the established standards. The Department of Education is responsible for promulgating reporting forms, providing technical assistance for implementation, and ensuring compliance through corrective action if necessary.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 189](#) (Dolezal-27th) Proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to allow the General Assembly to authorize, by general law, local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees, subject to approval by local referendum, and use the proceeds to pay for a share of additional educational facilities.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. FAILED IN HOUSE.

[SR 575](#) (Hickman-4th) Constitutional Amendment providing that sales tax for educational purposes may be used and shall be expended for the procurement of materials, supplies, and instructional supports to be used for educational purposes in the classroom; and that such purchases shall comprise not more than 15% of the local school system's total expenditure of proceeds of the tax.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 692](#) (Williams-25th) Creates the Senate Transporting Students Safely Study Committee.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Higher Education

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

- [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. PASSED SENATE. House agreed to Senate changes so the bill awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.
- [HB 228](#) (Dempsey-13th) Expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include certain higher education institutions which offer baccalaureate programs in nursing.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.
- [HB 982](#) (Gambill-15th) Authorizes the State Workforce Development Board to develop and approve a high-demand career list.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.
- [HB 985](#) (Martin-49th) Abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and transfers any obligations, liabilities, or assets to the Georgia Student Finance Authority. The bill also eliminates provisions that caused suspension of various licensure due to being in default on loans for higher education. The bill also changes some provisions within the GA Student Finance Authority and regarding loans for higher education.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.
- [HB 1231](#) (Holcomb-81st) Allows students who are concurrently seeking a baccalaureate degree and a first professional degree, and students who meet achievement standards and commence a graduate program at an eligible institution within 18 months of earning a baccalaureate degree, to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HR 1384](#) (Blackmon-146th) Creates the House Study Committee on Assessing the Semester and Quarter Systems at University System of Georgia (USG) and Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Institutions. The committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives, the USG chancellor, and the TCSG commissioner. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2024.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Since this is a House Study Committee, no further action is needed and the bill is therefore passed.

[SB 399](#) (Echols-49th) Requires the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) commissioner to collaborate with the University System of Georgia (USG) chancellor to provide a report on specified information related to courses, transfers, degree completion, and the High-Demand Career List to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and certain legislative committee chairs. The bill provides expectations to the Board of Regents, units of USG, and local boards of education to enter into and amend agreements with TCSG related to transferability of credits.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 497](#) (Hickman-4th) Redesignates the High-demand Career Initiatives Program as the High Demand Apprenticeship Program. The bill lowers the maximum contract completion award amount from \$10,000 per apprentice to \$5,000 per apprentice and increases the number of allowable apprentices from five per year to 10 per year. The bill establishes the Public Service Apprenticeship Program through the Office of Workforce Development in order to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs throughout the state.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 56](#) (Petrea-166th) Expands eligibility for the Public Safety Memorial Grant to include spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, or prison guards who have died in the line of duty.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 148](#) (Hugley-141st) Establishes grant funds to be paid by public schools to student teachers who successfully complete their student teaching requirements and requires the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations to implement the program.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 185

(Gaines-120th) The bill originally provided for the establishment of Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) grants. As amended by the Senate, the bill establishes definitions and reporting obligations concerning funding received by the university system from foreign sources. It delineates terms such as "foreign adversary," encompassing specific countries like China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and the Maduro Regime, and defines "foreign entity of concern" and "foreign individual of concern" based on their affiliations with listed countries. The term "funding" is broadly defined to include various monetary exchanges. According to the Code, the university system is mandated to submit a detailed quarterly report to designated officials, disclosing any funding received from foreign adversaries, entities of concern, or individuals of concern. The report should specify the amount and type of funding, provide descriptions of the funding sources, including names and addresses, and include copies of associated contracts or agreements. Additionally, it must detail the purpose of the funding and indicate whether it was a one-time event or part of a series of funding events. However, the Code section does not require reporting of funding provided by individuals or families as tuition payments for students affiliated with or attending University System of Georgia programs, classes, or courses of study. Overall, the Code aims to enhance transparency regarding foreign funding within the university system, ensuring clear documentation and disclosure of such financial transactions.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 1124

(Martin-49th) Extends the sunset provision of the Needs-based scholarship from 2025 to 2027 and changes the eligibility requirements from 80% to 70% of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her program of study, if such program is a four-year program; or 45% of the credit requirements toward the credential of his or her program of study, if such program is a two-year program.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

