For me, working at the capitol is like belonging to the world’s biggest free-association association. One minute I’m listening to Speaker Ralston announce the biggest Georgia behavioral health bill maybe ever, which gets me thinking about how we need to get $4 million in the budget for school based mental health programs (Georgia Apex Program). This leads me to think about other monies we need in the big budget for evidence based home visiting (EBHV) in 21 additional counties ($6.5 million) and childhood lead testing ($1.8 million). As I wonder when the childhood lead testing legislation will drop, my mind wanders to other poisonous substances, and I remember that there is a Senate Resolution honoring the U.S. National Turpentine Queen. What does she look like and is she a professional paint remover? There are so many unusual professions out there (in addition to being a child advocate), and in fact, I saw this article on my news feed about a guy who broke the world record for the number of spoons stuck to one’s own body (85 up from 64!). I remembered that the article was oddly inspiring and full of great quotes about realizing as a child that he had a special talent. He also described what I would consider a superpower: “Anything that has a surface I can stick to my body, such as plastic, glass, fruit, stone, wood and even a fully grown human,” which makes me think about being a mom and how sticky kids are in general – jelly, gum, old ketchup, and other things that fall more on the disgusting side. Disgusting
reminded me of another bill about making the possum the state marsupial. Marsupials carry their young in pockets, which makes me think about when I was pregnant and the beautiful days my kids were each born, which reminds me that Senate Bill 338 on extending postpartum Medicaid up to 12 months has a hearing this Tuesday. See the action alert at the bottom of this update…but I can’t see the action alert because it looks like my reading glasses are missing a screw and subsequently an arm, and that would explain why they keep falling off. Boy, I wish I had some of that sticky-magic that the spoon dude has. As I try to wedge the glasses into the nose part of my mask, I remember that there are a bunch of anti-vax bills floating around (pun intended) and that I need to keep an eye out, but I can’t because my reading glasses keep falling off, which means it will be almost impossible to read the 74-page behavioral health bill that the Speaker just announced…

Thankfully, it always seems to come full circle.

Also thankfully, I had another pair of glasses wedged between the seats in my car, which reminds me that I needed to go home and write up this legislative update for you. So… here you have it. (And I summarized the behavioral health bill below to boot!)

Enjoy!

--Polly

Polly McKinney
Advocacy Director
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JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE 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 Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 1004 (Mainor-56th) Expands jurisdiction of campus police forces by virtue of "unified campus police forces agreements" entered into by colleges and universities for any property that they own or occupy.
STATUS: House Higher Education Committee

HB 1046 (Scott-76th) Requires all peace officers to successfully complete training on implicit biases regarding race, gender, age, disability, religion, and sexual orientation.
STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 1047 (Scott-76th) Limits the use of solitary confinement in a correctional facility and requires increased oversight, medical and mental health assessments and reporting when solitary confinement is used.
STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

SB 359 (Albers-56th) Requires a biennial report and recommendation from the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia to various officials of the General Assembly.
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 383 (Robertson-29th) Provides for an instructional course or presentation educating drivers and the public on the best practices to implement when interacting with law enforcement officers.
STATUS: Senate Public Safety Committee

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

HB 849 (Smith-41st) Add 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

HB 1087 (Hutchinson-107th) Prevents an undocumented person who in good faith seeks law enforcement assistance and who is a victim of family violence or who seeks assistance on behalf of a victim of family violence from being arrested, charged, or prosecuted for being an undocumented person.
STATUS: House Hopper

SB 360 (McNeill-3rd) Provides for protections from exploitation and intimidation for disabled minors and renames this part of Georgia law "Colton's Law."
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 370 (Cowsert-46th) Creates tax credits for certain contributions made by taxpayers to certain foster child support organizations that assist youth who age out of foster care.
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB 381 (Robertson-29th) Increases the penalty provisions relating to pimping and pandering.
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 382 (Robertson-29th) Revises provisions for misdemeanor convictions for the offense of aggravated child molestation by raising the minimum age of victims from 13 to 14.
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HB 430 (Powell-32nd) Changes the licensure requirements for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to include a fingerprint criminal background check. Allows home health services to be provided to individuals under a written plan of care by an APRN or physician assistant, or, as was already law, a physician. Authorizes the collection of nurse workforce data.
STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY

HB 752 (Cooper-43rd) Addresses psychiatric advance directives for adults and emancipated youth.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by House Health and Human Services Committee (by substitute). This bill now rests in House Rules Committee
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: House Health and Human Services

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: House Higher Education Committee

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-to-purchase diapers or menstrual products if the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service creates and makes available such a waiver available.

