March 28, 2022

JUMP TO SECTION:

**FY 2023 Budget Highlights (Governor Recommendations, House Changes, & Senate Changes)**

**Justice and Effective School Discipline**

**Protection and Safety**

**Health and Behavioral Health**

**Maternal Care and Child Care**

**Education**

**Miscellaneous**

**2 Minute Advocacy Ask**

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Have you ever expected something to be super boring and meaningless, but then it totally changed how you think about the world instead? I’m not talking about insurance policies, the capitol coffee vending machine, or even COVID. I’m talking about [Senate Bill 581](#). Technically, this bill updates the way land surveyors measure land and comes highly recommended by groups with less than Oscar-worthy titles - like the “Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia” and the “National Institute of Standards and Technology”. I mean, honestly, at first glance I thought to myself, “Well, now I know where to go to cure that pesky insomnia I’ve been dealing with!” Coordinate systems and something called the National Geodetic Survey (Is that like a Doodle Poll you read through a prism?!?) hardly seem important compared to bills making sure beauty pageant companies have email addresses ([HB 1522](#)) or that you can hunt possums whenever you want without getting in trouble with “The Law” ([HB 1147](#)). But come to find out that this land-measuring bill has to do with the fact that [the center of our sneaky planet earth shifted](#), so we have to change up how we survey stuff. They say that a shifted axis is a result of climate change and water moving from one place to another – which is like shifting weight on a spinning top. It is not the greatest news I guess, but at least it won’t make us fall off the planet, throw up, or have to wear [weird anti-gravity shoes](#) (oh well!).
Regardless, the idea that this big, blue and green place we call home has a different center is a philosophical mind bender – especially when the House and Senate are on a 45-minute break and a person has nothing better to do than stare at their dark-dead-no battery left-phone. Sure, as far as the planet goes, the climate thing is annoying and not good, but as far as the idea of changing centers, it makes me think differently about kids and the shift in the Axis of Understanding them.

Gone are the days where kids were thought to be naturally resilient and trauma-free no matter what we threw at, on, or around them. And gone are the days when people thought that children should be quiet all the time or that they did not have mental health needs. We now know that kids not only need love, but they need a good dose of coping skills and non-judgmental support to navigate this increasingly complex world (no matter where its axis is!). We also now know that babies start their mental health journey with their parents at birth (or maybe earlier!), that exercise helps kids process their feelings and learn (let’s get that School Recess Bill – HB 1283 - passed!). We also know now that when we really listen to what they have to say, that children and youth feel more valued, hopeful, and understood. In other words, I believe that the child policy Axis of Understanding (AoU) has shifted, and in a good way. And we are so, so lucky to have lawmakers who are all in on the AoU too. Lots of House and Senate members worked tirelessly this session (and before) to make sure children and youth are integral in the mental health policies they are developing. You can sense a shift in the evolution of Georgia’s FY23 budget, many of this session’s bills, and the action alert below!

Things are in fact spinning differently and overall better for kids at this point of session. So read on, hang on, and advocate for things below that will help our kids in their complicated, whirling worlds.

See you in a few more spins!

--Polly

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**FY 2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

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

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. Senate Budget Note: “Increase funds to provide supplement based on dependency case backlog less than 180 days as certified by the Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services”
- $25,000 Added for grants to counties for the Cobb Judicial Circuit pursuant to O.C.G.A. §15-11-52 effective January 1, 2022.

District Attorneys

- $582,500 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.) (The House originally added $548,200)

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.
- $250,000 Added to equip law enforcement, emergency medical services personnel, and probation staff with naloxone opioid overdose reversal medication
- $50,000 Added for Hope House to support addiction recovery services.
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.

- **$10.33 Million Added** for 513 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 and from the House’s recommendation of 325 Waivers)

- **$0 Added** for a 1% rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Senate budget note states: “Increase funds for rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services upon completion of a comprehensive provider rate study” (The House originally sought to add $2.45 Million without the rate study)

- **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.

- **$1.71 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention. (The House originally sought to add $4.39 Million)

- **$500,000 Added** for a “Special Project” for respite services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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.)

- **$2.91 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention. The House originally sought to add $9.32 Million)

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. (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.