HB 1158

(Jackson-68th) Regarding alimony and child support, so as to authorize postmajority child support when such child is enrolled in and attending an institution of postsecondary education.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1195](#) (Kendrick-95th) Provides an income tax credit to a workforce-ready graduate employed in a high-tech full-time job after January 1, 2025. The graduate must be employed for 40 weeks of a 12-month period to receive a credit of \$4,000 per year of employment, up to \$12,000 in total. A "workforce-ready graduate" is defined as an individual with a degree in engineering, computer science, information science, or data science. A "high-tech full-time job" is defined as located in a rural county with a small business, as defined by O.C.G.A. 50-5-121, provides 30 hours or more of work a week, pays at or above the average hourly wage of the county with the lowest hourly wage in the state, and relates to one of the following job titles: data scientist; software developer; information security analyst; web developer; computer sales engineer; information technology manager; computer research scientist; network and systems administrator; or computer support specialist.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1224](#) (Fleming-114th) Establishes two categories of approved schools for Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) eligibility, approved nonproprietary schools and approved proprietary schools. The bill requires an award amount of 150 percent of the regular TEG award for eligible students enrolled in a program of study included on the list of high-demand careers published by the Office of Workforce Development. The bill establishes the TEG Program for High-Demand Career Fields (TEG-HD) to provide grants in the amount of 150 percent of the regular TEG award to eligible students enrolled in designated high demand programs of study at eligible institutions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1509](#) (Sainz-180th) Provides for a residency requirement for eligible students in the Dual Enrollment program.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 112](#) (Anavitarte-31st) Creates the 'Workforce EXCEleration Act', which provides for a pilot program to establish a high school diploma program for adult learners. The program will be facilitated by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia. The pilot program must include at least two distinct programs and will be automatically repealed on June 30, 2029.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill did not get agreement from the house to the changes the Senate made to the House sub and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 137](#) (Burns-23rd) Establishes two categories of approved schools for Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) eligibility: approved nonproprietary schools and approved proprietary schools. The bill requires an award amount not to exceed 150 percent of the regular TEG award for eligible students enrolled in a program of study directly related to a job or career field identified by the State Workforce Development Board.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 237](#)

(Hatchett-50th) Provides College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed seventy percent of a four-year program or 45 percent of a two-year program.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 385](#)

(Williams-25th) Allows Georgia Military College to offer specified bachelor degree programs only to students enrolled in the Georgia Military Global Online Leadership College (GOLC). The bill requires Georgia Military College to submit an annual report on the success or failure of all offered bachelor degree programs.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 469](#)

(Esteves-6th) Revises the maximum account balance allowed related to contributions to savings trust accounts for higher education expenses. The bill increases the income tax deduction cap related to higher education savings trust account contributions.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The House disagreed with the Senate changes and sent the bill back to the Senate where it was left unresolved and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 476](#)

(Esteves-6th) Provides for in-state tuition for certain noncitizen students.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 509](#)

(Dixon-45th) Prohibits public postsecondary institutions from inquiring about an applicant's criminal history, with exceptions for specified felony offenses. However, once admitted, institutions are permitted to request and utilize criminal history record information for counseling, decision-making regarding campus life participation, and financial aid purposes, considering factors like the nature of the offense, time passed since, the student's age at the time, and evidence of rehabilitation. Violations of these regulations may result in the withholding of state funding. Additionally, the legislation outlines circumstances under which criminal history record information is inadmissible in civil proceedings involving the institution, its employees, or agents, emphasizing relevance to the case, restrictions or sealing of records, or lack of conviction.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 511](#)

(Harbin-16th) Relating to the university system, so as to require quarterly reports regarding certain funding received from individuals or entities related to China.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 526](#)

(Hickman-4th) Establishes the Georgia Good Faith Grant Program, which aims to provide needs-based grants to eligible students pursuing postsecondary education in Georgia. Key terms and definitions are provided, including those for the commission overseeing the program, the cost of attendance, eligible institutions, grant students, matching grants, program grants, student aid index, and Title IV regulations. Eligibility criteria for students seeking program grants are detailed, including completion of accredited secondary education, GPA requirements, enrollment status, completion of financial aid applications, demonstrated financial need, and residency classification. The text also specifies the renewal conditions for grants and the calculation of demonstrated financial need. Additionally, it outlines the disbursement process and the requirement for private colleges or universities to provide matching grants to eligible students. The commission is tasked with developing rules and regulations to ensure that grants are awarded to students demonstrating the most need.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 581](#)

(Harrell-40th) Provides for the election by a postsecondary education institution to allow concealed handguns upon campus and requires firearms safety training in order to carry handguns upon such campuses. The bill also requires storage for handguns at areas upon campus where carrying of a handgun is prohibited by law.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 602](#)

(Beach-21st) Amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to authorize the General Assembly to by general law restrict, regulate, or prohibit the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia from approving any increase in tuition or student fees of more than 3 percent greater than the amount of such tuition or student fee for the preceding academic year.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 770](#)

(Harrell-40th) Creates the Senate Higher Education in Prison Study Committee.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 787](#)

(Dixon-45th) Creates the Senate University Admissions Study Committee.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

 **Environmental Safety****LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION****[HB 409](#)**

(Daniel-117th) The bill was about passing school buses but ultimately became a bill that authorizes specified local authorities that operate public water or sewer systems to dispose of or grant easements in specified instances.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 340](#)

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Amends O.C.G.A. 48-8-3.3, related to the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption, to extend the sales and use exemption to diesel exhaust fluid used for agricultural purposes.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 351](#)

