March 14, 2022

JUMP TO SECTION:

FY 2022 Amended Budget Highlights Governor, Senate, House, & Conference Committee Recommendations

FY 2023 Budget Highlights Governor & House Recommendations

Justice and Effective School Discipline

Protection and Safety

Health and Behavioral Health

Maternal Care and Child Care

Education

Miscellaneous

2 Minute Advocacy Ask

While many liken the making of law to the making of sausage (meaning it is better not to actually watch any of it get made), I prefer to liken lawmaking to one of those crazy reality-tv-game-shows where people take on all kinds of truly bizarre challenges to get to the end, and - if they’re lucky - win some cash. Going from the second Monday of January up through Sine Die and getting bills you care about drafted, passed through a gauntlet of committee and floor votes, and then signed by the governor, is not unlike playing a combination of Dancing with the Stars, Wife Swap, Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud, and Destroy Build Destroy. We lobbying contestants often have to swim through slime (also known as “hand sanitizer”), build shelters out of old Chick-Fil-A biscuits, and recite the Georgia Constitution, all while testifying against a bill you just got handed in the hallway seconds ago. This feat of endurance and determination demands agile teamwork, calculated risk-taking, clever repartee, chess-like cunning, lots of breath mints, and a good, but probably unhealthy, dose of luck. Capitol gameshow hosts tend to be committee chairmen, the Speaker or Lt. Governor, and even the occasional chamber doorkeeper. What’s more, entire episodes can get turned inside out with a guest appearance from a governor, snowstorm, hurricane, germ, or international invasion. It is tricky work that can take a person to the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, but I myself try to remember that I am playing not for my
own victory (especially since there is no T-shirt for the winner!) or for that of Voices or GSAN, but rather for those kids who are too young to compete. But listen, we could use some more teammates! Want to join? I hear the next round involves hedgehogs…

And with that, I urge you to hit the buzzer on the action alert below and stay tuned for more as we come back tomorrow for Cross about Crossover, Georgia’s new hit series where the House and Senate compete to see who can pass the most bills by midnight!

And with that I’ll take “See you next week” for $400…

--Polly

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FY 2022 AMENDED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Governor’s Recommendations plus the House Changes (in yellow) plus Senate Changes (in blue) plus Conference Committee Changes (in gray)

The Bill now heads to the Governor for his consideration.

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

Recurring Costs Throughout the Budget:

For all full-time, benefit eligible state employees: Increase funds to provide a $5,000 cost of living adjustment effective July 1, 2022.

- Various agencies are directed and authorized to submit to federal authorizers for funds for the benefit of federal and other-funded employees to provide for a cost-of-living adjustment pay increase to begin no later than July 1, 2022. Therefore, the Senate version of the budget reduces some funds pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-7-3

For Teachers (in K-12, Georgia’s Pre-K Program, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and Georgia Military College Preparatory School): adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for by $2,000 effective July 1, 2022

For Part Time School Support Personnel (K-12 QBE-funded instructional staff, school support staff, school administration, and central administration, school nutrition workers, bus drivers, school nurses AND RESAs): one-time salary supplement of $2,000. (The Conference Committee doubled the original $1000.)

Juvenile Courts

- $25,000 Added for the case management contract.
- $12,500 Added for grants to counties for the Cobb Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court
Dept. of Agriculture

- **$25,000 Added** for the Department to create and maintain a central website, which makes available information for consumers that names available resources concerning food accessibility in multiple locations or regions throughout the state. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add of $100,000 and moved the money to another division within the agency.)

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- **$750,000 Added** for respite care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add of $1,250,000.) (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

- **$250,000 Added** for non-emergency non-medical transportation services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

- **$302,505 Added** (Reduced from the House’s $310,000 recommendation) for technology upgrades to the Georgia Crisis Access Line in preparation for interfacing with the national ‘988’ hotline. (Adult MH Services)

- **$200,000 Added** for Silence the Shame to support mental health community wellness and outreach programs. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add of $400,000.) (Adult MH Services)

- **$16,875 Added** for the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism (Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities)

- **$500,000 Added** for Kate’s Club to provide grief support for bereaved children.

- **$2 Million Added** for capital maintenance and repairs. (The House originally asked for $5Million, the Senate eliminated that and then the Conference restored the $2 Million.) (Direct Care Support Services)

Dept. of Community Affairs

- **$17.25 Million Added** for rural downtown development grants. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add by $3 Million.)

- **$35,000 Added** for Overcomers House for homeless assistance

- **$200,000 Added** for Helping Hands Ending Hunger program expansion in Northwest Georgia. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add of $400,000.)

Dept. of Community Health

- **$2.815 Million Added** for the All-Payer Claims Database to enable analysis and public reporting of health care costs and utilization for medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services (DCH Dept. Administration)

- **$750,000 Added** for development of PeachCare mental health services.

- **$36.66 Million Subtracted** from Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid based on projected need

- **$279.12 Million Added** for growth in Low Income Medicaid based on projected need.

- **$0 Added** for increased provider rates for Low-Income Medicaid providers to enable transition to value-based purchasing in FY2023. (The Conference Committee eliminated the Senate add of $11.57 Million.)
$447,000 Added for Low Income Medicaid reimbursement of donor milk

$20.88 Million Added for growth in PeachCare based on projected need PLUS $13.1 Million Transferred from the Medicaid- Low-Income Medicaid program to reflect projected expenditures.

$0 Added for increased provider rates for PeachCare providers to enable transition to value-based purchasing in FY2023. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add of $621,801.)

$26.23 Million Added for skilled nursing centers for an add-on payment of an additional $10 per patient day. (Medicaid - Aged Blind Disabled)

$1.74 Million Added for residency slots to fully fund the actual number of residents.

$3 Million Added for equipment and operating grants for nursing programs with wait lists and additional current student capacity. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add by $2 Million.)

$500,000 Added to support planning efforts for a new nursing program at Morehouse School of Medicine.

$3.44 Million Added for a $2,000 increase for sworn positions to reduce turnover and overtime exposure, effective April 1, 2022. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add by half.)

$500,000 Subtracted from Mercer School of Medicine to reflect expenditures

$500,000 Added to support planning efforts for a new nursing program at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Utilize Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal COVID-19 relief funds to provide two one-time salary supplements of $1,000 each to increase salaries for certified Pre-K teachers and assistant teachers. (H:Yes)

Utilize existing funds to expand the Summer Transition Program in order to address learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. (H:Yes)

$300,000 Added for summer nutrition start-up grants to provide meals for youth in unserved or underserved counties.

