February 27, 2023

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Weekly Welcome

When I was a kid, I remember being fascinated by things like terrariums, snow globes and ships-in-bottles. In fact, still, I am fascinated by them. Other than the creepy and depressing imagery each of those things implies about global warming, I think that what I like most is how each object is its own enclosed universe that operates independently of the world around it. In a terrarium, bugs, worms and spiders govern their own “Jumanji Welcome to the Jungle” earth, but without the cheesy safari helmets or a 76 on Rotten Tomatoes. The stoppered and masted vessel will forever sail its transparent sea, while its mates, no matter the direction of the ship (and despite the complete absence of wind), somehow manage to keep the sails full. And the snow-globe? Well, all I can say is that it must be nice to live in a place where the snow never turns grey (or yellow), and you don’t have to worry about getting to work because of the precipitation (because precipitation IS your work!).

One could say that the capitol during the legislative session appeals to me for the some of the same reasons as the above. I love it that in that building – under a dome of gold, as it were – we all exist in a time-limited – and somewhat weird – terrarium/bottle/globe. The little policy ecosystem that exists for 40 legislative days (and a few long nights) can create (political) wind where there is none, maintain a consistent environment of abject chaos amidst Roberts Rules of Order, and above all, attempt governance of the terrarium we call home. In that universe, its little beings (known as electeds, appointeds, tourists, lobbyists, and advocates) willingly live for hours on end, oblivious to the outer world. It is not uncommon for a “Session-er” to enter the building in the depths of winter in January and emerge 3 months later wondering where the tulips came from (and where their umbrella, car keys, hair and sanity went)? Right now, we are a week away from a momentous day in our Middle Earth – it is called Crossover Day and signifies the last day when a bill can pass its originating chamber into the other chamber and still be viable for passage this year. And so right now, under the dome, ants and spiders are scrambling, the pirates are hoisting and readying the cannons, and Mr. Snowman? Well, he is simply overwhelmed and frozen in time, letting the snow-chips fall where they may and hoping that the bottom doesn’t fall out (bless his heart).

And with that, I urge you to take a few minutes to explore the shadowbox of budget and bills here. And mostly, please send a message into our alternate universe by advocating on the action alerts we have provided below. I promise that if you do, a session-er will appreciate the guidance, and you may even get a snowman to smile.

Until the next message (in a bottle), I remain...

Polly

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Amended Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Governor’s Recommendations as Amended by the House as Amended by the Senate

Amended Total: $32.56 Billion
(Increased from the governor’s original FY23 estimate of $30.20 Billion)

Yellow = House Changes
Turquoise = Senate Changes

Juvenile Courts

$0 Added for grants to counties for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit (Governor had originally requested $12,500 but it was removed)

$250,000 Subtracted due to utilization and reporting levels concerning dependency case backlog.

District Attorneys

$107,065 Transferred to District Attorneys to reflect change in Department of Human Services Child Support Services contract

Dept. of Administrative Services

$3.5 Million of the Governor’s recommendation Added back to DOAS and placed in GA Professional Standard Commission for modernizing the teacher certification and ethics applications at the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to improve security, efficiency, and customer service. (The House removed the funds but the Senate put them back in.)

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

$2.02 Million Added to support private psychiatric contract beds (Adult Mental Health Services)

$825,000 Added to coordinate outreach to address homelessness in the Atlanta area (Adult Mental Health Services)

$100,000 Reduced for delayed contract implementation (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

$600,000 Added for one-time gap funding for Georgia psychiatric residential treatment facilities receiving less than $500 per patient per day while under current cost report reimbursement methodology (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) – This gap funding was also recognized in the Dept. of Community Health section of the budget.

$261,823 Eliminated from DBHDD departmental administration. These funds were originally appropriated to pay for administrative infrastructure necessary to implement the terms of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation settlement, the Georgia Opioid Abatement Trust funds, and the activities of the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory (ORRFA) Council. But the House version Added $300,000 to support operations personnel for the administration of federal opioid settlement funds (Departmental Administration) (but the Senate eliminated the $300,000.)
$100,000 Added for technology infrastructure and environmental adaptations for students enrolled in Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs (GA Council on Developmental Disabilities)

Dept. of Community Affairs

$0 Added in one-time funds for emergency communication infrastructure needs in South Georgia (State Community Development Programs) (The House added $750,000 but the Senate removed the funds.)

