The other day I was having coffee with a friend over Zoom, and we were comparing notes about our latest favorite streaming events. She mentioned Hacks, Modern Love and yet another show about the end of the world (which, btw, is not great watching for me during the legislative session). When it was my turn, I gleefully shared that I was all into this week's joint budget hearings, and especially the state economist's presentation*. Jeffrey Dorfman, I explained, was particularly riveting when he spoke about supply chain issues and credit scores. My friend suddenly remembered that she needed to clean out her refrigerator and signed off. I was left wondering if I am not the groovy chick I think I am, but rather a weirdo-nerd-person, or if she really had some kind of pre-COVID condiment crisis happening behind closed doors. Oh well, I thought, now I can finally get back to memorizing the contents of my favorite legislative spreadsheet! Yay! It is good to get my bill numbers sorted out before the turbulence promised by this week's committee hearings, new bill filings, and political acrobatics.

To catch you up, last week was kind of on the light side, acrobatics-wise. The chambers were in recess so that they could host those scintillating budget hearings I mentioned. If you want to get the lowdown on how state agencies would like to spend Georgia's revenues, and you have 20+
hours to kill, you can watch the reruns online (see the link below). If you actually have a life and prefer to skip to the highlights reel, just keep showing up here and we will let you know how the budgets change as they move along through the House, Senate, and conference committees.

Coming up, a couple of bills in our list below will get hearings this week so check out the entries. When appropriate, we note the day of the hearings at the end of each bill’s status. And, check out our 2 Minute Advocacy Ask at the end since super important Apex funding (supporting the behavioral health of 15,000+ GA Students a year!) needs to be appropriated in the FY 2023 budget!

See you next week!

--Polly

*Budget hearing 1/19/22.* (FYI, state economist, Jeffrey Dorfman starts about 59 minutes into this link)

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

**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 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 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.

**STATUS:** House Hopper

**PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

**HB 689** (Gaines-117th) Allows persons who are victims of an offense of trafficking to petition the clerk of court to seal certain criminal history record information and to allow restricted criminal history record information to be available to criminal justice agencies.

**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

**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 752** (Cooper-43rd) Addresses psychiatric advance directives for adults.
**STATUS:** House Health and Human Services Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY

**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. This bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.

**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; (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 226** (Anavitarte-31st) Requires local boards of education to adopt a complaint resolution policy and process to address complaints submitted by parents/guardians alleging that material (e.g. books, websites, etc.) that is harmful to minors has been provided to their student. Requires GA DOE to establish a model complaint resolution process policy no later than September 21, 2021.

**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

**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".
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 independently owned and operated by students enrolled in a recognized course of study at a Georgia institution of higher education.

STATUS: House Hopper

SB 197 (Jackson-41st) Includes the residence of the defendant in the list of places occupied by a victim of stalking.

STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

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: Ask members of the House Appropriations Committee to fund the Georgia Apex Program at $4 Million in the FY 2023 Budget (under the Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities).

The Why:

- The successful Georgia Apex Program (Apex), funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), builds capacity, and increases access to mental health services for school-aged youth, Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade, throughout the state.
- 15,607 students used Apex in 650 participating schools (30%) in FY2021
- For more details, check out this [Apex factsheet](#)
- COVID has expanded mental health challenges faced by all, including our children and youth
- Funding appropriated in years past runs out in FY2023. It will take an estimated $4 Million to maintain current Apex access.
- To understand child and adolescent behavioral health needs, check out these additional factsheets:
  - [School Based Mental Health Programs: How they Work](#)
  - [Georgia’s Crisis in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health](#)

The Message:

Dear Representative ____________,

The successful Georgia Apex Program provides school-based access to mental health services for children Pre-K through 12th grade across the state. Last year alone, the program served more than 15,600 students. The state-sponsored program, however, is expected to run out of funding in FY 2023. Please appropriate $4 Million to keep the program running and serving the children in our schools. Thank you for your attention to this situation and for your service to the children and families of our great state.

The Contact Information:

[House Appropriations Committee Members](#)