- **$3.1 Million Added** for the operational costs of 17 additional crisis stabilization unit beds at The Bradley Center of St. Francis Hospital. (The Governor originally recommended $3.8 Million for 13 beds)

- **$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.

- **$2.2 Million Added** for three additional Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs. (Reduced from the governor’s ask of $4.5 Million to reflect staggered implementation and the House ask of $2.25 Million.)
• **$144,200 Added** for a housing network manager to support the Georgia Housing Voucher program.

• AOT provisions previously in this section were moved by the Senate below to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination under the Office of the Governor.

• **$897,060 Added** for co-responder mobile crisis team expansion to ten new sites. (The House originally funded 5 new sites)

• Senate budget direction: “Utilize funds in Direct Care Support Services to bring 92 state hospital beds at Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta online by October 1, 2022 to reach full bed capacity” (The House originally sought a $9.72 Million Add for a new 16-bed and 50 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center, but that was eliminated by the Senate)

• **$0 Added** for additional community service board caseworkers for five new mental health accountability courts. (The House originally sought $282,200 for five additional CSB caseworkers)

• **$0 Added** for a 5% salary supplement for 12 employees who work directly with mental health accountability courts. (The House originally sought $34,000)

• **$0 Added** to establish a technical assistance coordination center for mental health accountability courts. (The House originally sought $220,050)

• **$272,000 Added** for additional Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) support staff to manage the national '988' hotline expansion. (The House originally sought $2.19 Million)

• **$1.3 Million Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention. (The House originally sought $4.08 Million)

• **$2 Million Added** for reopening a 18-bed adult medical psychiatric unit at Grady Memorial Hospital. (The House originally sought a new unit for $6.3 Million)

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

• **$18 Million Added** to issue value-based payments to Community Service Boards based on specific quality metrics as determined by the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination.

**Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities**

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

• **$90,800 Added** to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention. (The House originally sought $201,500)

• **$200,000 Added** for Matthew Reardon Center for Autism. (The House originally sought $100,000)

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

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

• **$100,000 Added** for children and teen social and emotional learning.

**Direct Care Support Services**
• $894,300 Added to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital nurses and health aides to address agency recruitment and retention. (The House originally sought $2.24 Million)

• $10.5 Million Added to bring 92 state hospital beds at Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta online by October 1, 2022 to reach full bed capacity.

Dept. of Community Affairs

• $45,000 Added for homelessness assistance
• $5.03 Million Added for a safe drinking water program

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. $8,091

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)

• $1.5 Million Eliminated from a pilot to reduce Medicaid fraud.

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.
• $100,000 Added to expand housing capacity across the state for primary care residents completing rotations in rural areas.
• $125,000 Eliminated for one-time funding for a charity clinic.
• $2 Million Reduced for Rural Hospital Stabilization Grants in anticipation of the new hospital directed payment program

Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid
• **$13.03 Million Added** for growth in based on projected need. (Reduced from the Governor’s recommended $16.88 Million.) (The House originally sought $12.33 Million)

• **$2 Million Added** to increase the reimbursement rate for home and community-based service providers to offset the cost of fingerprint requirements.

• Recognize appropriations for current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services application that provides a 10% rate increase for home and community-based service providers, including the Georgia Pediatric Program.

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.

• **$10.67 Million Added** for the Medicaid reimbursement of therapeutic services. (The House originally sought $11.26 Million)

• **$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.

• **$46.28 Million Added** for value-based purchasing. (The House originally sought $5.79 Million)

• **$487,500 Added** for a pilot program to use assistive technology to support people with chronic diseases.

• **$1 Million Added** for a dispensing fee for medications dispensed at independent pharmacies for recipients enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan.

PeachCare for Kids

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

• **$2.49 Million Added** for Value-based purchasing. (The House originally sought $311,000)

