February 28, 2022

In case you couldn’t tell from the litany of communications over the past 11 years, I love nothing more than to stumble over random things that make me wonder about more things. Granted, this can perhaps cause my outward presentation to appear as if I have an extremely short attention span – much like the dog in the movie *Up – Squirrel* – But in fact, I prefer to think of this trait more as a love of learning. Who could find fault with that?

Anyway, this week was a great week for random learning. First, I learned that a bunch of cows went on a 3AM tour of homes in Warner Robins. It was captured by one of those doorbell cameras and was way more fun to watch than someone falling down the stairs or stealing a package. I wondered if they were having a bovine advocacy day on that bill (*HB 1175*) that would let unpasteurized (“raw”) milk be sold to humans (without much warning on the label, I might add). I am sure those cud-chewers wouldn’t want to poison any children with that germy product, and so my guess is the cows are opposed to the bill. Then I wondered what made the father of microbiology, *Louis Pasteur*, decide to work on pasteurization in the first place and what else he was into. It turns out that he was tasked by – get this – the emperor *Napoleon III* to *save the French wine industry* because the wine was going bad. (Trust me: bad wine is not good. It’s bad.) Anyway, the pasteurization saved not only French wine’s future, but it also saved the beer industry and now allows people to drink milk and eat eggs without fear of getting sick from *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and other yucky things. Oh – and by the way, our friend Louis also created the sheep anthrax vaccine, the rabies vaccine, and somehow saved France’s silkworm industry too. I wonder where he would have stood on *HB 1451* that exempts the *African pygmy hedgehog* from having to have a wild animal license. And then there is that *bill about the state marsupial*...
Squirrel! Other interesting happenings this past week include a House Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee Do Pass recommendation for HB 1355 that would lower the state’s legal limit for blood lead poisoning. I learned that most lead exposure in the state comes from old paint used on homes, contaminated soil and dust from people’s hands or clothes that were exposed to lead in things like construction or home remodeling, radiator repair, battery or scrap metal recycling, pottery manufacturing, working with guns and ammunition, industries using lead solder, roadwork, and shipbuilding. (I forgot to breathe on that last sentence!) Voices has a factsheet on lead poisoning if you want to know more.

Squirrel! The House HHS Committee also recommended Do Pass on HB 1348, which restricts vaping in the same places smoking is restricted. I looked it up and learned that almost 27% of Georgia students (6-12th grade) reported that they believe e-cigarettes are less addictive than cigarettes (which, just to be clear, isn’t true!). On a similar note, and frustratingly, 40% of kids believe that there is little to no risk in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day! This smoking thing definitely needs some attention if we want our kids to grow up healthy and strong. (Factsheet link here)

Squirrel! Hedgehog! Last week, the House passed a bill requiring pregnancy tests be conducted for women who have been arrested and then allows a judge to defer any sentenced confinement until six weeks post-delivery, unless the pregnant woman poses a significant threat or danger to a person (HB 1092). This is part of super-important, ongoing work to improve infant and maternal health outcomes in light of Georgia’s terrible maternal and infant mortality data.

Hedgehog! The Senate passed a bill prohibiting kids from being on school sports teams that match their gender identity (SB 435). Last year, national data from a survey of 35,000 youth ages 13-24 found that “42% of respondents seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. For transgender and nonbinary youth, it was more than half.” This information is certainly worth consideration in discussions of the current bill.

Hedgehog! Cowl! I hope this love of learning adventure inspired active wondering for you guys. And, if not, perhaps some of the bills below will.

See you next week and in the meantime, stay “wonder-full”!

--Polly

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JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

HB 272 (Ballinger-23rd) Raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 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 Public Safety and Homeland Security 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

**HB 1134** (Efstration-104th) Provides for the concurrent authority of prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity.

