Happy 2022 everyone! Well, the last two years were a total drag with that annoying virus all over the place, but now that the pandemic is over, we can all get back to normal. Finally, I can return to my favorite mosh pit, send notes into the House and Senate chambers via those adorable 13-year-old pages and cancel my Zoom subscription. I can wear real pants, shoes and makeup again (and ditch my tired, old “Zoom-i-form” of PJs, torn socks, and makeup-by-app)-- Wait a minute. What?? Stupid #%^*#%! COVID is still here??? What the heck? Aw, man. I guess now I’ll have to curb my enthusiasm and cancel my bus ticket to the Middle-Ohio Sneeze and Cough Festival next week. Geez. Sometimes a person just can’t catch a break.
I guess while I sit here, wishing that all this snow could white-out all the stress of a germ-y world, I might as well tell you about what’s going on at the state house this session. First, let’s just remind ourselves that not only is it long past time for season 4 of Stranger Things to come out, but it is also (speaking of stranger things) an election year. That means that all state senate and house seats are going to be up for election, as well as slots for the governor, Lt. governor, secretary of state, attorney general, agriculture commissioner, insurance commissioner, state school superintendent and labor commissioner. Bonus note: one of Georgia’s US Senate seats and a couple of Congressional seats are up for grabs too.

What will this look like?

A. A boatload of junk mail warming up your recycling bin

B. An all-you-can-eat-buffet of promises, posturing, hyperbole and political limbo dancing

C. A disturbing inundation of baritone-voiced attack ads engulfing your favorite star-a-thon on cable TV

D. All of the above

The answer is, of course, D. From the Voices perspective, I hope all those races do not distract from the children’s issues we want to see move forward - like raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds, sustaining the Georgia Apex Program, and getting more dollars for evidence-based home visiting, to name a few.

In other news, this past Thursday, Governor Brian Kemp delivered his 2023 State of the State (SOTS) address and presented his recommendations for the Amended Fiscal Year 2022 and the Fiscal Year 2023 budgets. Check out our summaries below! The House and Senate will start hearings on those budgets this week. You can tune in here to watch. Plus, lawmakers are starting to drop bills in the hoppers (which is where a bill starts its journey through the legislative process). We have summarized some child/family relevant ones below as well.

And if that is not enough, and you have already watched both seasons of Ted Lasso six times, check out our ongoing series “Kid Talks: Georgia Leaders on Child Policy”. This week we chat (individually) with agency heads from Georgia’s Dept. of Education, Dept. of Early Care and Learning, Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Office of the Child Advocate, Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Dept. of Human Services, and Dept. of Community Services. And if you missed last week’s Kid Talks panel discussions on juvenile justice, education, or health/behavioral health, it’s not too late! You can check them all out HERE!

So until next week, stay warm, stay dry, stay hopeful, and stay safe (since that stupid virus can’t seem to give it a rest!).

-- Polly

Polly McKinney

Advocacy Director
FY 2022 AMENDED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS

FY22 Original Revenue Estimate: $27,252,569,596
FY22 Amended Revenue Estimate: $29,889,163,593
Increase in Estimate = $2,636,593,997

Recurring Costs Throughout the Budget:
For all full-time, benefit eligible state employees: increase funds to provide a $5,000 cost of living adjustment, effective July 1, 2022.
For Teachers (in K-12, Georgia’s Pre-K Program, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and Georgia Military College Preparatory School): adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for by $2,000, effective July 1, 2022.
For Part Time School Support Personnel (K-12 QBE-funded instructional staff, school support staff, school administration, and central administration, school nutrition workers, bus drivers, school nurses): one-time salary supplement of $1,000.

Juvenile Courts
• $25,000 Added for the case management contract.

Dept. of Community Health
• $2.815 Million Added for the All-Payer Claims Database to enable analysis and public reporting of health care costs and utilization for medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services. (DCH Dept. Administration)
• $36.66 Million Subtracted from Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid based on projected need.
• $279.12 Million Added for growth in Low-Income Medicaid based on projected need.
• $447,000 Added for Low-Income Medicaid reimbursement of donor milk.
• $20.88 Million Added for growth in PeachCare based on projected need.