STATUS: House Health and Human Services

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 drug.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass (with changes to the bill) by the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care. The bill rests in House Rules Committee

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

HB 939 (Mainor-56th) Requires notice of admission and daily updates with regards to examination and treatment for mental illness from a facility to the parent or legal guardian of an involuntary minor patient under 12 years of age.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services

HB 972 (Belton-112th) Among other things, this bill adjusts licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.
STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee

HB 1005 (Mainor-56th) Requires local school systems to conduct annual suicide screenings on all students age eight through 18.
STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1013 (Ralston-7th) A bill which embodies the recommendations of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform & Innovation Commission (established in 2019). The bill: requires health insurers of all sorts to follow federal law (the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008) in that they must provide meaningful coverage for the treatment of mental health or substance use disorders; establishes multiple requirements and protocols for addressing complaints from consumers and health entities; establishes multiple reporting and data-sharing requirements across sectors; requires care management organizations to comply with a minimum 85% medical loss ratio (MLR); expands postsecondary loan forgiveness programs for those in fields of study for behavioral health professions; requires those seeking to gain or renew behavioral health professional licensure to complete surveys collecting specific data regarding service provision and other things; establishes a three-year Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program to be used by community service boards (CSBs) and probate courts for involuntary AOT in order to avoid incarceration for individuals who are deemed to need behavioral health treatment; expands oversight authority and coordination powers of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; creates a task force to assist local communities in keeping people with serious mental illness out of county and municipal jails and detention facilities (including juvenile detention); Establishes the Network of Co-Response Teams (3-5 teams across the state in the first year, with plans to expand in future years) composed of at least one peace officer and one trained behavioral health professional, that are to respond to 9-1-1 emergency and other calls for service or law enforcement interactions involving a person in behavioral health crisis; adds the leadership of DECAL, TCSG, OCA, a behavioral health expert employed by the University System of Georgia and an expert on infant and early childhood mental health, appointed by the Governor to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC); tasks DBHDD, DCH, and DPH with developing a clearinghouse of children’s behavioral health research and best practices to disseminate to schools, practitioners, and others through training, technical assistance, and educational materials; establishes a state-wide registry for pediatric patients residing in this state with behavioral health issues who have had high utilization of crisis services or other high usage of resources; clarifies that CSBs are to serve both adults and children; creates a task force composed of care management organizations, pediatric primary care physicians, a representative of a pediatric hospital, pharmacy benefits managers, other insurers, and pediatric mental health and substance use disorder care professionals to consider implementation of a unified formulary for Medicaid for certain conditions, including mental health and substance use disorder condition, how to provide training and support for multidisciplinary staff in neonatal intensive care units and nursery units to implement and sustain developmentally supportive and evidence based practices and interventions that enhance caregiver/infant attachment, expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage from six months to 12 months, Medicaid billing codes to provide behavioral health services coverage for children 0-4, improving mechanisms and services for children and families in foster care or adoptive situations; establishes The Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) team to better coordinate delivery of care between agencies for complex treatment needs of children and adolescents; requires DCH to study mental health reimbursement for services under Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and the state health benefit plan; and extends the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform & Innovation Commission until June 30, 2025.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee
HB 1038 (Cooper-43rd) Limits eligibility for the rural physician tax credit to persons qualifying as a rural physician on or before December 31, 2022, and creates a new tax credit for rural physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.
STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee

HB 1041 (Pirkle-155th) Increases the aggregate limit for tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations from $60 to $75 million per taxable year.
STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee

HB 1042 (Jasperse-11th) Creates a grant program to establish primary care medical facilities (meaning any facility where the majority of the services provided are primary care, dental, or mental health services) in health professional shortage areas as designated by the Department of Community Health.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1057 (Greene-151st) Requires DBHDD to develop a standard suite of services that community service boards are required to provide in their respective service areas.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1065 (Lim-99th) Revises procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency by requiring that certain documents become part of the patient's clinical record and changes from 48 hours of admission to 8 hours for the time within which a physician must examine a patient for involuntary treatment for mental health or alcohol and drug dependency.
STATUS: House Hopper

HR 647 (Hatchett-50th) Urges the Georgia Department of Community Health to apply for federal approval to allow institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement.
STATUS: House Hopper

HR 651 (Hutchinson-107th) Creates the House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers.
STATUS: House Hopper

SB 82 (Au-48th) Clarifies that the prudent layperson standard is not affected by the diagnoses (initial, interim, final, or otherwise) given with regards to emergency medical services. Adds Emergency Medical Technician to the definition of healthcare provider.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to the House Judiciary 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

SB 372 (Beach-21st) Makes it illegal for local or state government or any employer to refuse, withhold from, or deny to a person any local or state services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person’s vaccination status or whether the person has an immunity passport, or to discriminate based on vaccination status.
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 403 (Watson-1st) "Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act" - Requires each community service board to establish a co-responder program to offer assistance or consultation to peace officers responding to emergency calls involving individuals with behavioral health crises and allows law enforcement agencies within a community service board’s service area to elect to partner with the community service board to establish one or more co-responder teams. Among other things, the bill also establishes protocols for notification of release and treatment of individuals who engage with a co-responder program.
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

HB 1052 (Mitchell-106th) Removes restrictions on the selection of a child’s first name, middle name, or surname.
STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

HB 1092 (Cooper-43rd) Requires that every woman arrested who is not released on bond within 72 hours of arrest to submit to urine pregnancy testing unless she declines, and if pregnant, allows a judge to defer any sentenced confinement until six weeks post-delivery unless the pregnant woman poses a significant threat or danger to any person or unless declined by the pregnant woman.
STATUS: House Hopper

SB 338 (Burke-11th) Extends postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year following birth.
STATUS: Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

EDUCATION

HB 1 (Bonner-72nd) Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act - Prevents the creation of "free speech zones" at public institutions of higher education.
STATUS: House Higher Education Committee

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; 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 Higher Education Committee

**HB 999 (Cantrell-22nd)** "Georgia Educational Freedom Act" - Establishes promise scholarship accounts to be funded by the state in the amount of $6,000.00 per school year for each participating student and which are to be used for private school tuition.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 1043 (Jasperse-11th)** Creates the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals to foster a public-private partnership with the Technical College System of Georgia for support of postsecondary teaching professionals in high demand courses, subjects, and disciplines by.

**STATUS:** House Higher Education Committee

**HB 1048 (Scott-76th)** Requires local units of administration to annually report to the State Board of Education certain information regarding the educational performance of foster care students, including information regarding discipline, and to provide for remediation plans when foster care students are disproportionately failing to meet academic standards or are disproportionately subject to school discipline compared to the overall student population.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 1084 (Wade-9th)** Prohibits the teaching of "divisive concepts" by Georgia’s public K-12 schools, prohibits discrimination in the schools and requires school systems to develop a complaint resolution process for such.

**STATUS:** House Hopper

**HR 650 (Gambill-15th)** Creates the House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction.

**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.) is harmful to minors has been provided to their student. Requires GaDOE to establish a model complaint resolution process policy no later than September 21, 2021.

**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

**SB 231** *(Anavitarte-31st)* Creates a pilot program to allow for certain adults to enroll in charter schools that provide instruction only for individuals between ages 21 and 35 residing in this state who have not attained a high school diploma.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass (with changes to the bill) by Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill now moves to the Senate Rules Committee.