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

**HB 1216** (McDonald-26th) Increases penalties for violations of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. The bill also prohibits the use of a blue light to impersonate a law enforcement officer.
 STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

**HB 1234 (Ballinger-23rd)** Requires a juvenile court to appoint an attorney for any child receiving extended care youth services from DFCS.
**STATUS:** House Juvenile Justice Committee

**HB 1333 (Wilson-80th)** "Gay and Trans Panic Defense Prohibition Act" - Prohibits certain justifications for crimes involving bias or prejudice against individuals from the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community.
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 1337 (Dukes-154th)** "Nigel’s Law" - Provides that a person commits the offense of murder when, in the commission of a felony, he or she causes the death of a minor or elder person irrespective of malice. Such offense shall be punished by imprisonment for life without parole or by imprisonment for life.
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 1353 (Dempsey-13th)** Requires that evaluations to determine whether there is a substantial probability that an accused will attain mental competency to stand trial be conducted on an outpatient basis for an accused who is charged with a misdemeanor offense and to provide that treatment to determine if such accused person will attain competency within a 90 day period.
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 1379 (Corbett-174th)** Establishes the Georgia Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Commission under the GBI and includes the establishment of a grant program to support local law enforcement agencies and multi-jurisdiction task forces relative to motor vehicle related crime prevention initiatives.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill now moves to House Rules Committee

**HB 1420 (Buckner-137th)** Provides for analysis and collection of DNA from individuals arrested for certain offenses.
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 1426 (Moore-95th)** Provides that in criminal cases involving a capital offense for which the death penalty is sought, the accused may file a pretrial notice of intent to raise a claim of intellectual disability. Such notice shall state that the accused is intellectually disabled. The court shall then conduct a pretrial hearing to determine if the accused is intellectually disabled. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the accused is intellectually disabled, the court shall bar the state from seeking the death penalty.
**STATUS:** House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**HB 1433 (Ballinger-23rd)** Adds the following to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council advisory board: Persons, licensed or certified by the applicable state, with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in delinquent youth, youth at risk of delinquency, and representatives of victims or witness advocacy groups, including at least one individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma, particularly the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system. Among other things, the bill also creates a proxy for members with juvenile justice involvement.
**STATUS:** House Hopper

**HR 707 (Werkheiser-157th)** Creates the House Study Committee on Homicide Cold Case Resources.  
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee

**SB 257 (Anderson-43rd)** Expands GCIC criminal history record restrictions for individuals who have been pardoned and have no pending charged offenses. Allows an individual who has been cited for a criminal offense but was not arrested and the charged offense was subsequently dismissed or reduced to a violation of a local ordinance to petition the court to have their record sealed.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to 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. The bill also increases penalties for possession of a firearm by people who have committed felonies or certain other acts of violence.  
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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

**SB 459 (Orrock-36th)** 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:** Senate Public Safety Committee

**SB 499 (Tippins-37th)** Provides for analysis and collection of DNA from individuals convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses and from individuals arrested for felony offenses. The bill provides a cross-reference for purposes of DNA collection as a condition of bail.  
**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**SB 501 (Strickland-17th)** Authorizes a sentencing court to resentence a defendant, upon a motion by the prosecuting attorney and upon determining that the interest of justice would not be served by the defendant's continued incarceration in certain circumstances.  
**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**SB 504 (Robertson-29th)** Expands bail restricted offenses to include all felonies.  
**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

**HB 323 (Wiedower-119th)** Adds the following to the list of forms of parental abandonment of a child, which means DFCS would not make reunification efforts for the parent and child: prenatal abuse ("other than which has been medically prescribed to the birthing parent") and a history of chronic substance abuse and "reasonable grounds" that the substance abuse will continue. Defines chronic abuse. States that the court should presume that DFCS should not make reunification efforts if the court finds that the parent has committed certain acts, such as abandonment, murder, felony assault, child molestation, and others.  
**STATUS:** House Juvenile Justice Committee
HB 324 (Wiedower-119th) Allows interested parties (includes physicians, counselors, psychologists, teachers, court appointed special advocates, a child’s attorney, and caregivers, including, but not limited to, relatives of a child and foster parents of a child) to intervene and participate in dependency proceedings under certain circumstances by filing a motion for order to show cause.

STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 347 (Gullett-19th) Increases the requirements for removal from the state’s sexual offender registry.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

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) 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

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 Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 1188 (Lott-122nd) States that when a person does an immoral or indecent act involving touching of any child under the age of 16 years with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or the person, and such person touches such child in multiple areas of such child’s body, the touching of each area shall constitute a separate offense of child molestation. The bill also states that each action involving media, which is considered sexual exploitation of children will be counted as a separate offense.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

HB 1306 (Hugley-136th) Requires DHS to issue a personal identification card for each child taken into the foster care system under the Division of Family and Children Services.

STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 1415 (Hutchinson-107th) Provides that when a party is seeking to adopt a current or former stepchild, such petition shall be filed by the stepparent alone unless the spouses are legally separated.

STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

HB 1423 (Buckner-137th) Ensures that information and data contained in the statewide automated child welfare information system is shared with foster providers and local school systems.

STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 1452 (Gaines-117th) Expands the definition of "dating violence" to include people who were in a dating relationship within the last 12 months (current law states within the last 6 months).

STATUS: House Hopper
**SB 54 (Harbison-15th)** Allows judicial discretion in determining the right of a surviving parent to custody of a child when the surviving parent is criminally charged with the murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent.

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

**SB 316 (Anavitarte-31st)** Makes it a high and aggravated misdemeanor for any person 18 years or older to commit the offense of stalking against a minor and makes the offense punishable by not less than $1,000 nor more than $5,000, or imprisonment for not less than one year, or both. Requires local school boards to notify students and parents that some acts of bullying or cyberbullying may constitute stalking.

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

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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. The amount of tax credits issues by the state would be capped at $20 million per year.

**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Ways and Means 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee

**SB 461 (Dixon-45th)** Adds the offense of human trafficking as a bailable offense.

**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**SB 506 (Jordan-6th)** Among other things, the bill expands the definition of aggravated assault to include causing another person to consume or ingest a controlled substance without his or her knowledge when intentionally used to diminish the capacity of or to incapacitate such other person; and defines "against the will of such other person" and "forcibly". The bill also extends the statute of limitations up to ten years after the commission of the crime for prosecution for an offense that is classified as a sexual offense, or as an offense related to minors committed against victims who are under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.

**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**SB 543 (Halpern-39th)** Provides that a parent who is determined to be responsible for the homicide of his or her child shall have no right of recovery against the value of the child’s life.

**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**SB 565 (Strickland-17th)** Provides that at any time after conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense, a defendant convicted of an offense and sentenced as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude may petition the sentencing court to grant the relief of vacatur.
HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**HB 412** (Dempsey-13th) Provides for the licensure of individuals in the practice of applied behavior analysis and creates the Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board.  
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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

**HB 752** (Cooper-43rd) Addresses psychiatric advance directives for adults and emancipated youth.  
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB 852** (Cooper-43rd) Addresses psychiatric advance directives for adults and emancipated youth.  
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 854** (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 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 866** (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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Insurance and Labor 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules 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 ages 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 need 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 Health and Human Services Committee

**HB 1175** (Pirkle-155th) Authorizes and regulates the production, handling, transporting, and sale of raw milk and raw milk products for human consumption.

**STATUS:** House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee
HB 1186 (Houston-170th) Allows persons who are not licensed audiologists to use otoacoustic emissions or auditory brainstem response technology as part of a screening process for the initial identification of communication disorders in individuals up to age 22.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 1273 (Wilson-80th) Requires DCH to establish the Medicaid Continuity of Coverage Program, which becomes effective on the first day following the expiration of the public health emergency and extends for the greater of 12 months or the maximum allowable time period provided for under the guidelines established by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1276 (Hawkins-27th) Requires that statistical reports containing data relating to state health plans (e.g. state health benefits plan, PeachCare, etc.) be posted on the DCH website. The data include things such as the number of, type of, and changes in enrolled providers; county-level data on primary care providers enrolled per 1,000 people and indicating which counties fall below defined benchmarks; and data on hospital utilization and costs.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 1316 (Neal-74th) Requires that individual and group accident and sickness insurance policies in this state shall provide basic coverage of mental wellness services for the policyholder and other persons covered by such policies.
STATUS: House Insurance Committee