• **$250,000 Added** for a dispensing fee for medications dispensed at independent pharmacies for recipients enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan.
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.
- **$150,000 Added** to support a new residency program at Archbold Medical Center. (The House originally sought $350,000)
- **$250,000 Added** for fellowship positions at Augusta University for gynecologic oncology, public health-focused medicine, and rural primary care. (The House originally sought $375,000)
- **$35,000 Added** for one-time funds for a statewide dental workforce assessment to evaluate current and future needs.
- **$0 added to existing funds ($150,000)** for Southern Regional Medical Center for continued planning and start-up of a new residency program. (The House originally sought to add $50,000)
- **$0 added to existing funds ($150,000)** for Southeast Georgia Health Systems for continued planning and start-up of a new residency program. (The House originally sought to add $50,000)
- **$150,000 Added** for Memorial Health Meadows Hospital for planning and start-up of a new residency fellowship program.
- **$150,000 Added** for Coffee Regional Hospital for planning and start-up of a new residency program.
- **$109,300 Added** for seven residency slots at Emory University.
- **$0 Added** for the start-up and operating support for the new nursing program at Morehouse School of Medicine. (The House originally sought $2 Million)
- **$376,000 Added** to support child and adolescent psychology and psychiatric residency programs at Morehouse School of Medicine.
- **$155,000 Added** for additional loan repayment grants for physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses in rural areas. (The House originally sought $385,000)
- **$375,000 Added** for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia campus to support growth.
- **$5 Million Added** for one-time funding for equipment and operating grants for nursing programs with wait lists and additional student capacity.
- **$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

- $4 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.) (The House originally sought $12.7 Million)

State Prisons

- $10 Million Added for technology projects for promoting offender health, safety, and security. (The governor originally sought $6.73 Million)
- $42.46 Million Added for capital maintenance and repairs. (State Prisons) (The governor originally sought $45.73 Million)
- $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)
- $500,000 Added for the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program.

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.
- $0 Added for an urban/suburban agriculture specialist. (The House originally sought $144,000)
- $100,000 in existing funds to be used for a Young Farmer program in Floyd County, and additional funds to the Young Farmer programs in Banks County, Barrow County, and Pelham City. (The House originally sought to use state dollars)
- $100,000 Added for an additional Georgia FFA Association staff member and two agricultural education support staff. (The House originally sought $140,000)
- $90,000 Added for a greenhouse in Calhoun County
Central Office

- \$150,000 Added for the American Association of Adapted Sports Program.
- \$125,000 Added for outdoor learning grants for local school systems.

Communities In Schools

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

Curriculum Development

- \$240,000 Reduction for rural coding grant pilot program to reflect programmatic changes and recognize a new partnership between the Georgia Tech Research Institute and Department of Education on rural coding.
- Budget Note: “Utilize existing funds to expand the reach of the Dyslexia Pilot Program ($1,500,000) and for a dyslexia specialist ($130,000).”

GNETS

- \$5.32 Million Subtracted for enrollment and training and experience decline (a greater reduction than the governor’s recommended deduction of \$2.87 Million and the House’s recommended deduction of \$3.26 Million.)
- \$2.45 Million Added to offset the austerity reduction for GNETS grants.
- \$52.05 Million Transferred from the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) program to the Quality Basic Education program (\$28.52 Million), Quality Basic Education Equalization program (\$2.53 Million), Pupil Transportation program (\$94,500), Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) program (\$1.1 Million) and School Nurse program (\$30,850) to reflect dissolution of state level GNETS program.

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.)
- Use existing funds for feminine hygiene grants to include the fifth grade. (The House sought to add \$200,000)
- \$460,800 Subtracted to reflect the closure of a residential treatment facility.
- \$89,600 Reduced to reflect an update to licensed capacity at 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 Local Five Mill Share**

• **$5.69 Million Subtracted** in the Adjusted formula funds for Local Five Mill Share to reflect inclusion of Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) FTEs in Quality Basic Education funding formula.

**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 adding $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 $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.

• $696,700 Added to establish a statewide Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) database.

• $238,600 Added to establish an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Oversight Unit within the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination.

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.

• $28.03 Million Added to establish quality incentive payments for schools that demonstrate “Beat the Odds” and/or Content Mastery of Third Grade reading targets.
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.

Out of School Services _After School Care_ (Heading changed by Senate)

- **$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.
- **$4 Million Added** for out of school programs with locations in communities serving at-risk youth.
- Change the name of the After School Care program to the Out of School Services program.
- Budget note: The purpose of this appropriation is to expand the provision of out of school services and draw down TANF maintenance of effort funds.

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.
- **$250,000 Added** for services for at-risk girls. (The House originally sought $200,000)

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.
- **$400,000 Added** to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to enhance statewide capacity. (The House originally sought $200,000)
- **$100,000 Added** for contracts for vocational training services.