(Anavitate-31st) The 'Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024' introduces a series of measures aimed at enhancing online safety and responsible digital citizenship among students and minors. In Part II Section 2-1, it mandates the inclusion of "responsible digital citizenship and the safe and appropriate use of technology, the Internet, and social media" in the character education program, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Section 2-2 directs the Department of Education to develop model programs for online safety in grades six through 12, with updated recommendations reflecting changes in Internet and social media usage. Section 2-3 revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-234 to require local governing bodies to adopt acceptable-use policies for Internet usage by October 1, 2025, with guidance provided by the Department of Education, which can withhold state funding for non-compliance. Similarly, Section 2-4 mandates the adoption of social media policies by April 1, 2026, with potential state funding withholding for non-compliance. Section 2-5 requires the Department of Education to include cyberbullying in its model policy regarding bullying by July 1, 2026, and provide resources for families dealing with bullying situations. In Part III Section 3-1, social media platforms are required to verify the age of account holders under 16 and obtain parental consent for their use, with the attorney general empowered to enforce these regulations. Section 3-2 further requires commercial entities to use reasonable age verification methods for access to websites with harmful material, with penalties for non-compliance. These provisions collectively aim to safeguard minors and promote responsible digital citizenship in Georgia.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SR 203](#) (Jones-10th) Creates the Senate Safe Firearm Storage Study Committee.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Because this is a Senate Study Committee, it does not need approval from the House.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 348](#) (Collins-71st) Requires warning signs for traffic safety enforcement devices and school zone speed limit reduction to display flashing yellow lights while the speed reduction is in effect. The speed limit may be enforced 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school starts; 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school dismisses unless the school campus is bisected by a highway; and when the driver is 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. When a citation is issued, the driver will receive an assigned hearing date that must be within 60 days of issuance of the citation. If a penalty is unpaid 30 days after a final notice has been mailed, the vehicle's registration cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees have been collected. The bill requires an assigned hearing date to be issued with a citation for improperly overtaking a school bus. Registration of the vehicle cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees are collected. Most provisions of the old HB 301 were included in this bill as well. These increase penalties for overtaking a school bus.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 971](#) (Newton-127th) Allows a taxpayer to claim a tax credit of up to \$300 for eligible expenses related to firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices. The tax credit will have an annual aggregate cap of \$3 million, and an individual taxpayer may only receive credits totaling \$300 in their lifetime from this program. Any unused tax credit cannot be carried forward.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1097](#) (Vance-133rd) Removes the availability of online courses without an instructor for purposes of driver education training.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1111](#) (Crawford-84th) Provides for the storage of a firearm within a motor vehicle or vessel and for exceptions to the standards for the carrying of weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on a bus or other transportation furnished by a school.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

- [HB 1126](#) (Pirkle-169th) Repeals all law relative to enforcement of speeding in school zones through the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices, and prohibits a local governing body or law enforcement agency from entering into or renewing a contract that provides for enforcement of laws relative to speeding in school zones through the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1284](#) (Daniel-117th) Provides suggested standards for the establishment of school bus routes; enhances the penalties for meeting or overtaking a school bus; and provides for notification to insurance carriers upon issuance of a second or subsequent civil monetary penalty for such violations.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1295](#) (Pirkle-169th) Allows evidence related to the failure of someone to wear a safety belt or child safety restraint to be admissible in civil actions concerning failure to mitigate damages, assumption of risk, apportionment of fault, negligence, comparative negligence, contributory negligence, or causation.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1296](#) (Hilton-48th) Provides for social media age verification, for parental permission and supervision, and for restrictions on minor's social media account activity. The bill also provides for the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Law to investigate complaints; and for civil remedies.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.
- [HB 1310](#) (Moore-91st) Requires persons doing business in this state shall not expose individuals to chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning nor discharge such chemicals into drinking water; and that the Governor shall publish lists of such chemicals. The bill also authorizes the Attorney General and, under specified conditions, district attorneys and other persons to seek injunctions and civil penalties. The bill establishes the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund.
- STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1365](#)

(Horner-3rd) Creates a civil remedy for damages against commercial entities that allow minors to access a social media platform without performing reasonable age verification methods; and provides for reasonable age verification requirements for commercial entities. The bill also provides that age verification information shall not be retained by commercial entities.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1163](#)

(Moore-91st) Amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to provide that revenue derived from the regulation of safe drinking water and toxic enforcement may be dedicated for certain purposes and not deposited into the general fund; and authorizes the General Assembly to create the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 97](#)

(Anavitarte-31st) Creates the offense of operation of a motor vehicle with a fraudulent license plate. A person commits this offense when they, willfully and with an intent to obscure or misrepresent the identity of a vehicle or its owner, operate a vehicle while: concealing any portion of the license plate; displaying a license plate issued to a different motor vehicle; displaying a revalidation decal other than the one issued to the motor vehicle; or displaying a license plate not issued by the Department of Revenue which has the appearance of one validly issued by the department. SB 97 requires warning signs for traffic safety enforcement devices and school zone speed limit reduction to display flashing yellow lights while the speed reduction is in effect. The speed limit may be enforced one hour prior to and one hour after the school day starts; one hour prior to and two hours after the school dismisses unless the school campus is bisected by a highway; and when the driver is 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. The legislation restricts fines and civil penalties received from use of automated devices to 30 percent of the law enforcement agency's budget in order to keep the permit for operating the device.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 402](#)

(Ginn-47th) Removes the ability of a law enforcement agency's governing body from charging additional fines, fees, penalties, or charges along with the civil monetary penalty if a vehicle is found to be in violation by a recorded image. Agents, law enforcement agencies, or governing bodies found in violation of the provisions within this article will be fined \$1,000 by the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 406](#) (Dixon-45th) Requires the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to establish a grant program for school mapping data to be included in the building mapping information system managed by the agency when funding is available. "School mapping data" means building information, floor plans, and emergency response plans of a public or private school system or an independent private school.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 492](#) (Williams-25th) States that when establishing routes for school buses, a public school system shall ensure that any stop at which a student is required to enter or exit the school bus is located upon the same side of the roadway as the door to the bus.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 510](#) (Harbin-16th) Provides that all occupants of a passenger vehicle, whether in a front seat or back seat, shall be restrained by a seat safety belt; and provides for an exception for children under eight who are properly restrained.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