HB 1324 (Camp-131st) Clarifies that the prudent layperson standard is not affected by the diagnoses given.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee

HB 1332 (Wilson-80th) Prohibits the discrimination of healthcare services accessed through Medicaid, including gender-affirming hormone therapy and gender-reassignment surgeries, to covered persons on the basis of their gender expression, gender identity, or transgender status.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1348 (Rich-97th) Prohibits vaping in the same places where smoking is currently prohibited.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

HB 1351 (Knight-130th) Provides for pharmacy benefits management for the Medicaid program in DCH.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Special Committee on Quality Healthcare. The bill now move to House Rules Committee

HB 1355 (Dempsey-13th) Updates current law to comport with the current CDC and EPA guidelines for blood lead levels.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now moves to House Rules Committee

HB 1371 (Jasperse-11th) Creates the Rural Health Advancement Commission to develop private-sector solutions to address short-term and long-term health care and long-term care workforce shortages, with an emphasis on rural areas.
STATUS: House Special Committee on Quality Healthcare
HB 1373 (Boddie-62nd) Requires local governments or authorities operating parks and recreation facilities used by youth athletic organizations to ensure such parks and facilities are equipped with certain vessels of at least 150 gallons to be used for heat related injuries.
STATUS: House Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 1394 (Byrd-20th) Repeals the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1403 (Crowe-110th) Provides an exemption for acute care hospitals established in rural counties to meet Certificate of Need criteria.
STATUS: House Special Committee on Quality Healthcare

HB 1404 (Pruitt-109th) Directs the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize private institutions for mental disease to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1416 (Schofield-60th) Requires the Department of Education to provide all parents and guardians of students completing the fifth and sixth grades a copy of the standard certification of immunization form created by the Department of Public Health and written information on recommended adolescent vaccinations, including those for meningococcal meningitis, human papillomavirus (HPV), and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (TDAP).
STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1449 (Taylor-173rd) Requires the Department of Community Health to contract directly with dental care administrators to cover dental services for recipients of medical assistance under Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs, to competitively bid out such contracts, and to limit such contracts to a minimum of two, but no more than three dental care administrators.
STATUS: House Hopper

HB 1456 (Shannon-84th) Provides for assistance to locally managed public safety answering points for the voluntary collection and dissemination of information relating to mental health conditions and alternate emergency contacts, and for contact of an alternate emergency contact upon the dispatch of emergency services in certain instances.
STATUS: House Hopper

HR 629 (Taylor-173rd) Creates the House State Health Benefit Plan Study Committee.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

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 Special Committee on Quality Healthcare
**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 Health and Human Services Committee

**HR 823** (Schofield-60th) Creates the House Study Committee on Pharmacy Deserts.
**STATUS:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee, but was then recommitted to House Ways and Means Committee

**SB 341** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Provides guidelines for the prior authorization of a prescribed medication for chronic conditions requiring ongoing medication therapy.
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services Committee

**SB 342** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Requires annual reporting regarding mental health parity in healthcare plans.
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services Committee

**SB 345** (Mullis-53rd) Prohibits state and local governments from mandating vaccine passports.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**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:** Recommended Do Pass by Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill has been tabled by the Senate

**SB 505** (Robertson-29th) Requires that 9-1-1 communications officers receive training in the delivery of high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee

SB 537 (Jones II-22nd) Creates the Georgia Food Security Advisory Council, which will recommend regulatory solutions to the WIC Program; ways the State of Georgia can use tax credits including the New Market Tax Credit as an economic incentive to create and maintain grocery stores in food insecure areas; ways to maximize current educational programs that educate the public on purchasing and consuming healthy foods; maximize current funding efforts to assist food banks and food pantries; policies to expand the number of farmers markets which may accept SNAP benefits; policies to encourage the use of food co-ops and community gardens located in Georgia; policies to increase collaboration between the State of Georgia and nonprofits that seek to eradicate food insecurity; and policies to increase collaboration between the State of Georgia and private entities that seek to end food insecurity.