$253,600 Added to offset the austerity reduction for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps (Agricultural Education)

$4.3 Million Added for agricultural education equipment and facilities.

$1.37 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction to Communities in Schools local affiliates

$388,260 Added for the Association of Adapted Sports Programs (Central Office)

$240,000 Subtracted to reflect a delayed implementation date for the rural coding program.

$13.78 Million Added Increase funds to provide a one-time salary supplement of $1,000 to all nutrition workers.

$2.45 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for the GNETS grants (Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support

$1.68 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants in Preschool Disabilities Services
• $188 Million Added to replace 1,747 buses statewide over three years at a base bus cost of $88,110 and provide funds for reimbursement of key safety features.

• $5 Million Added to incentivize school systems to purchase alternative fuel buses. (The Conference Committee restored the original House recommendation of $5 million.)

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

• $8.5 Million Added to provide a one-time salary supplement of $1,000 to all custodians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

• $433,006 Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants to RESAs. (reduced from the Governor’s recommendation of $593,000)

• $160,000 Reduction (restoring some of the $514,900 reduction that was recommended by the House) to reflect workforce efficiencies in Departmental Administration

• $0 Reduced (Eliminates the $2.6 Million reduction in Departmental Administration operating funds) in order to Redirect $4,100,000 in unutilized funds to address programmatic costs associated with high-need youth

Governor’s Office

• $8.5 Million Added to provide for statewide public safety initiatives. [Governor’s Emergency Fund]

Dept. of Human Services

• $2.7 Million Added for the Integrated Eligibility System costs for the implementation of the Patients First Act (2019 Session) (Departmental Administration) (reduced from the Governor’s recommended $4 Million)

• $283,200 Reduction (restoring some of the $514,900 reduction that was recommended by the House) to reflect workforce efficiencies in Departmental Administration

• $0 Reduced (Eliminates the $2.6 Million reduction in Departmental Administration operating funds) in order to Redirect $4,100,000 in unutilized funds to address programmatic costs associated with high-need youth
• **$0 Subtracted** (Restored from the $2.36 Million the House sought to cut) to reflect delayed implementation of FY22 appropriation for the Afterschool Care Program

• **$80,000 Added** for contracts for Washington Street Community Center for after school programs

• **$27,000 Restored** for Georgia Radio Reading Service (Vocational Rehabilitation Program)

• **$100,000 Added** for contracts for vocational training services with Broken Shackle Ranch

**Office of the Child Advocate**

• **$75,900 Added** for technology upgrades

**Office of the Commissioner of Insurance**

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

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

**Dept. of Juvenile Justice**

• **$562,000 Added** for a $4,000 increase for sworn positions to reduce turnover and overtime exposure, effective April 1, 2022. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add by half.)

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

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

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

• **$261,000 Transferred** from Secure Detention to fill vacancies and increase salaries for positions involved in recruitment and retention initiatives, gang activity investigations, facility management, and public safety training. (Departmental Administration)

• **$3.25 Million Added** for capital repairs and maintenance in Secure Commitment (YDCs)

• **$6.75 Million Added** for capital repairs and maintenance in Secure Detention (RYDCs)

**State Properties Commission**

• **$45 Million Added** for the migration plan for Capitol Hill to maximize operational efficiencies by consolidating agencies from 2 Peachtree to Capitol Hill. (The Conference Committee restored the original House recommendation fully.)

**Dept. of Public Health**

• **$9.9 Million Added** to address the state funds shortfall for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) per the state match requirement in the Ryan White Care Act Title II Award. (Infectious Disease Control)

• **$0 Reduced** to reflect workforce efficiencies (Departmental Administration). (The Conference Committee restored the Senate subtraction of $204,635.)
Dept. of Public Safety

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

University System of GA

- $2 Million Added for technology grants for the Georgia Public Library System.
- $493,000 Added for enrollment growth at the Georgia Military Preparatory School.
- $157,500 Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education at the Georgia Military Preparatory School.
- $3 Million Added for major repair and renovation for public libraries.
- $309,570 Added for one-time funding of the Learning Neighborhoods Community project (Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission)

Dept. of Revenue

- $0 Used in prior year undesignated state funds surplus to provide a one-time additional refund for tax year 2021 of $250.00 for single filers, $375.00 for head of household filers, and $500.00 for married filing jointly. Conference Committee said NO to the Governor’s recommended $1.6 Billion tax refund. Therefore there will not be a tax refund.

Student Finance System of GA

- $2.23 Million Added to meet the projected need for the HOPE Scholarships (Public Schools)
- $6.5 Million Reduced based on projections for Dual Enrollment. (A larger reduction than the recommended $3.44 Million reduction recommended by the House, but less than the $7.26 Million reduction recommended by the Senate.)
- $111,300 Added to meet projected need of the Engineer Scholarship. (The Conference Committee restored the original House add)
- $294,400 Reduced in the Georgia Military College Scholarship to meet the projected need
- $0 Reduced in the HERO Scholarship to meet the projected need. (The Conference Committee restored $398,042 the Senate cut.)
- $0 Reduced in the North Georgia Military Scholarship Grants to meet the projected need. (The Conference Committee restored $186,854 the Senate cut.)
- $0 Reduced in the North Georgia ROTC Grants to meet the projected need. (The Conference Committee restored $213,283 the Senate cut.)
- $100,000 Added for service cancelable loan payments to provide for recruitment and retention for full-time medical examiners employed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. [Medical Examiner Loan Payment]
- $923,000 Million Reduced in Tuition Equalization Grants to meet the projected need (The Conference Committee restored $1 Million of the Senate cut.)
- $10 Million Added to provide service cancelable loans to Georgia residents enrolled in degree programs in qualified behavioral health professions.
Technical College System of Georgia

- $938,193 Added (Less than the recommended $1.54 Million addition recommended by the Governor) to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session).
- $5.8 Million Added for equipment for an aviation training academy at Chattahoochee Technical College.

Dept. of Transportation

- $106.64 Million Added for the required state match for the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) projects. (The Conference Committee reduced the Senate add by $83.23 Million.)

FY 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Governor’s Recommendations plus the House Changes (in yellow)

FY23 State Revenue Estimate: $30,203,913,322

Recurring Costs Throughout the Budget:

For all full-time, benefit eligible state employees: Increase funds to provide a $5,000 cost of living adjustment effective July 1, 2022.