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

• **$160,000 Added** for independent living services. (The House originally sought $200,000)
• **$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.
• **$100,000 Added** for Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) to expand support services.

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

• **$3.37 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. (The House originally sought $4.58 Million)

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.
• **$0 Added** for five new mental health accountability courts and court managers. (The House originally sought $1.08 Million)
• $0 Added for a 5% salary increase for accountability court case managers. (The House originally sought $222,700)

• $0 Added for 20 unfilled accountability court case manager positions. (The House originally sought $1.27 Million)

• $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.

• $2.31 Million Added for a 10% provider rate increase to Child Caring Institutions.

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.

• $317,500 Added for 3 positions to expand the human trafficking unit to address anticipated workload. (The governor originally asked for 3 positions, and the House then asked for 6 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

• $582,500 Added for 4 juvenile assistant public defenders. (The House originally sought $290,300)

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.

• $146,000 Added for two pilot projects for rural maternal health.

Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services

• $150,000 Added for grants to perinatal centers to fund autopsies in compliance with requirements in SB496 (2022 Session).
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

- $0 Added for grants to counties for improved infrastructure and support. (The House originally sought $1.7 Million)

Dept. of Public Safety

- $2.58 Million Added for 16 proper use of force and de-escalation positions and operational needs. (Georgia Public Safety Training Center) (The governor originally sought 10 positions at $1.09 Million)

University System of GA

Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics

- $5.2 Million Eliminated for one-time funding for matching funds and recognize three year phase-in of increased funding through the Teaching Formula for medical education to provide the state match for the Medical College of Georgia 3+ program. (The governor originally recommended removing $5.2 Million, but the House instead 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.” Then the Senate proceeded as noted in the first sentence)

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.
- $2.21 Million Added for materials grants by 20 cents from $0.40 to $0.60 per capita. The House originally sought a 10 cent per capita increase

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.
- $2.5 Million Added for a pilot program in University summer programs to enhance exposure for high school foster youth to postsecondary options. State General Funds

Teaching
- **$300,000 Added** to launch an online elementary education degree program at Valdosta State University. (Governor originally recommended a $300,000 add; the House eliminated it and the Senate restored it.)

- **$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.

- **$300,000 Added** to begin an elementary education degree program at Savannah State University. (Governor originally recommended a $300,000 add; the House eliminated it and the Senate restored it.)

- **$14,000 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; the House eliminated it and the Senate restored it.)

- **$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.)

- **$16,500 Added** for the UGA Small Business Development Center for multilingual support and provide an opportunity for students in foreign language programs to provide translation services. (Governor originally recommended a $49,500 with no student translators.)

**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.)

- **$0 Added** to provide a total of 720 Engineer Scholarships annually. (The House originally sought $113,050)

- **$1.38 Million Added** to restructure the HOPE GED program to support equivalency exam costs for eligible test takers across the state. (The governor originally recommended an $1.38 Million add. The House removed it and said to use existing funds instead. The Senate restored the governor’s request.)
• Budget Note: “Change the name of the HOPE GED program to the HOPE High School Equivalency Exam program.”

• Budget Note: “The purpose of this program is to encourage Georgia’s High School Equivalency Exam recipients to pursue education beyond the high school level at an eligible postsecondary institution located in Georgia.”

• $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

• $1.82 Million Added for HOPE Grant scholarships for students enrolled in strategic high-demand career programs.

• $0 Added to increase the award amount or HOPE scholarships in Private Schools by 6. (The House originally sought $4.13 Million)

• $4.97 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)

• $0 Added to increase the Tuition Equalization Grants award amount from $850 to $900 per year. (The House originally sought $2.6 Million)

• Budget Note: “Utilize one quarter of existing funds ($5,139,266) for refocusing the Tuition Equalization Grants on high demand fields including engineering, nursing, computer science and teaching in STEM fields to fulfill workforce needs.”

Technical College System of Georgia

Workforce Development

• $1.28 Million Added to establish the High-Demand Career Initiatives Program and expand apprenticeship programs across the state. (Governor originally recommended a $1.28 Million add; the House eliminated it and the Senate restored it.)

Technical Education

• $5.17 Million Added to implement the Dual Achievement Program pilot (SB 204, 2021 Session). (Governor originally recommended a $5.17 Million add; the House eliminated it and the Senate restored it.)