STATUS: Senate Agriculture and Community Affairs Committee

SB 539 (Hatchett-50th) Prohibits the use of any device to photograph or record patients in a health care facility with certain exceptions.

STATUS: Senate Ethics Committee

SB 540 (James-35th) Provides for coverage of dental care provided by means of teledentistry and authorizes licensed dentists to provide oral healthcare by means of teledentistry.

STATUS: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee

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

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services Committee

SB 496 (Burke-11th) Requires a medical examiner’s inquiry for the death of a pregnant female or for the death a female who was pregnant within 365 days prior to her death. This does not apply to a female whose death resulted from a motor vehicle accident or who was deemed to have died unattended by a physician when any such individual has not been seen or treated by a physician within the 180 days prior to such individual’s death.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee
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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

HB 60 (Cantrell-22nd) "Georgia Educational Scholarship Act" - Creates a voucher program for public school students to attend private schools with a cap on the number of students from individual districts. Eligible students would be those whose local public schools did not offer face-to-face instruction in the prior school year, live in low-income households (under 200% FPL), children in military families, have been adopted from foster care, or have certain special education needs (an IEP, a formal diagnosis, or a 504 plan relating to a condition to be identified by the State Board). An audit every 5 years is required and the program would be overseen by the Student Finance Commission.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee once, but was recommitted back to the committee for further review

HB 385 (Blackmon-146th) Enables retired educators to return to work full-time, after a 12-month waiting period following retirement, while continuing to draw full Teachers Retirement System (TRS) benefits. Employment is restricted to high-needs areas in each region as determined by Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) and to retired educators with at least 30 years’ experience.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Retirement Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves onto House Rules 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 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.

**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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee

**HB 1130, HR 666 (Benton-31st)** Creates development impact fees for education.

**STATUS:** House Governmental Affairs Committee

**HB 1153 (Mainor-56th)** Requires the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations for local school system outreach efforts regarding the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program and local school systems to engage in such efforts. The bill also requires standards for foreign language interpreters in educational settings and local school systems to provide notices concerning interpretation services.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 1158 (Carson-46th)** "Parents’ Bill of Rights" - Establishes a consistent mechanism for parents to be notified of information relating to the health, well-being, and education of their minor children. Prevents state or local government entities or any agent or officer from infringing on the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and healthcare of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by less restrictive means. The bill also requires school systems, in consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators, to develop and adopt a policy to promote parental involvement in the public schools.

**STATUS:** House Education Committee
HB 1178 (Bonner-72nd) Requires procedures for a parent to review records relating to his or her minor child, learn about the child’s courses of study, to object to instructional materials intended for use in the child’s classroom or recommended by the child’s teacher, and to withdraw the child from any portion of the school’s prescribed course of study in sex education if the parent provides a written-objection to the child’s participation. The procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in advance of such course content so they may withdraw their child from those portions.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1184 (Williams-168th) Requires public school systems (including DJJ) to allow 11th graders to select and administer a college entrance exam, paid for by the state, if appropriations are available.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1215 (Thomas-21st) Allows a student to withdraw without penalty from a local school in the school system in which such student resides at any time and enroll in a charter school with available classroom space.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 1217 (Erwin-28th) Requires the inclusion of methods for the promotion of the safe and appropriate use of technology and responsible digital citizenship in the comprehensive character education program. In so doing, the bill revises requirements for internet safety policies in public schools, existing definitions regarding pornography, obscene material, and the like, and allows for the withholding of state funds from local school systems that have not provided for adequate technology protection measures.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 1220 (Clark-108th) Requires that the prescribed course of study in public schools’ sex education and HIV prevention instruction is age appropriate and that the subject of consent is included in the course.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1282 (Gilliard-162nd) “Blind Persons’ Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act” - Requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired child to determine such child’s need for Braille instruction; individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student as appropriate; and license requirements relating to Braille for certain teachers, among other provisions.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1283 (Douglas-78th) Requires an average of 30 minute per day of recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five every school day unless it is a day on which a student has had physical education or structured activity time or if reasonable circumstances impede such recess. The bill states that recess is not withheld for disciplinary or academic reasons.

STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1292 (Jasperse-11th) Prohibits students who participate in 4-H sponsored activities or programs from being counted as absent from school.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves onto House Rules Committee

HB 1295 (Corbett-174th) Removes the "needs development" rating from the group of performance evaluation ratings that may adversely impact an educator's ability to obtain a renewable certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

STATUS: House Education Committee
HB 1303 (Dickey-140th) Transitions a pilot program for elementary agricultural education to an ongoing program.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves onto House Rules Committee

HB 1309 (Thomas-65th) Creates an educational farming program for urban youth ages 12-18 administered by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension programming system. The program would be funded by the state at $259,000 per year.
STATUS: House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

HB 1319 (Werkheiser-157th) Creates the Georgia LEO (Law Enforcement Officer) Scholarship grant for peace officers attending postsecondary education.
STATUS: House Higher Education Committee

HB 1419 (Ehrhart-36th) Deals with criteria of school accreditation agencies.
STATUS: House Education Committee

HB 1435 (Martin-49th) Enhances the state’s needs based financial aid program to include eligibility for students with a financial aid gap.
STATUS: House Hopper

HR 496 (Carpenter-4th) Constitutional Amendment allowing local school superintendents to be elected by voters as an alternative to being appointed by local boards of education, if approved by local referendum.
STATUS: House Education Committee

HR 630 (Taylor-173rd) Creates the Joint Study Committee for Consolidation of County Governments and School Systems.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

HR 650 (Gambill-15th) Creates the House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves onto House Rules Committee

SB 15 (Anderson-43rd) Creates a new category of coursework dealing with the history of Black people and their contributions to American society. This course may be taken by students between ninth and twelfth grade and may be required by the local education authority for high school graduation.
STATUS: Senate Education and Youth Committee

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: PASSED SENATE (2021). Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules 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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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 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

**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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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. The bill will be heard in committee this WEDNESDAY

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee

**SB 435** (Harbin-16th) Prohibits Georgia public schools or participating private schools whose students or teams compete against a Georgia public school from operating, sponsoring, or facilitating athletic programs or activities that permit a person of one gender to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for persons of the opposite gender.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee

**SB 449** (Dixon-45th) Requires procedures for a parent to review records relating to his or her minor child, learn about the child’s courses of study, to object to instructional materials intended for use in the child’s classroom or recommended by the child’s teacher, and to withdraw the child from any portion of the school’s prescribed course of study in sex education if the parent provides a written-objection to the child’s participation. The procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in advance of such course content so they may withdraw their child from those portions.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee

**SB 452** (McNeill-3rd) Requires public school systems (including DJJ) to allow 11th graders to select and administer a college entrance exam, paid for by the state, if appropriations are available.  
**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 460** (Orrock-36th) Allows that noncitizen students who have received a grant of deferred action for childhood arrivals from the United States Department of Homeland Security may be extended the same consideration as citizens of the United States in determining whether they qualify for in-state classification for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System and the Technical College System of Georgia.  
**STATUS:** Senate Higher Education Committee

**SB 480** (Anavitarte-31st) Special Education Services Bill of Rights - provides for a statement of rights of parents of children who are or may be eligible for special education and related services under state and federal law, and requires local educational agencies to post such rights on their public website with links to Department of Education resources.  
**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 490** (Strickland-17th) Revises the definition of approved school as it pertains to definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities.  
**STATUS:** Senate Higher Education Committee

**SB 498** (Tippins-37th) Deals with criteria of school accreditation agencies.  
**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 508** (Parent-42nd) Requires the Georgia Student Finance Commission to establish participation and performance targets for the Dual Enrollment program.  
**STATUS:** Senate Higher Education Committee
**SB 509** (Parent-42nd) Requires the Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia to provide the Georgia Student Finance Commission with a course transfer chart and requires program materials to indicate which courses are transferable.