For Teachers (in K-12, Georgia’s Pre-K Program, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and Georgia Military College Preparatory School): adjust the state base salary schedule to increase salaries for by $2,000 effective July 1, 2022.

For certified teachers and employees: Provide funds to increase salaries by $2,000 effective September 1, 2022, for a total adjustment to the state base salary schedule of $5,000 since FY 2020.

For eligible state employees: Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance.

Judicial Council

- $1.32 Million Added for grants for civil legal services for victims of domestic violence.
- $275,000 Added for grants for civil legal services for Kinship Care Families.
- $21,600 Reduced for one-time matching funds for the Child Support Collaborative Grant.

Juvenile Courts

- $25,000 Added for the case management contract.
- $690,000 May be added pending passage of HB 274 for juvenile court judges’ salary supplement for accountability courts.

District Attorneys
• **$548,200 Added** for four additional assistant district attorneys to support Juvenile Courts in the Bell-Forsyth, Chattahoochee, Northern, and Pataula Judicial Circuit. (House increased the amount slightly above the Governor’s recommendation.)

**Dept. of Agriculture**

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

**Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

**Adult Addictive Disease Services**

• **$1.67 Million Added** for a 10% increase for core services for addictive diseases.

**Adult Developmental Disability Services**

• **$1.96 Million Added** to annualize the cost of 100 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

• **$6.6 Million Added** for 325 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (Increased from the governor’s recommendation of 100 waivers.)

• **$2.45 Million Added** for a 1% rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

• **Budget Direction:** Utilize $500,000 in ‘American Rescue Plan Act of 2021’ (ARP) funds to provide for a developmental disabilities provider rate study.

• **$668,000 Added** to provide a 5% increase to non-waiver family support.

• **$4.39 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention.

**Adult Forensic Services**

• **$2.5 Million Added** for an additional 20-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot.

• **$1.18 Million Added** for an additional 15 forensic peer mentors to provide transition and re-entry support services. (Increased slightly from the governor’s recommendation.)

• **$9.32 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention.

**Adult Mental Health Services:**

• **$3.38 Million Added** for the Georgia Housing Voucher Program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement. (Adult Mental Health Services) (Increased from the governor’s ask of $1.38 Million.)

• **$3.8 Million Added** to convert an existing 16-bed crisis stabilization unit in Augusta to a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center.

• **$2.38 Million Added** for the operational costs of 13 additional crisis stabilization unit beds at The Bradley Center of St. Francis Hospital.
• **$6.14 Million Added** for a 10% increase for core services for mental health.

• **$1.15 Million Added** to allow for Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatric and behavioral health care management services.

• **$2.25 Million Added** for three additional Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs. (Reduced from the governor’s ask of $4.5 Million to reflect staggered implementation.)

• Provide funds for a housing network manager to support the Georgia Housing Voucher program.

• **$144,200 Added** to establish a statewide Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) database.

• **$696,700 Added** to establish an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Oversight Unit within the department.

• **$238,600 Added** for co-responder mobile crisis team expansion to five new sites.

• **$448,500 Added** for a new 16-bed and 50 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center.

• **$9.72 Million Added** for five additional community service board caseworkers for five new mental health accountability courts.

• **$282,000 Added** for a 5% salary supplement for 12 employees who work directly with mental health accountability courts.

• **$34,000 Added** to establish a technical assistance coordination center for mental health accountability courts.

• **$2.18 Million Added** for additional Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) support staff to manage the national ‘988’ hotline expansion.

• **$4.08 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention.

• **$6.3 Million Added** for the new 18-bed adult medical psychiatric unit at Grady Memorial Hospital.

• **$932,000 Added** for one-time funds for a behavioral health provider rate study.

**Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities**

• **$600,000 Added** to Extra Special People (ESP) to expand services.

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

• **$5.66 Million Added** to Annualize funds to maintain services for the Georgia Apex Program.

**Direct Care Support Services**

• **$2.24 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention.
Dept. of Community Health

For Medicaid (ABD, LIM and PCK totaled)

- $281,200 Added to increase reimbursement rates for medical nutrition therapy.
- $685,100 Added for a 10% increase in two dental extraction codes and a 7% increase for 17 select dental restorative codes.

Departmental Administration

- $6.5 Million Added to replace the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) with the Medicaid Enterprise System Transformation (MEST).
- $425,000 Added for the Enterprise Analytics Solution for Everyone (EASE) data warehouse.
- $1 Million Added for a study on reimbursement rates for mental health care providers.
- Budget Direction: The department shall begin preparation for a repository for tracking, analyzing, and reporting information resulting from complaints received by consumers and state health care entities regarding suspected mental health parity violations. (H:Yes)

Healthcare Access and Improvement

- $500,000 Added for two federally qualified health center behavioral health expansion start-up grants at Coastal Community Health Services and South Central Primary Care.
- $74,000 Added to expand mental health first aid training to address the need for front-line workers to identify, de-escalate, and refer persons in crisis.
- $200,000 Added to expand the RN-Reentry Program.

Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid

- $12.33 Million Added for growth in based on projected need. (Reduced from the Governor’s recommended $16.88 Million.)
- $2 Million Added to increase the reimbursement rate for home and community-based service providers to offset the cost of fingerprint requirements.

Low-Income Medicaid

- $0 Added for growth in based on projected need. (Eliminated $20.8 Million from the governor’s recommendation)
- $39.47 Million Added for the implementation of express lane enrollment pursuant to the passage of HB 163 (2021 Session).
- $85.4 Million Added to eliminate attestation and reimburse all providers at enhanced rates for all 108 procedure codes.
- $28.18 Million Added to provide one year of postpartum coverage effective upon Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services approval.
- $11.26 Million Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of therapeutic services.
• $1.6 Million Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatric and behavioral health care management services.

• $469,000 Added for the Medicaid reimbursement of donor milk.

• $4.5 Million Added to provide funds and direct the department to submit an 1115 waiver to provide Medicaid benefits to individuals with HIV.

• $259,000 Added to increase reimbursement rates for medical nutrition therapy.

• $1.25 Million Added to provide funds and direct the department to submit an 1115 waiver to remove the five-year waiting period for lawful permanent residents.

• $825,000 Added to increase select OB/GYN codes to 2020 Medicare reimbursement levels.

• $5.79 Million Added for value-based purchasing.

PeachCare for Kids

• $12.28 Million Added for growth based on projected need.