Dept. of Education
• $253,600 Added to offset the austerity reduction for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps. (Agricultural Education)
• $1.37 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction to Communities in Schools local affiliates.
• $2.45 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for the GNETS grants (Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support).
• $1.68 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants in Preschool Disabilities Services.
$188 Million Added to replace 1,747 buses statewide over three years at a base bus cost of $88,110 and provide funds for reimbursement of key safety features.

$3.466 Million Added for a midterm adjustment to the State Commission Charter School supplement training and experience. (QBE)

$1.6 Million Reduction to reflect charter school closure. (QBE)

$382.7 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education. (QBE)

$93.1 Million Added for a midterm adjustment based on enrollment growth. (QBE)

$14.6 Million QBE formula funds Added for the State Commission Charter School supplement. (QBE)

$233,700 QBE formula funds Added for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant. (QBE)

$2.9 Million Added for growth in the Special Needs Scholarship. (QBE)

$593,000 Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants to RESAs.

$200,000 Added to offset the austerity reduction for state schools.

$282,460 Added Increase funds to offset the austerity reduction for Extended Day/Year, Vocational Supervisors, Industry Certification, and Youth Apprenticeship programs. (Technology/Career Education)

$2.4 Million Added to administer Georgia Milestones in accordance with Federal requirements. (Testing)

Dept. of Human Services

$4 Million Added for the Integrated Eligibility System costs for the implementation of the Patients First Act (2019 Session). (Departmental Administration)

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

$49,400 Added to implement the state reinsurance program per the Patients First Act (2019 Session). (Reinsurance)

$8 Million Added to create the state healthcare exchange per the Patients First Act (2019 Session). (Reinsurance)

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

$228,000 Transferred from Secure Detention to provide a 20% salary increase for Juvenile Program Managers to provide parity with previously provided salary adjustments.

$2.06 Million Added for Room, Board, and Watchful Oversight to reflect the loss of Title IV-E federal funds.

$526,000 Added to reflect the loss of Title IV-E funds associated with the October 1, 2021 implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and the statewide transition to increased family-based placement settings.

$261,000 Transferred from Secure Detention to fill vacancies and increase salaries for positions involved in recruitment and retention initiatives, gang activity investigations, facility management, and public safety training. (Departmental Administration)
Dept. of Public Health
- $9.9 Million Added to address the state funds shortfall for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) per the state match requirement in the Ryan White Care Act Title II Award. (Infectious Disease Control)

Dept. of Public Safety
- $424,245 Reduced in accordance with Fiscal Year 2021 Joshua’s Law collections.

University System of GA
- $2 Million Added for technology grants for the Georgia Public Library System.
- $493,000 Added for enrollment growth at the Georgia Military Preparatory School.
- $157,500 Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education at the Georgia Military Preparatory School.

Dept. of Revenue
- Budget Direction: Utilize $1.6 Billion Used in prior year undesignated state funds surplus to provide a one-time additional refund for tax year 2021 of $250.00 for single filers, $375.00 for head of household filers, and $500.00 for married filing jointly.

Student Finance System of GA
- $2.23 Million Added to meet the projected need for the HOPE Scholarships. (Public Schools)

Technical College System of Georgia
- $1.54 Million Added to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session).
- $5.8 Million Added for equipment for an aviation training academy at Chattahoochee Technical College.

FY 2023 BUDGET GOVERNOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS

FY2023 State Revenue Estimate: $30,203,913,322

Recurring Costs Throughout the Budget:
- For all full-time, benefit eligible state employees: increase funds to provide a $5,000 cost of living adjustment, effective July 1, 2022.
- For teachers: (in K-12, Georgia’s Pre-K Program, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and Georgia Military College Preparatory School): adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for by $2,000, effective July 1, 2022.
For eligible state employees: Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance.