**STATUS:** Senate Higher Education Committee

**SB 514** (Dixon-45th) Prevents any local board of education, local school superintendent, or school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel from making or enforcing any rule that requires a student to wear a face mask or face covering while present on school property unless such rule allows a parent or guardian of such student to elect for his or her child to be exempt from such rule. The bill also provides that a parent or guardian making such election shall not be required to provide a reason or any certification of the child’s health or education status.

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

**SB 530** (Jackson-2nd) Provides for limitations on waiver and variance requests by local school systems requesting flexibility and removes a requirement that local school systems requesting flexibility must select at least one waiver or variance request from a prescribed list of options.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 541** (Anavitarte-31st) Provides for seizure action plans for students being treated for epilepsy or a seizure disorder and requires the Department of Education to develop training guidelines and model seizure action plans for use by local school systems and schools. The bill also requires the training of designated school personnel and provides for immunity from civil liability.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 545** (Halpern-39th) Requires schools to provide training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator for students in grades nine or ten.

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 563** (Merritt-9th) Requires the GA DOE to establish the Purple Star Campus Program to support military students and their families.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**HB 218** (Ballinger-23rd) Allows reciprocity for any state’s weapons carry license as long as the holder carries according to Georgia’s laws. The bill also requires the attorney general to enter into a reciprocity agreement with any state that requires one in order to recognize and give effect to a Georgia-issued license in their state.

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

**HB 541** (Bruce-61st) Creates the Georgia Equity and Fairness Commission, which would examine the extent to which the State of Georgia supported the institution of slavery and its ongoing ramifications. The Commission would also recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the commission’s findings.

**STATUS:** House Governmental Affairs Committee
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: Recommended Do Pass by House Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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 or their designee to execute contracts between the community action agency and the Department of Human Services. 
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

HB 1149 (Burnough-77th) "Georgia Evictions Records Restriction Act"; Requires certain records of dispossessory actions be sealed from the public when the plaintiff does not prevail, a settlement agreement is effectuated; or when three years have lapsed since a resolved case of dispossessory action caused by nonpayment. The bill also states that during a public health emergency, a one-time sealing of civil case records in dispossessory actions shall be effective immediately provided that such action was due to nonpayment caused by uncontrolled loss of income. 
STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

HB 1185 (Lewis-Ward-109th) Except to the extent determined by the court, allows a ward to retain and exercise all of the powers of a person without a disability, including the right to communicate, visit, or interact with other persons through visits, telephone calls, or personal mail; and, by presuming a ward's consent allows communication, visitation, or interaction with a person based on the ward's prior relationship with such person if the ward is unable to express consent because of a physical or mental condition.
STATUS: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 1293 (Lim-99th) Requires state agencies to identify Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in data collected by such agencies.
STATUS: House Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 1387 (Collins-68th) Provides for the suspension of a motor vehicle registration upon failure to pay a civil monetary penalty for a violation of overtaking a school bus or speeding in a school zone captured by recorded images.
STATUS: House Motor Vehicles 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 that are independently owned and operated by students enrolled in a recognized course of study at a Georgia institution of higher education.
STATUS: House Regulated Industries Committee

SB 108 (Davenport-44th) Creates the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
STATUS: Senate Government Oversight 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Regulated Industries Committee

SB 374 (Tillery-19th) Establishes the Georgia Data Analytic Center as an agent of all executive state agencies.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary 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:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Agriculture and Community Affairs Committee. The bill now moves to House Rules Committee.

**SB 439** (Tippins-37th) Allows the landlord in a dispossessory proceeding to appear during the trial or be represented by an agent, attorney in fact, or attorney at law.