• $311,000 Added for Value-based purchasing.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

• $400,000 Added to implement a Behavioral Health Care Workforce Database.

• $4 Million Added for 199 new residency slots in primary care medicine. (Increased from the 136 the governor recommended.)

• $680,000 moved from here to DPH for a pilot program to perform echocardiograms of pregnant and postpartum women to address maternal mortality.

• $350,000 Added to support a new residency program at Archbold Medical Center.

• $375,000 Added for fellowship positions at Augusta University for gynecologic oncology, public health-focused medicine, and rural primary care.

• $35,000 Added for one-time funds for a statewide dental workforce assessment to evaluate current and future needs.

• $50,000 plus existing funds ($150,000) for Southern Regional Medical Center for continued planning and start-up of a new residency program.

• $50,000 plus existing funds ($150,000) for Southeast Georgia Health Systems for continued planning and start-up of a new residency program.

• $109,300 Added for seven residency slots at Emory University.

• $2 Million Added for the start-up and operating support for the new nursing program at Morehouse School of Medicine.

• $376,000 Added to support child and adolescent psychology and psychiatric residency programs at Morehouse School of Medicine.

• $385,000 Added for additional loan repayment grants for physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses in rural areas.

• $375,000 Added for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia campus to support growth.
$1.07 Million Added for the third year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine’s medical school campus in Columbus.

**Georgia Commission on Family Violence**

• $64,000 Added for the state match to federal funds for domestic violence programs.
• $31,600 Added for the implementation of a murder-suicide support group.

**Dept. of Corrections**

**Across the Agency:**

• Increase funds for a $2,000 increase for filled correctional officer positions to reduce turnover and overtime exposure.

**Private Prisons**

• $12.7 Million Added to increase per diem rates to expressly provide for a salary adjustment for correctional officers only (This is an increase from the $3.21 Million the Governor recommended for an increase in per diem rates.)

**State Prisons**

• $6.73 Million Added for technology projects for promoting offender health, safety, and security. (State Prisons)
• $45.73 Million Added for capital maintenance and repairs. (State Prisons)
• $4.2 Million Added for personal services and operating costs to establish regional offender transportation hubs. (Reduced from the $7.23 Million the governor recommended.)

**Dept. of Early Care and Learning**

• $2.1 Million subtracted in formula funds for training and experience for Pre-K teachers. (Pre-Kindergarten Program – Lottery Funds)

**Dept. of Education**

**Agricultural Education**

• $253,600 Added to offset the austerity reduction for the Area Teacher Program, Extended Day/Year, Young Farmers, and Youth Camps.
• $178,500 Added for 21 new extended day/year programs.
• $144,000 Added for an urban/suburban agriculture specialist.
• $100,000 Added for a Young Farmer program in Floyd County, and additional funds to the Young Farmer programs in Banks County, Barrow County, and Pelham City.
• $140,000 Added for an additional Georgia FFA Association staff member and two agricultural education support staff.
Central Office

• $150,000 Added for the American Association of Adapted Sports Program.

Communities In Schools

• $57,100 Added to offset the austerity reduction to local affiliates.

GNETS

• $3.26 Million Subtracted for enrollment and training and experience decline (a greater reduction than the governor’s recommended deduction of $2.87 Million.)

• $2.45 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for GNETS grants.

Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants

• $480,000 Added for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment decline.

• $931,200 Added for Residential Treatment Facilities based on attendance (Slightly more than the governor’s recommendation of $919,400.)

• $200,000 Added for feminine hygiene grants to include the fifth grade.

• $460,800 Subtracted to reflect the closure of a residential treatment facility.

Nutrition

• $1.1 Million Added for a 5.4% salary increase for school nutrition workers (Governor originally recommended $1.82 Million.)

• $712,000 Added for school nutrition.

Preschool Disabilities Services

• $717,700 Subtracted to reflect a decline in students and teachers (Governor had originally recommended a $597,500 Add based on formula earnings.)

• $1.68 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for grants.

Pupil Transportation

• $1.46 Million Added for transportation grants based on formula growth. (Governor originally requested a $1.9 Million add.)

• $4.75 Million Added for a 5.4% salary increase for school transportation personnel (Governor originally requested a $4.41 Million add.

QBE Equalization

• $164.19 Million Decreased for Equalization grants.

QBE Program

• $35.34 Million Added for the State Commission Charter School supplement.

• $1.32 Million Added for the charter system grant.

• $382.7 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education.

• $43.53 Million Added for enrollment growth and training and experience. (The governor originally recommended $42.98 Million.)
• **$3.04 Million Added** for grants for state special charter schools per SB 153 (2021 Session). (The governor originally recommended $4.77 Million.)
• **$2.9 Million Added** for the local charter school grant per SB 59 (2021 Session).
• **$4,800 Reduction** for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers. The governor originally recommended a $115,700 reduction.
• **$0 Added** for school nurses, but the House said “Yes; Reflect current and future adjustments to the school nurse formula in the School Nurse program” (The governor originally recommended adding $280,500.)
• **$0 Added** for the Special Needs Scholarship. The House said “Yes; Realize savings from program attrition in the Special Needs Scholarship to fund additional growth.” (The governor originally recommended adding $2.91 Million.)
• **$0 Added** for special education in state institutions. The House said “Reflect adjustment in austerity reduction.” (The governor originally recommended adding $103,800.)
• **$37.93 Million Transferred** for school nurses from the Quality Basic Education program to create the School Nurse program.

**RESAs**
• **$222,300 Added** for RESAs based on enrollment growth. (Regional Education Service Agencies)
• **$433,000 Added** to offset the austerity reduction for grants to RESAs. (The governor originally recommended adding $593,000.)
• **$160,000 Restored** for mental health contractual services.
• **$310,100 Added** for a 5.4% salary increase for certified staff.

**School Nurse**
• **Reflect a new program and purpose statement. YES**
• **$37.93 Million Transferred** for school nurses from the Quality Basic Education program to create the School Nurse program.
• **$1.8 Million Added** for a 5.4% salary increase for school nurses.

**State Schools**
• **$138,000 Added** for training and experience for teachers.
• **$200,000 Added** to offset the austerity reduction.
• **$2 Million Added** for major repairs and renovations.

**Technology/Career Education**
• **$282,460 Added** to offset the austerity reduction for Extended Day/Year, Vocational Supervisors, Industry Certification, and Youth Apprenticeship programs.
• **$288.7 Million in BONDS** for local school construction.