**Judicial Council**
- $1.32 Million Added for grants for civil legal services for victims of domestic violence.
- $275,000 Added for grants for civil legal services for Kinship Care Families.

**Juvenile Courts**
- $25,000 Added for the case management contract.
- $690,000 Added for juvenile court judges’ salary supplement for accountability courts per House Bill 274.

**District Attorneys**
- $516,000 Added for four additional assistant district attorneys to support Juvenile Courts in the Bell-Forsyth, Chattahoochee, Northern, and Pataula Judicial Circuits.

**Dept. of Agriculture**
- $800,000 Added and matching funds recognized for the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program to combat agricultural waste and address fresh produce shortages in regional food banks. (Total Funds: $1,000,000)

**Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**
- $1.67 Million Added for a 10% increase for core services for addictive diseases. (Adult Addictive Disease Services)
- $1.96 Million Added to annualize the cost of 100 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (Adult Developmental Disability Services)
- $1.98 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. (Adult Developmental Disability Services)
- $2.5 Million Added for an additional 20-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot. (Adult Forensic Services)
- $1.04 Million Added for an additional 15 forensic peer mentors to provide transition and re-entry support services. (Adult Forensic Services)
- $1.38 Million Added for the Georgia Housing Voucher Program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement. (Adult Mental Health Services)
- $3.8 Million Added to convert an existing 16-bed crisis stabilization unit in Augusta to a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center. (Adult Mental Health Services)
• **$2.38 Million** Added for the operational costs of 13 additional crisis stabilization unit beds at The Bradley Center of St. Francis Hospital. (Adult Mental Health Services)

• **$6.14 Million** Added for a 10% increase for core services for mental health. (Adult Mental Health Services)

• **$1.15 Million** Added to allow for Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatric and behavioral health care management services. (Adult Mental Health Services)

• **$4.5 Million** Added for three additional Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs. (Adult Mental Health Services)

**Dept. of Community Health**

• **$16.88 Million** Added for growth in Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid based on projected need.

• **$20.8 Million** Added for growth in Low-Income Medicaid based on projected need.

• **$39.47 Million** Added for the implementation of express lane enrollment pursuant to the passage of HB 163 (2021 Session). (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$85.4 Million** Added to eliminate attestation and reimburse all providers at enhanced rates for all 108 procedure codes. (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$28.18 Million** Added to provide one year of postpartum coverage effective upon Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services approval. (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$11.26 Million** Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of therapeutic services. (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$1.6 Million** Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatric and behavioral health care management services. (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$469,000** Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of donor milk. (Low-Income Medicaid)

• **$12.28 Million** Added for growth in PeachCare for Kids based on projected need.

• **$2.53 Million** Added for 136 new residency slots in primary care medicine. (Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education)

• **$680,000** Added for a pilot program to perform echocardiograms of pregnant and postpartum women to address maternal mortality. (Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education)

• **$1.07 Million** Added for the third year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine’s medical school campus in Columbus.

**Georgia Commission on Family Violence**

• **$64,000** Added for the state match to federal funds for domestic violence programs.

• **$31,600** Added for the implementation of a murder-suicide support group.

**Dept. of Corrections**

• **$3.21 Million** Added for an increase in per diem rates. (Private Prisons)
• $6.73 Million Added for technology projects for promoting offender health, safety, and security. (State Prisons)
• $45.73 Million Added for capital maintenance and repairs. (State Prisons)
• $7.23 Million Added for personal services and operating costs to establish regional offender transportation hubs. (State Prisons)

Dept. of Early Care and Learning
• $2.1 Million Subtracted in formula funds for training and experience for Pre-K teachers. (Pre-Kindergarten Program – Lottery Funds)