**SB 327, SR 360** *(Miller-49th)* Provides for a homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in an amount equal to $100,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of any school district that has been certified by the State Board of Education for a given year to have substantially deviated from the course curriculum approved by the State Board of Education.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 328** *(Mullis-53rd)* Provides for the designation of a nonprofit organization to govern GA 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

**SB 357** *(Kirkpatrick-32nd)* Allows military students to select adjacent school districts for attendance and provides for a standard process of military student school transfer.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 375** *(Mullis-53rd)* Prohibits the teaching of “divisive concepts” by Georgia’s public K-12 schools, prohibits discrimination in the schools and requires school systems to develop a complaint resolution process for such.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 377** *(Hatchett-50th)* Prohibits the teaching of “divisive concepts” by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, units of the University System of Georgia, units of the Technical College System of Georgia, local boards of education, and local school systems.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 378** *(Albers-56th)* Expands the definition of hazing to include minors and beefs up penalties and reporting requirements for hazing affecting all ages.
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

**SB 379** (Strickland-17th) Requires the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state.
STATUS: Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee

**SB 397** (Goodman-8th) Updates and replaces terminology related to general educational development (GED) diplomas; provides for state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diplomas; and updates the minimum standards and requirements for such diplomas to be established by the Technical College System of Georgia.
STATUS: Senate Higher Education 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 Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 960** (Leverett-33rd) Creates the Office of the Inspector General in order to investigate the management and operation of agencies. The office shall be assigned to the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes only.
STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

**HB 995** (Boddie-62nd) Requires employers to provide at least five days of sick leave per year for an employee that can be used for the care of immediate family members.
STATUS: House Industry and Labor Committee

**HB 1040** (Bentley-139th) Requires community action agencies to submit audit reports and IRS forms to the Department of Audits and Accounts before any contracts with the Department of Human Services are made or offered and requires each member of the board of directors of a community action agency to execute contracts between the community action agency and the Department of Human Services.
STATUS: House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee
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 which are independently owned and operated by students enrolled in a recognized course of study at a GA institution of higher education.
STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee

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.

SB 323 (Miller-49th) Repeals the state income tax in its entirety.
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

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 Public Safety Committee

SB 351 (Thompson-14th) "Woman's Right to Know Act" - Creates extensive requirements relating to the use of abortion-inducing drugs and extensive reporting requirements, plus the bill prohibits abortion-inducing drugs in school facilities or on state property and defines penalties for such.
STATUS: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 352 (Thompson-14th) Provides for the issuance of expedited licenses by endorsement for certain licenses to spouses of firefighters, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers who relocate to Georgia.
STATUS: Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

SB 374 (Tillery-19th) Establishes the Georgia Data Analytic Center as an agent of all executive state agencies.
STATUS: Senate Science and Technology Committee

SB 388 (Jackson-2nd) Increases the minimum wage and provides for annual minimum wage increases to match the rising cost of living.
STATUS: Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

SB 396 (Goodman-8th) Changes the name of the Georgia State Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to the Georgia Grown Farm to Food Bank Program (F2FB), and requires food procured pursuant to such program be Georgia grown. The bill also authorizes persons who provide services to such program or the Department of Agriculture to receive food from the program if qualified as a recipient.
STATUS: Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

The Ask: Ask members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to vote YES on Senate Bill 338 when it comes before the committee THIS TUESDAY (2/1)

The Why:

- **SB 338** would extend postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year following birth.
- In 2020, Georgia extended coverage for new moms under Right from the Start Medicaid for Pregnant Women from two months postpartum to up to six months.
- Georgia's pregnancy-related death rate is one of the highest in the nation and Black women are 2.7x more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than White women.
- At least one-third of maternal deaths nationwide occur in the postpartum period.
- Postpartum care helps mothers with everything from recovery from childbirth to family planning, management of chronic health conditions to mental health.
- At least one in ten women experience perinatal depression

The Message:

Dear Senator ____________

It concerns me that Georgia continues to struggle with a high maternal mortality rate, so please vote YES on Senate Bill 338 when it comes before the Senate Health and Human Services Committee this Tuesday (2/1). This bill extends Medicaid coverage for moms from six months to one year following birth. Postpartum care helps mothers with everything from recovery from childbirth to family planning, management of chronic health conditions to mental health. Thank you for your service and for all you do to help the children and families of our great state.

The Contact Information:

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members

www.georgiavoices.org