• $0 Added to recognize high-cost instructional programs. (The House originally sought $15 Million)

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. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

HB 371 (Gunter-8th) Permits for certain court appearances (e.g., nonevidentiary hearings) via video conference for prisoners and certain witnesses.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee but was tabled on the Senate floor. Upon Sine Die, this bill returned to the Senate General Calendar.

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. Assigned to Senate Public Safety 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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

HB 1234 (Ballinger-23rd) Requires a juvenile court to appoint an attorney for any child receiving extended care youth services from DFCS.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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. Assigned to Senate Public Safety 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

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

**SB 504** (Robertson-29th) Expands bail restricted offenses to include all 600+ felonies.

**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**PROTECTION AND SAFETY**

**HB 200** (Powell-32nd) Requires the issuance of a Class C driver’s license to operators of three-wheeled motor vehicles with seatbelts and a frame to partially or fully enclose the operator and exempts operators of such vehicles from headgear and eye-protective device requirements. The bill allows failure of an occupant of a passenger vehicle to wear a seat belt in any seat of a motor vehicle which has a seat safety belt or belts to be considered in any civil action as evidence admissible on the issues of failure to mitigate damages, assumption of risk, apportionment of fault, negligence, comparative negligence, contributory negligence, and may be evidence used to diminish any recovery for damages. The bill also states that the failure of an occupant of a passenger vehicle to wear a seat safety belt in any seat of a motor vehicle that has a seat safety belt or belts shall not be the basis for cancellation of insurance coverage.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**HB 202** (Hitchens-161st) Authorizes the Drivers Education Commission to cover the cost of drivers ed for a person 21 years of age or younger who has left foster care or protective custody of the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services by reason of having attained the age of 18 years. The bill also established the Driver’s Education Trust Fund under the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee

**HB 322** (Wiedower-119th) Revises the definition of "sexual exploitation" in various titles of Georgia Code to align with recent law passed, which discontinues the use of the word "prostitution". Revises the Georgia Child Advocate for the Protection of Children Act by adding to the duties of a child advocate supporting quality legal representation, including by establishing statewide performance measures and minimum training requirements for attorneys representing parties in relevant proceedings and ensuring the availability of high-quality training for such attorneys. Requires that the Office of the Child Advocate
submit an annual report to the Governor, General Assembly, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the quality of legal representation.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill did not receive a vote on the Senate floor but language from this bill was incorporated into SB 28, which passed. Upon Sine Die, this bill returned to the Senate General Calendar.

**HB 424 (Williamson-115th)** 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 issued by the state would be capped at $20 million per year.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Finance Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**HB 464 (Scoggins-14th)** Allows a petition for the appointment of a temporary guardian of a minor filed in the probate court to be transferred to the juvenile court.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

**HB 489 (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. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

**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 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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities 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. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice Committee
**SB 316 (Anavitarte-31st)** Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act - Prevents the creation of "free speech zones" at public institutions of higher education.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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 (Cowser-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. Recommended Do Pass by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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. Recommended Do Pass by House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

**SB 461 (Dixon-45th)** Adds the offense of human trafficking as a bailable offense.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

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

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

### 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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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 Senate Insurance and Labor 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee

HB 972 (Belton-112th) Among other things, this bill adjusts licensing provisions regarding professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industry and Utilities Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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

**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:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill moves to Senate 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. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY

**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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

**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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

**HB 1324** (Camp-131st) Clarifies that the prudent layperson standard is not affected by the diagnoses given.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

HB 1371 (Jasperse-11th) Creates the Rural Health Advancement Commission to develop private-sector solutions to address short-term and long-term health care and long-term care workforce shortages, with an emphasis on rural areas.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY

HB 1520 (Hawkins-27th) Creates the Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges.
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

HB 1599 (Powell-32nd) Revises provisions relating to education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy.
STATUS: House Hopper

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

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.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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. PASSED HOUSE. The bill awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration

**SB 342 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)** Requires annual reporting regarding mental health parity in healthcare plans.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

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

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs 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:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Insurance Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

**SB 576 (Strickland-17th)** Revises provisions regarding visitation actions brought by certain grandparents of minor children.  
**STATUS:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary 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 every 4 years.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Human Relations and Aging Committee. The bill went to House Rules Committee, but was recommitted to House Human Relations and Aging Committee.