Shelter & Nutrition

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED DURING SESSION

[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. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1017](#) (Seabaugh-34th) The bill creates the offense of unlawful squatting when he or she enters upon the land or premises of another and resides on such land or premises for any period of time knowingly acting without the knowledge or consent of the owner, rightful occupant, or an authorized representative of the owner. For purposes of this Code section, the term 'resides' means to inhabit or live on or within any land or premises.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1073](#) (Washburn-144th) Repeals hearing and notice provisions relating to zoning decisions for halfway houses, drug rehabilitation centers, or drug dependency treatment centers.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1203](#) (Kelley-16th) Entitles a landlord to use an off-duty sheriff, sheriff's deputy, marshal, or Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) certified officer with jurisdiction to execute a writ of possession at the landlord's sole cost and expense when an on-duty official is unable to execute the writ within 14 days of the landlord's application or request for execution. The landlord will have access to a list of authorized off-duty personnel, and provide written notice to the sheriff, constable, or marshal of the time of execution of the writ at last five calendar days in advance of the execution.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1410](#) (Efstration-104th) Establishes a separate classification in the State Housing Trust Fund and all funds appropriated, donated, or received for the specific purpose of state housing accountability programs must be used exclusively for those programs. The bill details qualifications for organizations and agencies to participate in state housing accountability programs, and includes criteria such as: providing voluntary, immediate, and stable housing to a homeless person; limiting the length of residency to 18 months or whenever the tenant can find affordable housing, whichever is earlier; and providing ongoing assistance to each resident for obtaining long-term affordable housing. The housing accountability programs must require residents to show proof of residency, participate in relevant job training/educational opportunities, search for employment, and submit to regular drug/alcohol testing among other requirements. Currently, the governor appoints seven of the nine members of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission. In the bill, the seven members appointed by the governor are now three members appointed by the governor, two members appointed by the lieutenant governor, and two members appointed by the speaker of the House. The state auditor must conduct a performance audit of spending on homeless programs in the state, including expenditures by the state, expenditures by municipalities and counties with substantial homeless populations, and the expenditure of federal funds allocated to the state on homelessness by December 31, 2024.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 577](#) (Jackson-41st) Allows landlords in DeKalb County to remove personal property within seven days following an execution of a writ of possession and to allow the county marshal to remove such property after 14 days. The marshal is also authorized to appoint ex-officio assistants to the marshal.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 965](#) (Scott-76th) Provides for 60 days' notice of rental increase by landlord to tenant.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1034](#) (Franklin-160th) Designates the fourth Friday in November of each year as "National Sugarcane Syrup Day", because, frankly, why not? The bill also seeks to place upon the grounds of the state capitol building and upon the 44 grounds outside the state archives building a marker which commemorates the patriots of 45 the Revolutionary War.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1048](#) (Carpenter-4th) Designates cornbread as the official state bread...AND establishes the 'Georgia State-wide Music Office Act.'

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1059](#) (Scott-76th) "Georgia Tenant Protection and Mediation Act." Focuses on landlord and tenant relations. The key points include procedures for landlords to demand possession of rented or leased properties, with provisions for cases involving disabled adults and low-income individuals. The act introduces a residential eviction diversion program, allowing mediation between landlords and tenants to resolve lease violations. Landlords are required to participate in mediation, and failure to comply may be used as a defense by tenants.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1139](#) (Gilliard-162nd) Provides for free meals to public school students enrolled in after-school education programs or summer school education programs.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1156](#) (Jackson-68th) Repeals Code Section 44-7-19, relating to restrictions on rent regulation by local governments.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1157](#) (Jackson-68th) "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975," so as provide that a violation of the statute limiting certain rent increases is an unlawful business practice; provides for rent increase limits; and for exceptions; as well as for defense in eviction actions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1182](#) (Crowe-118th) Changes Georgia's Housing Tax Credit (HTC) program to lessen the percentage of the housing tax credit.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1210](#) (Lim-98th) Outlines the definition of "multifamily residential housing" or "multifamily complex" as any residential building, structure, or portion thereof consisting of ten or more units. It authorizes the Department to establish and maintain a state-wide multifamily residential housing database known as the Georgia Multifamily Complex Data Base, with the aim of providing information to connect residents with safe, decent, and affordable housing options. The database will include voluntarily provided information from multifamily complexes regarding rental unit availability, rent rates, qualifications for renters, amenities, surrounding area details, and ownership information. The Department is required to publish and maintain this database on its website, ensuring public accessibility and searchability. Additionally, the Department is empowered to establish rules for the database's development and management but is prohibited from including any information not voluntarily provided by the multifamily complex owners or managers.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1353](#) (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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1416](#) (Adesanya-43rd) States that landlords must keep the premises in repair and are liable for substantial improvements made with their consent. Additionally, any agreement for rental of property as a dwelling includes an implied provision that the premises are fit for human habitation. If a landlord fails to respond adequately to repair requests within five days, and the repairs are their responsibility, the tenant can hire a preapproved licensed professional (named in the lease or identified by the landlord) or any licensed professional. The tenant can then deduct the repair costs (up to 50% of the next rental installment) from the rent, provided they submit receipts to the landlord. If the repair costs exceed 50% of the rental installment, deductions can be made from subsequent rental payments until the costs are recovered, again not exceeding 50% of any installment. Other provisions are changed regarding failure to pay rent and the like.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1418](#) (Olaleye-59th) Creates the House Study Committee on the Use of Local Fees to Support Affordable Housing.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1433](#) (Bell-75th) Creates the House Study Committee on the Eradication of Homelessness.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1564](#) (Bennett-94th) Creates the House Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill failed to get a vote on the House floor and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 125](#) (James-35th) Repeals restrictions on rent regulation by local governments.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 540](#) (Merritt-9th) Requires landlords or managers for certain apartment buildings or complexes to provide services when certain crimes have been reported or investigated on the property; to provide for an additional declared unlawful act relative to fair housing.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 709](#) (James-35th) Creates the Senate Rental Housing Affordability Study Committee.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Miscellaneous

LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

[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: SIGNED INTO LAW 1/31/24

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED THIS SESSION

[HB 353](#) (Powell-33rd) Makes any regulations promulgated by the Georgia Lottery Corporation subject to the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act', and it makes hearings under O.C.G.A. 50-27- 102 subject to the 'Georgia Arbitration Code'.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 880](#) (Ballard-147th) Brings Georgia into compliance with the federal 'Servicemembers Civil Relief Act' and allows the spouse of a servicemember to practice his or her occupation without a license so long as that spouse: 1) holds a current license to practice the occupation in another state; 2) is in good standing in the other state; 3) has filed an application for an expedited license by endorsement along with the military orders of the servicemember, which can both be filed prior to moving to Georgia; 4) is hired by an in-state employer that may lawfully hire the spouse to engage in the occupation; and 5) has his or her information verified by the in-state employer. If a spouse is not issued a license by endorsement within 30 days of filing the application, then he or she can continue to work for the in-state employer without being licensed. If the spouse is denied an expedited license by endorsement, then that spouse will no longer qualify to engage in the practice of the occupation. A professional licensing board is permitted to investigate any persons

exempted under this bill and to revoke that person's exemption if the spouse violated any of the recognized standards of the occupation or knowingly made any misleading or deceptive representations in his or her application.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1010](#)

(Jones-47th) Increases the number of hours of annual paid parental leave for state employees from 120 to 240 hours. Paid parental leave can be used for the birth of a child or the foster and adoption placement of a child. Employers are required to provide notice of such benefits to eligible employees once hired and annually thereafter.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1021](#)

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

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1026](#)

(Hagan-156th) Designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia. The bill also includes language from HB1440 that provides for grant and loan programs to incentivize and attract semiconductor companies to locate/relocate in Georgia.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1105](#)

(Petrea-56th) Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024' - Requires that Georgia law enforcement officials work in conjunction with federal immigration authorities and to send, receive, and maintain information relating to the immigration status of any individual as reasonably needed for public safety purposes. Any sheriff's office or law enforcement agency of a local governing body that acts in violation is subject to the withholding of state funding or state administered federal funding other than to provide services required in subsection (d) of O.C.G.A. 50-36-1. As a condition of funding, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation, or any other state agency that provides funding to local governing bodies will require certification of compliance with requirements in Code Section 50-36-4 for submission of annual immigration compliance reports. Any funding withheld from a sheriff's office is remitted to the county. The legislation provides standard procedures for booking of aliens and foreign nationals, and requires jailers to prepare quarterly reports outlining several categories of information for each jail jurisdiction. The bill provides that a first violation of the requirements in this Code section is a misdemeanor. Any second or subsequent violation is a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[HB 1165](#)

(Mainor-56th) Replaces the chairperson of the Governor's Office of Children and Families with the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

[SB 198](#)

(Harrell-40th) Requires pharmacy benefits managers in contract with the state health benefit plan to reimburse independent pharmacies at a minimum of the average reimbursement for retail chain pharmacies for the same drug on the same day. Pharmacy benefit managers are also required to provide annual compliance certification to the Department of Community Health and make records available to the department upon written demand.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 433](#)

(Cowser-46th) Donor Intent Protection Act' - Requires a charitable organization or trust that accepts a contribution pursuant to an endowment agreement to not violate the terms of any donor-imposed restriction. If a donor-imposed restriction is violated, the donor, the donor's lineal descendants, or the donor's legal representative may bring a civil action within four years after discovering a breach of the endowment agreement. If a court finds a violation, the court is authorized to order a remedy consistent with the charitable purposes expressed in the endowment agreement. The court, however, will not be authorized to order the return of the contribution.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SB 414](#)

(Kennedy-18th) Creates the 'Personal Privacy Protection Act'. The bill prohibits public agencies from collecting, publicizing, disclosing, or requesting specified personal information related to nonprofit organizations, with exceptions. The bill creates the misdemeanor crime of improper collection or disclosure of personal information.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the Governor for his consideration.

[SR 476](#)

(Albers-56th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. This is a Senate Study Committee and therefore does not need House approval.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 237](#) (Hagan-156th) The original language which designated the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia was completely removed from the bill and the bill was amended to include the sports betting Georgia Lottery Bill (which failed in the Senate earlier this session).