Dept. of Education
• $253,600 Added to offset the austerity reduction for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps. (Agricultural Education)
• $57,100 Added to offset the austerity reduction to local affiliates. (Communities In Schools)
• $2.87 Million Subtracted for enrollment and training and experience decline. (GNETS)
• $2.45 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for GNETS grants. (GNETS)
• $480,000 Added for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment decline. (Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants)
• $919,400 Added for Residential Treatment Facilities based on attendance. (Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants)
• $1.82 Million Added for a 5.4% salary increase for school nutrition workers. (Nutrition)
• $597,500 Added to Preschool Disabilities Services.
• $1.68 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants. (Preschool Disabilities Services)
• $1.9 Million Added for transportation grants based on formula growth.
• $4.41 Million Added for a 5.4% salary increase for school transportation personnel (Pupil Transportation)
• $164.19 Million Decreased for Equalization grants. (QBE Equalization)
• $35.34 Million Added for the State Commission Charter School supplement. (QBE Program)
• $1.32 Million Added for the charter system grant. (QBE Program)
• $382.7 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education. (QBE Program)
• $42.98 Million Added for enrollment growth and training and experience. (QBE Program)
• $4.77 Million Added for grants for state special charter schools per SB 153 (2021 Session). (QBE Program)
• $2.9 Million Added for the local charter school grant per SB 59 (2021 Session). (QBE Program)
• $115,700 Reduction for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers. (QBE Program)
• $280,500 Added for school nurses. (QBE Program)
• **$2.91 Million** Added for the Special Needs Scholarship. (QBE Program)

• **$103,800** Added for special education in state institutions. (QBE Program)

• **$225,100** Added for RESAs based on enrollment growth. (Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs))

• **$593,000** Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants to RESAs.

• **$138,000** Added for training and experience for teachers in state schools.

• **$200,000** Added to offset the austerity reduction for state schools.

• **$2 Million** Added for major repairs and renovations of state schools.

• **$282,460** Added to offset the austerity reduction for Extended Day/Year, Vocational Supervisors, Industry Certification, and Youth Apprenticeship programs. (Technology/Career Education)

• **$288.7 Million** in BONDS for local school construction.

**Dept. of Human Services**

• **Budget Direction:** Recognize $1,100,533 in marriage and divorce fee collections for the Children’s Trust Fund for child abuse and neglect prevention. (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention)

• **$1.5 Million** Added for a community action team pilot program to address children who are in, or are at risk of entering, foster care. (Child Welfare Services)

• **$452,000** Added for an autism recognition pilot program in Region 12. (Child Welfare Services)

• **$1 Million** Added for autism respite care. (Child Welfare Services)

• **$27.81 Million** Added for a 10% provider rate increase for Child Caring Institutions, Child Placing Agencies, foster parents, and relative caregivers. (Out-of-Home Care)

• **Budget Direction:** Utilize $6,700,000 in existing funds to improve the continuum of care including preventative and therapeutic services, in addition to addressing youth with complex needs. (Out-of-Home Care)

• **$240,400** Decrease to reflect collections by the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission.

**Office of the Commissioner of Insurance**

• **$124.34 Million** Added to implement the state reinsurance program per the Patients First Act (2019 Session). (Reinsurance)

• **$15.52 Million** Added to create the state healthcare exchange per the Patients First Act (2019 Session). (Reinsurance)

**Criminal justice Coordinating Council**

• **$383,100** Added for five victims assistance positions due to declining federal funds.

• **$98,300** Transferred from the Department of Juvenile Justice for one juvenile detention alternatives coordinator position.
**Dept. of Juvenile Justice**

- $911,500 Transferred from Secure Detention to DJJ Community Service Division to provide a 20% salary increase for Juvenile Program Managers to provide parity with previously provided salary adjustments.
- $3.38 Million Added for Room, Board, and Watchful Oversight to reflect the loss of Title IV-E surplus revenue. (Community Service)
- $701,300 Added to reflect the loss of Title IV-E funds associated with the October 1, 2021 implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and the statewide transition to increased family-based placement settings. (Community Service)
- $1.04 Million Transferred from Secure Detention to fill vacancies and increase salaries for positions involved in recruitment and retention initiatives, gang activity investigations, facility management, and public safety training. (Departmental Administration)
- $43,400 Added for teacher training and experience in Youth Detention Centers (YDCs). (Secure Commitment)
- $3.93 Million Added for capital maintenance and repairs. (Secure Commitment)
- $8.16 Million Added for capital maintenance and repairs of RYDCs. (Secure Detention)
- $16.4 Million in BONDS for DJJ facilities design, maintenance, and repair.