**Governor’s Office**
Office of Health Strategy and Coordination
$1.04 Million Transferred from the Office of Planning and Budget to create a new program for greater transparency.

Budget Note: Recognize funds to continue the implementation of the All-Payer Claims Database.

$126,100 Added for one analyst to coordinate the collection and reporting of nursing and hospital data.

Governor’s Office of Student Achievement

Provide funds for Growing Readers ($1,600,000); GA Awards ($1,803,000); research and academic audits ($900,175); and personal services and operating expenses ($1,485,289). (H:Yes)

$1.63 Million Transferred from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement to the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement: Governor’s Honors Program to provide for greater transparency.

$1.94 Million Transferred from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement to the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement: Governor’s School Leadership Academy to provide for greater transparency.

Office of the Child Advocate

$380,800 Added for two investigators and operating expenses to expand capacity.

Dept. of Human Services

In Child Support Services, Child Welfare Services, & Elder Abuse Investigations and Prevention

Adjust special assistant attorneys general (SAAGs) hourly rate from $57.50 to $77.50 per hour.

Adjust special assistant attorneys general (SAAGs) paralegal hourly rate from $25 to $40.

After School Care

$4.73 Million replaced with State Education Agency ($212,469,000) and Local Educational Agency ($764,887,000) funds provided in the ‘American Rescue Plan Act of 2021’ (ARP) for programming associated with COVID-19 learning loss.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Budget Direction: Recognize $1,100,533 in marriage and divorce fee collections for the Children’s Trust Fund for child abuse and neglect prevention.

$200,000 Added for services for at-risk girls.

Child Welfare Services

$1.5 Million Added for a community action team pilot program to address children who are in, or are at risk of entering, foster care.

$452,000 Added for an autism recognition pilot program in Region 12.

$1 Million Added for autism respite care.

$200,000 Added to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to enhance statewide capacity.
Out-of-Home Care

- **$27.81 Million Added** for a 10% provider rate increase for Child Caring Institutions, Child Placing Agencies, foster parents, and relative caregivers.

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

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

- **$3.03 Million Added** to increase the annual foster care clothing allowance by $275 per child.

Family Connection

- **$815,500 Added** to increase operational support and each county’s allocation to $52,500.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

- **$200,000 Added** for independent living services.

- **$20,000 Added** to operate the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

- **$2 Million Added** to support the opening of priority service categories.

- **$54,000 Restored** for Georgia Radio Reading Service.

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

Insurance Regulation

- **$127,200 Added** for one position to oversee the implementation of mental health parity initiatives and a mental health parity violation repository.

Reinsurance

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

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

GA Bureau of Investigation

Regional Investigative Services

- **$4.58 Million Added** for 15 special agents, six criminal intelligence analysts, one help desk analyst, and associated operating expenses for the Gang Task Force to combat crime.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- **$383,100 Added** for five victims’ assistance positions due to declining federal funds.
$98,300 Transferred from the Department of Juvenile Justice for one juvenile detention alternatives coordinator position.

$1.08 Million Added for five new mental health accountability courts and court managers.

$222,700 Added for a 5% salary increase for accountability court case managers.

$1.27 Million Added for 20 unfilled accountability court case manager positions.

$680,050 Restored for operating ($377,000) and provide funds for one treatment monitor, one technical assistance specialist, and one data analyst to ensure fidelity across behavioral health programs. (Accountability Courts)

$896,000 Added for an additional felony drug court, veterans' treatment court, and family treatment court.

$772,300 Added for accountability court participant census.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Across the Agency

Increase funds for a $2,000 increase for filled juvenile correctional officer positions to reduce turnover and overtime exposure.

$911,500 Transferred from Secure Detention to DJJ Community Service Division to provide a 20% salary increase for Juvenile Program Managers to provide parity with previously provided salary adjustments.

Community Service

$3.38 Million Added for Room, Board, and Watchful Oversight to reflect the loss of Title IV-E surplus revenue.

$701,300 Added to reflect the loss of Title IV-E funds associated with the October 1, 2021 implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and the statewide transition to increased family-based placement settings.

Departmental Administration

$1.04 Million Transferred from Secure Detention to fill vacancies and increase salaries for positions involved in recruitment and retention initiatives, gang activity investigations, facility management, and public safety training.

Secure Commitment

$43,400 Added for teacher training and experience in Youth Detention Centers (YDCs).

$0 Added for capital maintenance and repairs. House said “Yes; Reflect funding in the Amended FY 2022 budget (HB 910, 2022 Session).” (The governor originally recommended $3.93 Million Added.)

Secure Detention

$0 Added for capital maintenance and repairs of RYDCs. House said “Yes; Reflect funding in the Amended FY 2022 budget (HB 910, 2022 Session).” (The governor originally recommended $8.16 Million Added.)
**Bonds**
- $16.4 Million in BONDS for DJJ facilities design, maintenance and repair.

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

**Department of Law**
- $1.32 Million Added for twelve positions to establish a gang prosecution unit.
- $635,000 Added for six positions to expand the human trafficking unit to address anticipated workload. (The governor originally asked for 3 positions.)
- $234,400 Added for two cybersecurity positions.

**Payments to Georgia Building Authority**
- $0 Added for the Migration Plan for Capitol Hill to maximize operational efficiencies by consolidating agencies from 2 Peachtree to Capitol Hill. (The governor originally asked for $45 Million, but that was ultimately moved to the FY22 amended budget.)

**GA Public Defender Council**
- $290,300 Added for 4 juvenile assistant public defenders.

**Dept. of Public Health**
- **Across the Agency**
  - $16.27 Million Added to increase salaries for public health workers to address agency recruitment and retention.

**Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion**
- $500,000 Added for a comprehensive care management pilot for high-risk pregnancy populations.
- $680,000 Added for a pilot program to perform echocardiograms of pregnant and postpartum women to address maternal mortality.
- $266,000 Added for the Sickle Cell Foundation to support care coordination and expanded access to testing in rural areas.

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

**Inspections and Environmental Hazard Control**
• **$1.85 Million Added** for additional lead inspectors and testing machines to support the recommendations of the House Study Committee on Childhood Lead Exposure and pursuant to HB 1355 (2022 Session).

Public Health Formula Grants to Counties

• **$1.7 Million Added** for grants to counties for improved infrastructure and support.