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 301](#) (Ridley-22nd) The bill was originally about the amount of civil monetary penalty for violations of improperly passing a school bus and speeding in a school zone when captured by cameras, but was fully replaced with policy regarding penalties for local government entities that implement immigration sanctuary policies, and also a provision that deals with abandonment of a public road.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the House to the changes made by the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 375](#) (Leverett-123rd) Relating to petition for appointment of a guardian, adds certain behavioral health providers (i.e., physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists in psychiatric/mental health, marriage and family therapists or professional counselors) to the list of those who can sign an affidavit, and lays out such providers' roles in the context of guardianship/conservator situations. The bill also addresses provider compensation for certain services as pertains to these situations.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 738](#) (Hilton-48th) Creates the Task Force on Workforce and Safety Net Integration, which is composed of nine members, within the Technical College System of Georgia. The task force will 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 will serve without compensation, and the task force will stand abolished on December 31, 2025.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 870](#) (Washburn-144th) Provides that Georgia shall at all times observe the standard time of the United States.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 940](#) (Jones-25th) Establishes it as unlawful for a retail store to decline cash as a payment method for any goods or services offered for sale. It mandates that retail establishments utilizing self-operated kiosks must have at least one option within the store where cash transactions are accepted. However, exemptions are provided for venues with 2,500 or more attendees, airports with over 500 takeoffs and landings, fully autonomous stores, and wholesale clubs, relieving them from the requirement to accept cash.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 964](#)

(Scott-76th) Provides for ethics and inclusivity training for firefighters, paramedics, and cardiac technicians.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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 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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1024](#)

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1096](#)

(Washburn-144th) Allows the Office of the Secretary of State to institute a unified system for tracking the continuing education credits completed by licensees of the various boards under the secretary of state's purview. Beginning on January 1, 2025, a professional licensing board shall not renew a license until the applicant has complied with all applicable continuing education requirements.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. TABLED in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1113](#) (Reeves-99th) Creates the 'Personal Privacy Protection Act'. The bill prohibits public agencies from collecting, publicizing, disclosing, or requesting specified personal information related to nonprofit organizations, with exceptions. The bill creates the misdemeanor crime of improper collection or disclosure of personal information.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1127](#) (Pirkle-169th) Adds definitions in the 'Georgia Hemp Farming Act' for "consumable hemp product", "contaminants", and "full panel certificate of analysis". The bill outlaws the sale of consumable hemp products unless a processor or manufacturer has contracted a full panel certificate of analysis within the past 12 months. Random inspections of consumable hemp products may be conducted by the Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance with this Code section. HB 1127 outlaws the ability to sell hemp products directly, or indirectly through another person, to any individual under the age of 21. Proper identification must be presented to confirm that a purchaser is of required age.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1128](#) (Lott-131st) "Georgia Women's Bill of Rights," - Emphasizes that "sex" refers to the biological state of being male or female, based on factors such as reproductive organs, chromosomes, hormones, and genitalia at birth. The terms "female," "male," "woman," "man," "girl," and "boy" are defined accordingly. The legislation asserts that equal treatment in the context of sex doesn't imply identical treatment, and separate accommodations are not inherently unequal. The bill recognizes medically diagnosed disorders or differences in sex development and outlines legal protections for such individuals. It also specifies that laws distinguishing between sexes are subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny. The legislation addresses distinctions in areas like athletics, living facilities, and restrooms, emphasizing that separate accommodations align with important governmental objectives of safeguarding health, safety, and privacy. Additionally, it requires local schools, public schools, and state entities collecting vital statistics to identify individuals as either male or female at birth for compliance with antidiscrimination laws and data accuracy purposes.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1142](#) (Martin-49th) Removes the residency requirement for the issuance of licenses by endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members of the armed forces, and any individual seeking licensure for a profession other than that of a firefighter, healthcare provider, or a law enforcement officer.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1144](#) (Martin-49th) Changes certain requirements for the issuance of licenses by endorsement for spouses of active or transitioning members of the armed forces to conform to federal law; to conform certain requirements for license by endorsement for certain professions to those of spouses of active or transitioning members of the armed forces.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1171](#) (Burchett-176th) Exempts sales of clothing and school related supplies during the last two weeks of July each year.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1190](#) (Collins-71st) Authorizes the division director within the office of the Secretary of State to issue licenses in instances when the requirements for licensure have been met and the professional licensing board fails to act within 60 days of the date of the receipt of an application and the information and documents required to be submitted with such application verifying that all requirements for the issuance of such license have been met.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1208](#) (Schofield-63rd) Prohibits discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural hairstyles.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1278](#) (Moore-91st) Designates collard greens as the official state greens, with "potlikka" as the official state dipping sauce of the official state bread.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1317](#) (Holcomb-81st) Repeals provisions regarding fornication and adultery.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1354](#) (Mughal-105th) Exempts the sale or use of certain child rearing and adult care products.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1434](#) (Mughal-105th) Creates tax credits for expense incurred by a teacher in connection with books, supplies, equipment, software, services, or other materials used in a classroom or instructional setting in a qualified school; and expenses incurred by a first responder as tuition or fees for the participation of the first responder in professional development courses related to service as a first responder, or for uniforms used by the first responder in service as a first responder.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HB 1435](#) (Hutchinson-106th) Establishes a data base of all sports equity coordinators appointed by local school systems, and requires state colleges and technical colleges to annually publish and submit a report concerning gender sports data to the USG Board of Regents and TCSG, respectively.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1083](#) (Gambill-15th) Creates the House Study Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Workforce for Georgia's Growing Economy.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1136](#) (Beverly-143rd) Amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to authorize the Georgia General Assembly to provide by general law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1168](#) (Hutchinson-106th) Amends the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the legalization and regulation of the cultivation, transportation, and sale of marijuana and marijuana-infused products; to permit individuals 21 years of age or older to possess and use limited amounts of marijuana for personal use; to provide for the imposition of tax on the sale of marijuana; to provide for dedication of fees and taxes from the sale of marijuana; to provide for resentencing and record restriction for certain marijuana convictions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1169](#) (Hutchinson-106th) Creates the House Study Committee on the Economic Advantages of Marijuana Legalization.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[HR 1256](#) (Schofield-63rd) Creates the House Study Committee on the Establishment of a Baby Bonds Program.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 64](#) (Robertson-64th) Allows an adult who had been adopted to request and receive a copy of their original Georgia birth certificate following payment of a fee. The copy will indicate it is not a certified copy. A parent, sibling, or descendant of a deceased person may receive a copy of the decedent's birth certificate under the same procedure.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 154](#) (Dolezal-27th) Eliminates the library exception from the sale or distribution of harmful materials to minors law.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 157](#) (Strickland-17th) The bill encompasses extensive changes to existing licensing requirements for applicants to specified licensing boards, particularly concerning the use of criminal history records and provisions for records restrictions and petitions for record sealing. In Section 1-1, a new definition of "covered misdemeanor" is introduced, referring to certain misdemeanor convictions within the last five years, including offenses related to family violence, offenses against children, sexual offenses, and serious traffic offenses. Additionally, terms like "conviction" and "felony" are defined. Section 1-2 replaces the previous standard of "crime of moral turpitude" with a new standard where the licensing board bears the burden of proving that an applicant's criminal record substantially poses a risk to public safety, with applicants entitled to a hearing under the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act. Section 1-3 designates the denial of license reinstatement or refusal to issue a previously denied license as contested cases under the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act. Section 1-4 allows license denial only if a direct relationship exists between the criminal record and the licensed occupation, along with other criteria regarding rehabilitation evidence and disclosure rules for criminal records. Boards are also required to provide a procedure for justifying license denials due to criminal records. Furthermore, boards are mandated to allow applicants domiciled in the state for at least five years to apply for a predetermination procedure regarding their criminal history record's potential impact on future license applications, with related public information to be posted on their websites. Section 1-5 amends a definition for "felony," while Sections 1-6 and 1-7 align references with the new definitions and introduce restrictions on records when there has been a conviction that has been restricted, sealed, annulled, dismissed, vacated, or pardoned. These sections also establish a predetermination procedure for assessing the impact of an applicant's conviction on license eligibility prior to applying. Additionally, Parts II, III, IV, VI, and VII of the bill replace the "crime of moral turpitude" standard, regulate disclosure of criminal records, and require denial of licenses due to substantial risk to public safety standards for various professional boards. Part V modifies the definition of "criminal record" for long-term care facilities, while Part VII allows first offenders who successfully complete terms to be certified and employed as firefighters at the council's discretion. Parts VIII and IX amend O.C.G.A. 35-3-37 to expand eligibility for record restriction petitions and