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

SR 770 (Harrell-40th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Plan Access.
STATUS: Senate Rules Committee

MATERNAL CARE AND CHILD CARE

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

SB 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. Recommended Do Pass by House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill went to House Rules Committee, but was recommitted 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. Recommended Do Pass by House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill went to House Rules Committee, but was recommitted 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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee

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. PASSED SENATE. The bill awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration

**HB 517** (Carson-46th) Increases the allowable education tax credit issues for donations to school scholarship organizations (SSOs); 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 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 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. **The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)**

**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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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. **The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)**

**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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

**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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

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

**HB 1303 (Dickey-140th)** Transitions a pilot program for elementary agricultural education to an ongoing program.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE, but was changed by the Senate so awaits agreement to the changes by the House

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

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee

**HB 1482 (Erwin-28th)** Revises the eligibility criteria for project specific capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems.

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

**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:** PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee

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

**STATUS:** PASSED HOUSE. Because it is a House Study Committee, it does not need approval from the Senate
**HR 1048** (Ehrhart-36th) Creates the House Study Committee on Education Accreditation.
STATUS: House Education 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). PASSED HOUSE. There is a pending motion for the House to reconsider the bill

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

**SB 377** (Hatchett-50th) Prohibits the teaching of "divisive concepts" by local boards of education, and local school systems.
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

**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. Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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 498 (Tippins-37th) Deals with criteria of school accreditation agencies.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House 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 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. PASSED HOUSE. There is a pending motion for the House to reconsider the bill.

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: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by House Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.

SB 588 (Miller-49th) Requires all meetings of local boards of education shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law. The board cannot require more than 24 hours’ notice for public to speak at a regular meeting; the chair has the discretion to limit time and number of individuals speaking; the board shall annually determine dates of regular board meetings and post in the local organ or newspaper with regular circulation 2 week prior to the meeting, dates shall not be changed more often than once in 12 months; the public may record audio and/or video; by October 1, 2022, Local boards of education shall adopt rules of conduct for public meetings and publish rules of conduct on its public website and address removal of members of the public for actual disruption of a public meeting.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY)

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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 620 (Leverett-33rd) Clarifies and revises procedures and requirements for the payment of certain settlements involving claims of minors and when the natural guardian or next friend of a minor may receive the personal property of a minor for certain purposes. 
STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules 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 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 Senate Health and Human Service 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Government Oversight 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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY)

HR 1042 (Dempsey-13th) Creates the House Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness. 
STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee

SB 108 (Davenport-44th) Creates the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 
STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules 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 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. PASSED HOUSE. The bill awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration

**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:** PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill moves to House 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:** PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Game, Fish, and Parks 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

**SR 734** (Anderson-43rd) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Demographic Notes for Legislation.

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

Mental Health Parity Act

The Ask: CALL members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee – and get everyone you know to call as well! Ask senators on the committee vote YES on House Bill 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act, when it comes up for a vote.

Why It Matters:

Workforce, payer practices, and case management in our behavioral health systems for kids and adults face challenges that need systemic improvements to function well and serve Georgians. Consider these numbers:

- In Georgia, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among children
- In 2019, 94% of Georgia’s youth suicides were preventable
- Children with ADHD, autism, or developmental delays are twice as likely to be chronically absent compared to kids without these conditions
- An estimated 50-70% of youth in Department of Juvenile Justice long-term facilities have a mental health diagnosis severe enough to require ongoing treatment
- 78 Georgia counties do not have a licensed psychologist
- 53 Georgia counties do not have a licensed social worker
- 45 Georgia counties do not have a licensed psychologist OR a licensed social worker

For Voices’ factsheet on the crisis in child and adolescent health, click here.

The Message:

Dear Senator ______________________,

Please vote YES on the Mental Health Parity Act, House Bill 1013, when it comes up for a vote in committee. This bi-partisan bill will not only ensure that children and their caregivers have access to the services they need to address behavioral health challenges, but it will also help expand our behavioral health workforce and lay crucial groundwork for future improvements in behavioral health case management and service provision across Georgia. Thank you for your service and for all you do for the children of our great state.

The Contact Information:

Contact members of the Senate Health and Human Services committee.