**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**SB 456** (Thompson-14th) Requires abortion-inducing drugs only be provided or prescribed by a qualified physician following procedures outlined in the bill. It also makes it unlawful for any manufacturer, supplier, physician, qualified physician, or any other person to provide any abortion-inducing drug via courier, delivery, or mail service. The bill prohibits abortion-inducing drugs in school facilities or on state property.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.

**SB 510** (Ginn-47th) Prohibits a person with a Class D (provisional) driver’s license from driving more than one non-family passenger under 21 years old for 12 months following issuance of the provisional license.

**STATUS:** Senate Public Safety Committee

**SB 523** (Merritt-9th) Permits child care and other caregiving services associated with a candidate’s campaign constitute ordinary and necessary expenses of a campaign.

**STATUS:** Senate Ethics Committee

**SB 535** (Summers-13th) Provides for targeted state funding for projects such as safe parking areas, structured camping facilities, and individual unit shelters, and for grant-allocation contracts and state grants and for the designation of structured camping facilities on state property as well as a prohibition on use of undesignated state property for camping.

**STATUS:** Senate Government Oversight Committee

**SB 553** (Robertson-29th) Authorizes any person 15 years of age or older to operate a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 vessel on any of the waters of this state if such person meets certain conditions pertaining to licensure, education, and accompaniment by an adult.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**SB 557** (Thompson-14th) Prohibits the use of waivers and no-good-cause exemptions for the work requirement for able-bodied, covered individuals under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and requires mandatory participation for covered individuals in existing employment and training programs.

**STATUS:** Senate Hopper

**SR 552** (Merritt-9th) Creates the Joint Achievement Gap for Boys Study Committee.

**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee
1) **Fund the Georgia Apex Program in the Budget**

**The Ask:** Ask members of the House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee to fund the Georgia Apex Program at $5.86 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
- There are currently more than 730 schools with a Georgia Apex Program
- 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 $5.86 Million to maintain the current level of Apex programming.
- To understand child and adolescent behavioral health needs, check out this additional factsheet: [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 one-time funding (allocated two years ago) in FY 2023. Please appropriate **$5.86 Million** to keep the program running at its best 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:**

- Rep. Butch Parrish, 404-463-2246
- Rep. Darlene Taylor, 404-656-7857
- Rep. Debbie Buckner, 404-656-0116
- Rep. Lee Hawkins, 404-656-7855
- Rep. Carolyn Hugley, 404-656-0109
- Rep. Jesse Petrea, 404-656-5115
- Rep. Ron Stephens, 404-656-5115
2) **Adding Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Funding to the Budget**

**The Ask:** Ask members of the House Appropriations Health Subcommittee to add $6.5 million to the budget for evidence-based home visiting in the Dept. of Public Health in order to expand to 21 more high-needs counties.

**The Details:** Evidence Based Home Visiting (EBHV) provides new parents the supports they may need when having a baby. EBHV gives at-risk pregnant women, new moms, and families with children 0-5 years old the skills and supports they need to best care for a new baby and navigating such a change within a household.

**The Why:**
The overall goals of home visiting programs are to:
- Increase healthy pregnancies
- Improve parenting skills
- Improve child health and development
- Strengthen family connectedness to community support
- Reduce child abuse and neglect
- Help ensure good mental health for parents and children 0-5 years old

**Home Visits Outcomes:**
- In 2020, more than 23,000 home visits were conducted for nearly 2,000 Georgia families in 17 counties
- 100% of those referred to early interventions services for developmental delays received services in a timely manner
- 99% had no reports of maltreatment
- 97% spent quality time with a caregiver (e.g. read a story, sang songs)

Check out our groovy [EBHV Fact Sheet](#) for more information

**The Message:**
Dear Representative _______,

Please add $6.5 million to the budget for evidence-based home visiting (EBHV) in the Dept. of Public Health in order to expand such programs to 21 additional high-needs counties. Evidence Based Home Visiting can help ensure healthy pregnancies, good parenting skills, child health and development, good mental health for parents and children 0-5 years old, and reduce the odds of child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for all that you do for the children and families of Georgia.

**The Contact Information:**
- **Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver**, 404-656-0265