remove limitations on the number of misdemeanor convictions that can be requested for restriction. Part X permits occupational therapists to perform dry needling under specified requirements. Part XI specifies the effective dates of the bill's provisions.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The bill failed to garner agreement from the Senate to the changes made by the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

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

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 180](#) (Setzler-37th) Provides for the preservation of religious freedom relating to state government.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 235](#) (Halpern-39th) Creates the 'Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Act'. The bill creates the HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Commission and provides for its membership and administration.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[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.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 458](#) (Parent-42nd) Requires the board of regents to adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 489](#)

(Goodman-8th) Designates the blueberry as the official state berry.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 529](#)

(Jackson-41st) Provides for certain licensure for qualifying foreign medical graduates; to provide for a nonrenewable limited provisional license under certain conditions; to provide for a renewable restricted license under certain conditions; to provide for the application for full licensure under certain conditions.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SB 548](#)

(Mallow-2nd) Prohibit merchants from refusing to accept cash for purchases.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 538](#)

(Summers-13th) Constitutional Amendment that authorizes and requires that the Georgia General Assembly provide by law for sports betting and casino gambling in this state by July 2, 2025; and for the regulation and allocation of revenues of such sports betting and casino gambling.

STATUS: Received no floor vote by the bill's originating chamber at all and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 579](#)

(Cowsert-46th) Constitutional amendment authorizing the Georgia General Assembly to provide by general law for sports betting in this state; and for the regulation and allocation of revenues of such activities.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Failed to get a vote in the House and therefore DID NOT PASS.

[SR 757](#)

(Anderson-43rd) Creates the Senate Study Committee on the Establishment of a Baby Bonds Program.

STATUS: Failed to get a vote in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.



Advocacy Asks

Ask #1: Safe at Home Tenant Protection

The Ask

Ask Governor Kemp to sign **House Bill 404**, the “Safe at Home Act.”

What Does HB 404 Do?