**Dept. of Labor**

- **Budget Direction:** Transfer funds and all associated positions, equipment, and property to the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to establish Employment Services at TCSG and streamline WIOA Title I and Title III programs under TCSG in order to reduce duplicity and better serve employers and job seekers across the state. (Total Funds: $63.22 Million)

**Department of Law**

- $1.32 Million Added for twelve positions to establish a gang prosecution unit.
- $317,500 Added for three positions to expand the human trafficking unit to address anticipated workload.
- $234,400 Added for two cybersecurity positions.

**Payments to Georgia Building Authority**

- $45 Million Added for the Migration Plan for Capitol Hill to maximize operational efficiencies by consolidating agencies from 2 Peachtree to Capitol Hill.

**Dept. of Public Health**
• $500,000 Added for a comprehensive care management pilot for high-risk pregnancy populations. (Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion)

• $4.36 Million Added to expand the Georgia Regional Coordinating Center’s efforts to coordinate emergency room capacity statewide. (Emergency Preparedness/Trauma System Improvement)

Dept. of Public Safety

• $1.09 Million Added for 10 proper use of force and de-escalation positions and operational needs. (Georgia Public Safety Training Center)

University System of GA

• $181,600 Added for the Public Libraries formula based on an increase in the state population.

• $725,600 Added to offset the austerity reduction for Public Libraries.

• $300,000 Added to launch an online elementary education degree program at Valdosta State University. (Teaching)

• $229.63 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction in the Teaching formula and eliminate the Special Institutional Fee at USG’s 26 institutions. (Teaching)

• $320,000 Added for merit-based scholarships to promote recruitment of rural paraprofessionals at Valdosta State University. (Teaching)

• $8.33 Million Added for year three of a three-year phase-in for increased medical education funding. (Teaching)

• $300,000 Added to begin an elementary education degree program at Savannah State University. (Teaching)

• $14,000 Added for a virtual classroom environment to train teacher candidates at Albany State University and Fort Valley State University. (Teaching)

• $1.2 Million Added for the first year of a five-year plan to expand capacity for nursing students across the university system. (Teaching)

• $663,400 Added for enrollment growth and training and experience at Georgia Military College Preparatory School.

• $157,500 Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education at Georgia Military College Preparatory School.

Student Finance System of GA

• $3.14 Million Added for updated Dual Enrollment projections.

• $1.38 Million Added to restructure the HOPE GED program to support equivalency exam costs for eligible test takers across the state.

• $855,400 Added to expand the HOPE Career Grant to include Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement programs.

• $4.62 Million Added to ensure coverage of 90% of tuition for the HOPE Grant.
• **$52.8 Million** Added to meet the projected need for HOPE Scholarships in Public Schools.

• **$20.41 Million** Added to ensure coverage of 90% of tuition for the HOPE Scholarships in Public Schools.

**Technical College System of Georgia**

• **$1.275 Million** Added to establish the High-Demand Career Initiatives Program and expand apprenticeship programs across the state. (Workforce Development)

• **$5.17 Million** Added to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session). (Technical Education)

**JUVENILE JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

**HB 852** (Scott-76th) Requires the officer in charge of an inmate to produce reports of de-identified, aggregated data when such data concerning the health, safety, or other conditions of detention of inmates is requested.

**STATUS:** House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 851** (Scott-76th) Within 48 hours of taking custody of a person for or within a penal institution, and at any other time thereafter where there is reasonable cause to believe that such person has a mental illness, a custodian shall have a physician of a facility to evaluate such person for mental illness. If determined that the person appears to be a mentally ill, the physician shall execute a certificate stating such and requires treatment. The certificate is then delivered to the custodian and filed with the chief judge of the court having jurisdiction over the charges or conviction of the person.