$166.7 Million Added for the projected cost of large economic development projects receiving Regional Economic Business Assistance

$35.7 Million Reallocated from the FY 2022 broadband infrastructure grant program carryover ($21,500,000) and FY 2022 Rural Innovation Fund carryover ($14,203,211) to establish the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (Under Payments to OneGeorgia Authority)

Dept. of Community Health

**Budget Note:** “The Department shall submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand the Express Lane Eligibility program to include Childcare and Parental Services (CAPS), Refugee Cash Assistance, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).”

**Budget Note:** “The Department shall change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to include psychiatric hospitals as an eligible facility type to provide Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Services for persons under the age of 21 years enrolled in Fee-for-Service Medicaid.”

$6.5 Million Eliminated to replace the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) with the Medicaid Enterprise System Transformation (MEST)

**Budget Note:** “The Department shall change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) to provide routine physical exams and preventative care for all Medicaid members.”

**Budget Note:** “The Department shall change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow for coverage of blood pressure monitors, incontinence supplies, portable oxygen units, nutritional supplements, and specialized formula for all Medicaid members.”

$25,000 Added for a rural hospital study (Health Care Access and Improvement)

$184,000 Added to support existing housing with the Area Health Education Centers (Health Care Access and Improvement)
$1 Million Added to support the psychiatric and internal medicine resident learning and work centers at St. Francis Hospital (Health Care Access and Improvement) (The House added $778,000 and the Senate increased the amount.)

$250,000 Added to implement and regulate the new licensure category for adult residential mental health programs as established by HB 1069 (2022 Session). (Healthcare Facility Regulation)

Transferred: $29,237,181 in prior year state general funds from the Medicaid: Aged, Blind and Disabled program and $5,006,960 in prior year state general funds from the Low-Income Medicaid program to DHS Departmental Administration. These funds are provided by the 10% increase of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for home and community-based services (HCBS) pursuant to Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and utilize funds as specified in the spending plan as approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). (Under DHS Departmental Administration) In addition this budget recommendation recognizes and plans to use $153,828,763 in prior year ABD Medicaid state funds (also provided by the 10% increase of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for HCBS) in the above spending plan.

$505.9 Million Reduced in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) through June 30, 2023. [$301.14 Million in ABD Medicaid, $236.7 Million in LIM and $14.7 Million Reduced in PeachCare]

$278 Million Added for Medicaid Enrollment Growth and Utilization as follows:
- $105.45 Million Added for growth in Aged Blind Disabled (ABD) Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- $15.4 Million Added to reflect ABD Medicaid enrollment growth as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension (through June 30, 2023)
- $127.1 Million Added to reflect enrollment growth in Low Income Medicaid (LIM) as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension
- $9.41 Million Added to reflect enrollment growth in PeachCare for Kids as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension

$4.5 Million Added to continue the PeachCare for Kids premium suspension through June 30, 2023.

Budget Note: Increase employer contribution per-member, per-month (PMPM) rate in the State Health Benefits Plan for certified school employees to $1,580 effective January 1, 2023. The House added $100 Million to the DCH budget to reflect a three-year phase-in of an increase in employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) for non-certified school employees, effective January 1, 2024. The Senate reduced the House’s amount to a total of $34 Million for a “phased-in” approach.

$3.5 Million Added for grants for nursing program expansions.

The additions of state dollars are as follows:
- $420.25 Million Added for certified school employees under QBE (GaDOE)
- $498,750 Added for RESAs. The governor asked for $158,912. (GaDOE)
• $1.34 Million of the governor’s ask reduced to $994,170 for GNETS (Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support) (GaDOE)
• $2.76 Million Added for Preschool Disability Services certified school employees. This is an increase from the $1.53 Million that the Governor recommended. (GaDOE)
• $305,850 Added for Georgia Military College Preparatory School certified school employees. The governor asked for $125,730. (USG)

Dept. of Corrections
$12.3 Million Added for physical health and pharmacy services contracts
$20.9 Million Reduced to reflect the closure of Georgia State Prison
$66.5 Million Added for 33 projects at 19 state prison facilities for emergency repairs ($4,050,000), upgrades to life safety and security systems ($29,955,000 – the House added $5,000,000 to the governor’s ask of $14,955,000 and the Senate increased it), and major maintenance and renovations ($32,490,000)

Georgia Dept. of Early Care and Learning
Budget Note: Utilize existing funds to expand the Summer Transition Program
$8 Million Added in Lottery dollars to Georgia’s Pre-Kindergarten Program for early reading education.