Dept. of Public Safety

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

University System of GA

Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics

• Eliminate one-time matching funds for endowment gift for Medical College of Georgia 3+ program. The House said “No; Provide $10,000,000 for the Medical College of Georgia 3+ program by utilizing $5,200,000 in existing funds and increasing the state match.” (The governor originally recommended removing $5.2 Million.)

Public Libraries

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

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

• **$1.11 Million Added** for materials grants by 10 cents from $0.40 to $0.50 per capita.

Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives

• **$1.2 Million Transferred** from the Teaching program to fund the first year of a five-year plan to expand capacity for nursing students across the university system.

Teaching

• **$0 Added** to launch an online elementary education degree program at Valdosta State University. (Governor originally recommended a $300,000 add.)

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

• **$0 Added** for merit-based scholarships to promote recruitment of rural paraprofessionals at Valdosta State University. (Governor originally recommended a $320,000 add.)

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

• **$0 Added** to begin an elementary education degree program at Savannah State University. (Governor originally recommended a $300,000 add.)

• **$0 Added** for a virtual classroom environment to train teacher candidates at Albany State University and Fort Valley State University. (Governor originally recommended a $14,000 add.)
• $0 Added for the first year of a five-year plan to expand capacity for nursing students across the university system. (Governor originally recommended a $1.2 Million add.)

• $49,500 Added for the UGA Small Business Development Center for multilingual support.

Georgia Military College Preparatory School

• $776,800 Added for enrollment growth and training and experience. (Governor originally recommended a $663,400 add.)

• $157,500 Added to offset the austerity reduction for K-12 education

Secretary of State

Professional Licensing Boards

• Utilize existing funds for the Board of Nursing to collect and publish data in coordination with the Governor’s Office of Health Strategy and Coordination. (H:Yes)

Student Finance System of GA

• $0 Added for updated Dual Enrollment projections House said “Yes. Utilize existing funds to meet projected need.” (Governor originally recommended on $3.14 Million add.)

• $113,050 Added to provide a total of 720 Engineer Scholarships annually

• $0 Added to restructure the HOPE GED program to support equivalency exam costs for eligible test takers across the state. The House said to use existing funds instead (Governor originally recommended an $1.38 Million add.)

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

• $4.62 Million Added to ensure coverage of 90% of tuition for the HOPE Grant

• $4.13 Million Added to increase the award amount or HOPE scholarships in Private Schools by 6%

• $49.75 Million Added to meet the projected need for HOPE Scholarships in Public Schools. (Governor originally recommended an $52.8 Million add.)

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

• Budget Note: Utilize $10,000,000 in other funds to provide service cancelable loans to Georgia residents enrolled in degree programs in qualified behavioral health professions. (H:Yes)

• $2.6 Million Added to increase the Tuition Equalization Grants award amount from $850 to $900 per year

Technical College System of Georgia

Workforce Development

• $0 Added to establish the High-Demand Career Initiatives Program and expand apprenticeship programs across the state. (Governor originally recommended a $1.275 Million add.)

Technical Education
$2.4 Million Added to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session). (Governor originally recommended a $5.17 Million add.)

$15 Million Added to recognize high-cost instructional programs

**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 274** (Ballinger-23rd) Provides a $6,000 salary supplement for juvenile court judges in counties that also have an accountability court and meet other criteria.
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate 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: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 1234 (Ballinger-23rd) Requires a juvenile court to appoint an attorney for any child receiving extended care youth services from DFCS.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate 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 moves on 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: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 1504 (McLaurin-51st) Creates the Office of the Department of Corrections Ombudsman and a Corrections Oversight Committee.

STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 1542 (Mallow-163rd) Eliminates the imposition of the death penalty and life without parole for a defendant who was less than 18 years of age at the time he or she committed a crime.

STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HR 204 (Gilliard-162nd) Changes the name of the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center for the Department of Juvenile Justice to the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., Juvenile Justice Center. (To watch a video honoring Judge Lovett, click here.)

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate State Institutions and Properties Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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

HR 917 (Howard-124th) Creates the House Study Committee to assess "Too Young To Suspend" and the implementation of 2018 House Bill 740 and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.15 to improve the student learning environment and discipline in elementary and secondary schools.

STATUS: House Education Committee

SB 171 (Robertson-29th) Increases the punishment for simple battery if committed during an act of unlawful assembly to "a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature". Expands definition of unlawful assembly and makes certain offenses a felony (e.g., defilement of public property, obstruction of a highway, gathering with 7 or more people and committing violence against someone’s person or property). Requires local governments to establish permitting processes for public gatherings. Holds local governments civilly liable for any damages if they interfere with law enforcement response during a "riot" or unlawful assembly. Mandates that the state and local government provide a deduction to law enforcement officers for the purpose of purchasing insurance that provides legal representation. Waives the defense of
sovereign immunity for anyone seeking relief, monetary damages, etc. related to an act of unlawful assembly.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate 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:** PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee

**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

**SB 504** (Robertson-29th) Expands bail restricted offenses to include all felonies.

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

**SB 599** (Hickman-4th) Makes it a felony to intentionally discharge a firearm in the direction of another person whether or not that discharge causes bodily harm to or endangers the bodily safety of another person.

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

HB 131 (Mainor-56th) Clarifies that stalking and aggravated stalking can be committed both directly and indirectly, provides that each violation of stalking and aggravated stalking constitutes a separate offense and shall not merge with any other offense; and requires more detail and oversight of police reporting of incidents of family violence.
STATUS: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

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: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

HB 706 (Camp-131st) Allows the Division of Family and Children Services to file a petition for the appointment of a guardian for the minor when that minor reaches 18 years of age.
STATUS: House Juvenile Justice 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 Juvenile Justice 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee

**HB 1483** (Barton-5th) Allows license by endorsement in social work to an applicant who holds an unrestricted license in social work in another jurisdiction, state, or territory of the United States that requires standards for licensure considered by the board to be equivalent to the requirements here.

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

**HB 1508** (Wiedower-119th) Expedites and prioritizes processes for the termination of parental rights in certain cases involving parental incapacity and child maltreatment and revises circumstances for when reasonable efforts by DFCS are not required. The bill also revises requirements for nonreunification hearings.