**STATUS:** House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 892** (Mitchell-106th) Prohibits the use of corporal punishment by school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 904** (Bazemore-63rd) Prohibits the use of corporal punishment by school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel, requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to provide for minimum standards and model student codes of conduct which address appropriate methods for redirecting students whose behavior is dangerous or disruptive, and provides for limited immunity for school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel for the good faith use of reasonable and necessary physical contact with a student under certain circumstances.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 929** (Hutchinson-107th) Places more oversight on solitary confinement within correctional facilities by requiring the correctional facility to ensure that any such confinement is imposed only within the medical units of the facility, digitally record each incident from the initiation of the confinement for the duration and document any de-escalation efforts implemented, the reason or reasons for which the use of confinement was implemented, and the duration of the confinement. The warden or facility administrator of each correctional facility must also furnish monthly reports to the department.
**PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

**HB 849** (Smith-41st) Adds human resources personnel and supervisory personnel in a workplace that employs minors as mandatory reporters for child abuse and requires mandatory reporter training for such personnel.  
**STATUS:** House Industry and Labor Committee

**HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

**HB 853** (Scott-76th) A defendant who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and who is or was eligible for public mental health services or Social Security Disability Insurance benefit due to a diagnosed serious mental illness may petition the court for a sentence that includes mental health treatment and the court may allow in certain circumstances.  
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 857** (Clark-108th) Provides that the prescribed course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction is age appropriate for grades K-9.  
**STATUS:** Pre-filed

**HB 861** Scott-76th) Requires schools, penal institutions, and providers of temporary housing to provide necessary menstrual products to women and girls at no cost.  
**STATUS:** Pre-filed

**HB 863** (Scott-76th) Requires the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia to make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost to students in certain facilities.  
**STATUS:** Pre-filed

**HB 864** (Scott-76th) Requires the Ga Dept. of Human Services to apply for a waiver allowing SNAP or WIC recipients to use their benefits to purchase diapers or menstrual products if the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service creates and makes such a waiver available.  
**STATUS:** Pre-filed

**HB 867** (Newton-123rd) Among other things, the bill requires pharmacy benefits managers to disclose the true net cost and final net cost (if applicable) of prescription drugs to insureds and to calculate cost sharing requirements for insureds based on the true net cost of prescription drugs.  
**STATUS:** House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care

**HB 869** (Byrd-20th) Prohibits state or local governments from requiring individuals to submit to vaccinations as a condition to certain actions, from issuing immunization passports, from requiring face masks or other facial coverings, and prohibits certain entities or individuals doing business in this state from requiring patrons or customers to provide any documentation certifying vaccination, or to wear a mask or other facial covering in order to gain entry to a business, or to receive goods or services.  
**STATUS:** Pre-filed

**HB 902** (Schofield-60th) Limits the total cost sharing amount that a covered person is required to pay for a covered prescription insulin drug to an amount not to exceed $100.00 per 30-day supply of insulin, regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed to fill the covered person's prescription.
**STATUS:** House Insurance Committee

**HB 918** (Cheokas-138th) Creates a state-based advisory council to educate medical professionals, government agencies, legislators, and the public about rare diseases and encourage research and treatment of rare diseases.

**STATUS:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**SB 330** (Albers-56th) Prohibits insurers from cancelling, modifying coverage, refusing to issue, or refusing to renew life insurance policies solely because the applicant or insured donated a liver or kidney and revises an income tax deduction based on a taxpayer’s living donation of all or part of his or her liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow.

**STATUS:** Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

**SB 341** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Provides guidelines for the prior authorization of a prescribed medication for chronic conditions requiring ongoing medication therapy.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**SB 342** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Requires annual reporting regarding mental health parity in healthcare plans.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**SB 345** (Mullis-53rd) Prohibits state and local governments from mandating vaccine passports.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**SR 364** (Au-48th) Creates the Senate Costs and Effects of Smoking Study Committee.