[House Bill 404](#) is an important step to help renters stay, safely, affordably, and stably housed. It helps landlords get paid without having to go to court and brings Georgia closer to what has already long been law in most states. In its current version, HB 404:

- Provides that residential rental properties must be “fit for human habitation,” that means fit for human beings to live in.
- Includes “cooling” as a utility that cannot be shut off after an eviction has been ordered by the court.
- Prohibits landlords from requiring a security deposit that exceeds two months' rent.
- If rent is past due, before they can go to court and file for an eviction the landlord must give the tenant written notice posted on the property door and delivered by other means agreed to in the lease warning the tenant they must pay the rent or leave the property or the eviction may be filed.
- Requires the landlord to wait three business days following the written notice before they can go to court and file for an eviction. The tenant may pay all past due rent, fees, etc. during that period. This is called a “right to cure”.

Why It Matters

- In FY21, 20% of foster care placements cite inadequate housing as a reason for removal of a child from the home.
- Black students make up a disproportionate amount of Georgia’s homeless student population at nearly 52%, followed by White students at almost 30% and Hispanic students at nearly 13%.
- When kids experience housing instability, unsafe homes or homelessness, they struggle with so much more, such as:
 - Asthma
 - Good nutrition and hunger
 - School attendance, learning and high school completion
 - Fear and trauma

What to Say

Dear Governor Kemp,

Please sign House Bill 404, the "Safe at Home Act". This bill ensures that landlords, in various rental agreements, will maintain habitability for tenants, sets a maximum security deposit amount, and sets procedure for breach of contract. About 20% of foster care placements cite inadequate housing as a reason for removal of a child from the home. Children who experience housing instability, unsafe homes or homelessness often also struggle with asthma; school attendance, learning and completion; as well as fear and trauma resulting from the insecurity caused by where they are going to sleep at night. Thank you for your thoughtfulness on behalf of Georgia’s children with regards to this bill.

Who to Contact:

Governor Brian Kemp, 404-656-1776

Ask #2: Thank Lawmakers for Their Work for Children and Families

Even though the legislative session is over, it is nevertheless EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to thank lawmakers who worked tirelessly to help children and families, *whether or not* their legislation passed. Please take a minute to send a Thank-you to some or all of the following:

1. **Budget**: Budget drafting and vetting is some of the most difficult and important work that happens each session. This year's FY25 budget contains millions of dollars in appropriations, as well as lots of policy directions ("Budget Notes") (*See the FY25 summary above.*) which indicate the priority that the General Assembly has placed on serving children and families. Please thank the following for their efforts on behalf of kids:

For their overall work on the budget:

[Rep. Matt Hatchett](#), 404-463-2247

House Appropriations Chair

[Sen. Blake Tillery](#), 404-656-5038

Senate Appropriations Chair

For Dollars for the Apex Program, Child Welfare

[Rep. Katie Dempsey](#), 404-463-2248

Chairwoman of Appropriations – Human Resources Subcommittee

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

Chairman of Appropriations – Health and Human Development Subcommittee

For Dollars for Home Visiting, Medical Education

[Rep. Darlene Taylor](#), 404-463-2246

Chairwoman of Appropriations – Health Subcommittee

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

Chairman of Appropriations – Health and Human Development Subcommittee

For Dollars for Georgia Pre-K classrooms, Summer Transition Programs, CAPS

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

Chairman of Appropriations - Education Subcommittee

[Sen. Billy Hickman](#), 404-463-1371

Chairman of Appropriations – Education and Higher Education Subcommittee

2. **House Bill 404**: "Safe at Home Act" – This bill encompassed a number of policies which would prevent unnecessary evictions and also help ensure safer living conditions for those with low incomes who rent.

[Rep. Kasey Carpenter](#)

[Sen. Brian Strickland](#)

3. **Senate Resolution 471**: Creates the Senate Study Committee on Access to Affordable Child Care (including for school-aged children). This study committee, a priority of Lt. Governor Burt Jones,

will be key in advancing resources and policies for afterschool and youth development programs. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate! In the meantime, please thank the following for securing the committee:

[Lt. Gov. Burt Jones](#)

[Sen. John Albers](#)

4. **Last Year's Study Committees and Work Group** were responsible for a slew of budget and policy wins that will greatly help kids and families. Please thank the following members for their efforts:

Senate Study Committee on Foster Care and Adoption

[Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick](#) (Chair)

[Sen. Bo Hatchett](#)

[Sen. Kim Jackson](#)

[Sen. Chuck Payne](#)

[Sen. Harold Jones](#)

[Sen. Randy Robertson](#)

Senate Study Committee on Occupational Licensure

[Sen. Larry Walker III](#) (Chair)

[Sen. Jason Anavitarte](#)

[Sen. Sonya Halpern](#)

[Sen. Brian Strickland](#)

[Former Sen. Mike Dugan](#)

House Work Group on Early Childhood Education

[Speaker Pro Temp. Jan Jones](#)

[Rep. Matt Dubnik](#)

[Rep. Chris Erwin](#)

[Rep. Carl Gilliard](#)

[Rep. Todd Jones](#)

The Message: Thank you for your work on XXX (FY25 Budget/HB 404)SR 471/last year's study committee on X). Your efforts have put in motion policies and/or dollars to improve the lives of Georgia's most precious resource: our kids! With appreciation, [your name]