**STATUS:** House Juvenile Justice Committee

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee

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 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 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 drugs.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee this THURSDAY

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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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); requires study of case management in order to improve services for pediatric patients 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Agriculture and Community 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. Assigned Senate Health and Human Services 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. Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee this THURSDAY

**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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB 1351 (Knight-130th)** Provides for pharmacy benefits management for the Medicaid program in DCH.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

**HB 1355 (Dempsey-13th)** Updates current law to comport with the current CDC and EPA guidelines for blood lead levels.

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

**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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules 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 Health and Human Services 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 Health and Human Services Committee

**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 Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 1474** (Mainor-56th) Directs the Department of Education to develop, assemble, and make available instructional resources and materials concerning employability and career readiness skills, career exploration, and career oriented learning experiences.

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

**HB 1484** (Hawkins-27th) Creates a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS under Medicaid.

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

**HB 1517, HR 908** (Schofield-60th) Establishes a family and medical leave insurance program for a covered individual who meets at least one of the following requirements: (1) Because of birth, adoption, or placement through foster care is caring for a new child during the first year after the birth, adoption, or placement; (2) Is caring for a family member with a serious health condition; (3) Has a serious health condition that makes the covered individual unable to perform the functions of the position of employee; or (4) Has a qualifying exigency, which is a need arising out of the deployment of a family member of the covered individual.

**STATUS:** House Industry and Labor Committee

**HB 1519** (Knight-130th) Prohibits insurers from unilaterally changing network participation contracts impacting coverage, access to, or costs of ancillary services.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Special Committee on Quality Healthcare. The bill moves to House Rules Committee
HB 1520 (Hawkins-27th) Creates the Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges.  
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Human Relations and Aging Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

HB 1523 (Lott-122nd) 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, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow.
STATUS: House Ways and Means Committee

HB 1526 (Wilson-80th) Establishes the Healthy Georgia Program, providing comprehensive universal single payer healthcare coverage and a healthcare cost control system for all Georgia residents.
STATUS: House Health and Human Services Committee

HB 1547 (Hatchett-50th) Defines uncompensated indigent and charity care as the net amount of care after direct and indirect (all) compensation. The bill requires ambulatory surgery centers (ASC); diagnostic, treatment, or rehabilitation centers; diagnostic imaging facilities; perinatal services; physician-owned ASCs; joint-venture ASCs; and institutions, as defined in the bill, to provide uncompensated indigent and charity care equal to at least five percent of its adjusted gross revenue. The bill provides for monetary penalties for non-compliance that are deposited into the Indigent Care Trust Fund. Varying effective dates for these requirements are included in the bill. Relating to the Certificate of Need Appeal Panel, the bill requires the Department of Community Health (DCH) to pay reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of an applicant responding to an appeal if the applicant is the prevailing party. The bill broadens the definition of “single-specialty ambulatory surgical center” to “physician-owned ambulatory surgical center” and exempts the centers from certificate of need requirements. Beginning July 1, 2022, urban hospitals are authorized to enter into venture capital partnerships with rural regional critical access or safety net hospitals in order to construct or operate ASCs in rural counties. Beginning January 1, 2023, the DCH is required to provide Medicaid reimbursements at 100 percent of cost for patients at rural hospitals. The bill subjects affiliates and subsidiaries of hospital authorities to the state's open records laws. Any entity that leases or transfers hospital authority assets, or any subsidiary or foundation of a hospital authority, is considered an agency subject to open records. Additionally, DCH may withhold state funds from hospital authorities that do not comply with existing reporting requirements. The failure of a hospital authority to comply with the required maximum cash reserves is added to Code as a failure to perform minimum functions and subjects the authority to sanctions. A cash reserves limit is set at 12 months of operating costs. The bill requires hospital authorities to submit an annual budget report, community benefit report, and audit to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC). Medicare and Medicaid losses are not to be considered community benefits. No hospitals or hospital authorities with ownership or interest in offshore captive insurance companies are eligible to receive funds from the Indigent Care Trust Fund. Upon appropriations, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is to establish a program that provides state-funded mental health assistance to indigent individuals who are not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or PeachCare. Program participants are required to reimburse the state for certain costs over time on a sliding-scale basis, as determined by DBHDD. Community Service Boards are required in the bill to ensure that disability services are prioritized for Medicaid and uninsured patients.
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

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 256 (Burke-11th) Allows the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health to select a district health director for each health district, and requires a district health director to serve as the chief executive officer for that county board of health.  
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services 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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**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. Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Agriculture and Community Affairs Committee. The bill now moves to Senate Rules 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

**SB 566** (Burke-11th) Clarifies that, under the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act, a medical or traumatic condition, sickness, or injury includes a mental health condition or substance use disorder and that emergency medical services include post-stabilization services.

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

**SB 571** (Merritt-9th) Requires prescribers to discuss with patients, their parent, or guardian the risks of addiction, dependence, and fatal overdose associated with opioid use and all available alternative treatments; requires prescribers to document the notification in the patient’s file.

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

**SB 574** (Mullis-53rd) Allows proceeds from the sale of a hospital held in trust to fund indigent health care in that political subdivision, or if impractical, to fund public health care there.

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

**SB 576** (Strickland-17th) Revises provisions regarding visitation actions brought by certain grandparents of minor children.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**SB 610 (Harrell-40th)** Requires the Department of Community Health to conduct a comprehensive review of provider reimbursement rates for home and community-based services covered by the waiver programs.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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

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**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

**HB 1518 (Paris-142nd)** Provides for the licensure and regulation of community midwives.
**STATUS:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**SB 116 (Robertson-29th)** The "Maternity Supportive Housing Act" allows registration of maternity supportive housing residences to provide housing for up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older and their children (per residence) at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to 18 months after childbirth. No services other than housing shall be provided. No county, municipality, or consolidated government shall, by rule or ordinance, constrain the establishment or operation of maternity supportive housing residences or place occupancy requirements on such residences that would not apply to a single family living in the residence.
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Tabled by House Health and Human Services 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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 517 (Carson-46th) Increases the allowable education tax credit issues for donations to school scholarship organizations (SSO); requires inclusion of interest earned on deposits and investments of scholarship funds or tuition grants in SSO calculations of obligated funds; broadens requirements of the audit following each fiscal year; requires SSOs to submit 990 forms; and to be solely responsible for verifying the eligibility of students for participation in the program. Makes business enterprises, defined as any insurance company required to pay the tax provided for in Code Section 33-8-4, eligible to receive a tax credit against the tax imposed by this Code section not exceeding $1 million.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE in 2021, but was changed by the Senate. The House amended the Senate version. The Senate disagreed to the House amendments. The bill now awaits response from the House