**STATUS:** Senate Rules Committee

**MATERNAL CARE AND CHILD CARE**

**SB 338** (Burke-11th) Extends postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year following birth.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**EDUCATION**

**HB 885** (Belton-112th) Provides that a military student may attend any public school in the local school system in which such student resides and allows such student to continue enrollment in their current public school for specified periods of time regardless of a parent’s change of residence.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 888** (Thomas-21st) Among other things, the bill prohibits the teaching of (but not limited to) the following: (1) That individuals of any race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin are inherently superior or inferior; (2) That individuals should be adversely or advantageously treated on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin; (3) That individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin; (4) That governing systems or programs which were designed to identify, select, or promote participants on the basis of merit or work ethic are discriminatory or were created by members of a particular race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin to oppress members of another race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin; (5) That any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological
distress on account of the individual’s race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin; (6) That an
individual’s moral character is necessarily determined by the individual’s race, ethnicity, religion, color, or
national origin; and (7) That the United States is a systemically racist country. The bill also encompasses
protocols for violations of such provisions, including the possibility of withholding 20% of state QBE funds
for violation.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 932 (Cantrell-22nd) Requires the University System of Georgia to classify noncitizen students with
certain refugee, special immigrant, or humanitarian parole status under federal law as in-state for tuition
purposes.
STATUS: House Hopper

SB 328 (Mullis-53rd) Provides for the designation of a nonprofit organization to govern Georgia high
school athletics.
STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee

SB 333 (Albers-56th) Removes provisions related to agents and agent’s permits; to repeal definitions of
such terms; provides for new exemptions from applicability of the part relating to certain programs for
industry-specific certifications and certain short courses; and expands exemption for certain programs
where students obtain occupational training through employment experience.
STATUS: Senate Higher Education Committee

SB 334 (Mullis-53rd) Prohibits high schools which receive QBE funding from participating in or sponsoring
interscholastic sports events conducted by any athletic association unless the association has separate
regions and playoffs for certain private schools and certain public schools.
STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 846 (Smith-41st) Allows local authorities to regulate the operation of bicycles upon sidewalks by
persons under the age of 16 or with disabilities.
STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 894 (Boddie-62nd) Provides that a prospective tenant shall not be refused a rental or lease
agreement solely based upon a previous eviction during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

HB 903 (Gullett-19th) Expands places where firearms may be carried and eliminates licensure for
carrying a concealed weapon.
STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 917 (Cameron-1st) Allows lifetime weapons carry licenses.
STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 927 (Hutchinson-107th) Revises terminology referring to persons who are noncitizens and present in
the United States without official documentation from “illegal alien” to “undocumented person”.
STATUS: House Hopper

HR 581 (Neal-74th) Allows the net proceeds of one or more Georgia Lottery games to be used for
economic development programs and loans to support small businesses located in Georgia that are
SB 323 (Miller-49th) Repeals the state income tax in its entirety.

STATUS: Pre-filed

SB 344 (Harrell-40th) Requires training to possess a handgun or long gun and establishes training standards. The bill also provides for the offenses of possession of a firearm without proper training and failure to store a firearm in a secure manner.

STATUS: Senate Hopper

2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

The Ask: Make sure you know who represents you at the Georgia General Assembly. Then start or build upon a relationship with your own state representative or senator by sending them a short note.

The Why: Advocating is made easier by nurturing respectful but clear communications with elected officials.

The Message: “Hi – My name is __________ and I live in your district. Issues such as child health, child welfare, juvenile justice, childcare, and learning are important to me. I am reaching out to you today to simply say hello and let you know that I may be contacting you through the session and after to share my thoughts on legislation before you. I appreciate your dedication to public service and look forward to more opportunities to work together for the children in our district and in our state.”

The How: Click here to find your elected officials, and then call or email them with the message above.