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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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 polices 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. Assigned to Senate Science and Technology 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee
**HB 1292** (Jasperse-11th) Prohibits students who participate in 4-H sponsored activities or programs from being counted as absent from school.
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee

**HB 1303** (Dickey-140th) Transitions a pilot program for elementary agricultural education to an ongoing program.
**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Agriculture and Community Affairs Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

**HB 1482** (Erwin-28th) Revises the eligibility criteria for project specific capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by House Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

**HB 1513** (Mainor-56th) Provides for the designation of a nonprofit organization to govern high school athletics.
**STATUS:** House Education Committee

**HB 1515** (Bentley-139th) Revises the definition of approved school to include schools which were previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and are now accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.
**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee

**HB 1530** (Neal-74th) Provides for HOPE small business grants for the Small Business Incubator, Apprenticeship, and Work-study Program by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia for courses leading to a diploma or certificate, develop a student business plan as part of designated courses, and have the opportunity to be awarded investment funds for a small business, and have
opportunities to work and learn in real-world environments through apprenticeships and work-study programs.

**STATUS:** House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (Monday)

**HB 1544 (Evans-57th)** Revises the definition of "qualified institution" to include units of the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and certain private postsecondary institutions relating to need-based financial aid program.

**STATUS:** House Higher Education Committee

**HB 1554 (Sainz-180th)** Requires the GA DOE to conduct or facilitate surveys of children and youth to promote healthy living and for use in accessing applicable federal funds. Such core measures may include, but shall not be limited to perceptions of risk/harm, disapproval/approval, and adult disapproval/approval, as well as the past 30 day use of substances, suicide/suicidal ideation, adverse childhood experiences, food insecurity, and other core measures identified by the department.

**STATUS:** Tabled by the House Education Committee

**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: Recommended Do Pass by Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House 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: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House 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: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House 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: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education 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. Assigned to House Health and Human Services 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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:** Recommended Do Pass by Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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 Education and Youth Committee

**SB 575 (Tippins-37th)** Requires local boards of education to review the financial status of the local school system at least quarterly rather than monthly.

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

**SB 587 (Miller-49th)** "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:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 588 (Miller-49th)** Requires that all meetings of local boards of education shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law; provides that members of the public shall not be removed from such public meetings except for actual disruption and in accordance with rules adopted and published by the local board of education; that visual and sound recording shall be permitted at such public meetings; and provides for the authority of superior courts to enforce compliance and award relief.

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

**SB 589 (Dolezal-27th)** "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 include those who live in low-income households (under 200% PPL), 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).

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**SB 601 (Miller-49th)** Establishes promise scholarship accounts to be funded by the state in the amount of $6,000.00 per school year for each participating student, subject to appropriations.

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

**SB 603 (Rahman-5th)** Provides for an outdoor learning spaces pilot program in two elementary or secondary schools to pilot the development and study of outdoor learning spaces on elementary and secondary school property.

**STATUS:** TABLED IN THE SENATE

**SB 613 (Summers-13th)** Among other things, the bill prohibits the teaching of certain concepts in public or private schools and deters "developmentally inappropriate classroom discussion of gender identity and sexual orientation".

**STATUS:** Senate Education and Youth Committee

**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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Government Oversight 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Health House and Human Service 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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee

HB 1437 (Blackmon-146th) Changes current graduated income tax rate from a maximum of 5.75% to a flat tax of 5.25%; eliminates all deductions except charitable contributions; changes some standard exemptions.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee
**HB 1501** (Leverett-33rd) Permits youth 14 years of age or over to be employed during the months of vacation from school in the care and maintenance of lawns, gardens, and shrubbery owned or leased by the employer of such minor, provided that the minor is covered by an accident and sickness insurance plan or a workers' compensation insurance policy or plan provided by the employer; and only permitted to care for and maintain those lawns, gardens, and shrubbery that are owned or leased by the employer. The bill also eliminates the requirement for a minor to have an employment certificate or certificate of age in order to work. The bill does create a process for getting a certificate of age from the Dept. of Labor if the minor or the minor’s parents or guardians want one.

**STATUS:** House Industry and Labor 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

**HR 943** (Bennett-94th) Creates the House Healthy Food Retail Study Committee to investigate the lack of access to fresh, healthy food in certain rural and urban areas in Georgia.

**STATUS:** House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

**SB 108** (Davenport-44th) Creates the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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

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

**SB 212** (Mullis-53rd) "Harry Geisinger Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act" - Allows Pari-mutuel horse racing with proceeds used to fund education, health care needs, and rural development, as well as areas that support the breeding, care, and racing of horses. The bill also creates The Georgia Horse Racing Commission and engages Georgia in The Interstate Compact on Licensure of Participants in Live Racing with Pari-mutuel Wagering.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health and Human Services 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: TABLED IN THE SENATE

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**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 Insurance and Labor Committee

**SB 594** *(Anderson-43rd)* Revises the definition of "cash assistance" under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to increase access to benefits, increase the lifetime maximum for benefits, and provide that assets are disregarded in determining eligibility. The bill also repeals the drug felony ban for eligibility and the family cap on benefits.

**STATUS:** Senate Government Oversight Committee

**SR 131** *(Mullis-53rd)* Constitutional Amendment- Authorizing pari-mutuel betting on horse racing. The enabling legislation is SB 212.

**STATUS:** Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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

**STATUS:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**SR 659** *(Summers-13th)* Creates the Senate Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness.

**STATUS:** Senate Rules Committee
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

Elementary Recess Bill

The Ask: Call members of the House Rules Committee and ask them to put the elementary recess bill, HB 1283, on the House floor for a vote this TUESDAY (Crossover Day).

The Why:
HB 1283 requires a daily 30-minute recess (unstructured time) for all students in grades K-5, unless they have already had a physical education class or structured activity time in the day.

- Research overwhelmingly shows that recess and physical activity have a positive impact on children. We know that children learn best when they are engaged.
- Recess improves academic performance. Studies show that schools that implement physical activity components into lessons perform at least 6% better on standardized tests.
- Check out our factsheet on the Benefits of Recess and Physical Activity.

The Message:
Dear Representative _____________, Please send HB 1283, the elementary recess bill, to the House floor for a vote this Tuesday (Crossover Day). Research shows children perform the best academically, behaviorally, and socially, and have higher levels of classroom engagement when schools adopt physical activity policies. Thank you for your service and for all you do for Georgia's children.

The Contact Information:
Click Here to Contact Georgia House Rules Committee Members