Georgia Dept. of Education
Budget Note: Prepare to move GNETS to Quality Basic Education formula funding in FY2025
$5 Million Added for reimbursable grants in the amount of $3,000 each to paraprofessionals who earn certificates through the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) program. The governor had asked for $15 Million but the House reduced it. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)
$115.7 Million Added for security grants in the amount of $50,000 per school to local school systems for school security enhancements. The governor had asked for $50,000 grants but the House increased it to $60,000 and the Senate returned the amount to the governor’s recommendation. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)
$143,760 Added for Sparsity Grants to reflect a data correction for Glascock County. Reduced from the governor’s ask of $149,643 (Non-QBE Formula Grants)
$25 Million Added for incentive grants for school systems best utilizing American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act funds or other funds to stem learning loss as indicated by percentage of students performing at or above grade level on academic year 2022 standardized tests] increased and changed from $0 that the House had for learning loss grants to support student achievement and well-being to be distributed to local school systems based on the percentage of students performing below grade level on academic year 2022 standardized tests. The governor’s original ask was $25
Million for learning loss grants to support student achievement and well-being to be distributed to local school systems based on the percentage of students performing below grade level on academic year 2022 standardized tests. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$2.5 Million Added for matching funds for school systems to implement character education programming. The house had asked for $1.25 Million and the Senate increased it. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$942,638 Eliminated from Local Five Mill Share for four new State Commission Charter Schools and provide hold harmless for the local share of the SHBP rate increase in the midterm adjustment

$3.71 Million Added for a midterm adjustment to the State Commission Charter School supplement for training and experience. The governor asked for $4.14 Million.

$272,044 Added in formula funds for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant

$128.24 Millions Added in formula funds for a midterm adjustment based on enrollment growth


$7.36 Million Added to reflect growth in the Special Needs Scholarship. The governor asked for $6.36 Million.

$60,564 Added in formula funds for a midterm adjustment to the local charter school grant pursuant to SB 59 (2021 Session).

$1.67 Million Added to purchase equipment for construction industry certification programs, statewide. House asked for $3.34 Million and the Senate reduced the amount. (Technology/Career Education)

Dept. of Human Services (including DFCS)

$4 Million Added for technology improvements and security upgrades for federally-provided benefits and reduce fraud. (DHS Departmental Administration)

$1.97 Million Added for technology improvements and security upgrades to the Integrated Eligibility System in preparation for the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration

$662,433 Added for 80 additional Medicaid eligibility caseworkers to process Medicaid redetermination cases due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration

$5.77 Million Added for a management consultant to oversee and ensure quality assurance for Medicaid redeterminations due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration
**Legislative Update** – February 27, 2023

$10 Million Added for alternative housing options for youth with complex needs (Senate doubled the House’s addition)

$250,000 Reduced for non-programmatic expenditures in the Out-of-School Care Services (The Senate halved the House’s reduction)

$100,000 Added for support for grandparent-led families

**Employees’ Retirement System of Georgia**

$24.5 Million Added a one-time benefit adjustment to retired state employees. House asked for $14.5 Million and the Senate increased the amount.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

$8 Million Added for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. (The Senate doubled the House’s addition)

$2.4 Million Added to upgrade security at domestic violence shelters

$4 Million Added in one-time funds for domestic violence shelters to off-set loss of federal funds. (The Senate doubled the House’s addition)

**Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, Georgia**

$1.5 Million Added for statewide deployment of gang case-related analytics and repeat offender solutions.

**Office of the Commissioner of Insurance**

$92 Million Added for the state reinsurance program

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

$4.2 Million Added to the DNR Law Enforcement Division for equipment and installation associated with a new statewide public safety radio network to achieve statewide interoperability

**Georgia Building Authority**

*Budget Note:* “Utilize existing funds to complete system wide assessments at Georgia Department of Corrections ($4,350,000) and Department of Juvenile Justice ($3,925,000).”

**Dept. of Public Health**

$6.07 Million Reduced for non-utilization of funding for Georgia Coordinating Center. This is in response to a House Budget Note: The Georgia Coordinating Center should utilize existing funds to procure a HIPAA-secure multimodal software communication and patient logistics platform to provide multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional all-hazards response for emergency rooms and other critical care services statewide.
$1.7 Million Reduced in one-time funds provided by the General Assembly for infrastructure and support disregarded and redirected to general grant-in-aid.

Dept. of Public Safety
$30.38 Million Added for equipment, installation, and training associated with a new statewide public safety radio network to achieve statewide interoperability

$128,815 Reduced for driver's education and training in accordance with FY 2022 Joshua's Law collections.

University System of Georgia
$5 Million Added for one-time funding for the replacement of cabins at Rock Eagle 4-H Center

$1 Million Added for repairs at the Georgia Military College Junior Military College

$50 Million Added to implement a state-of-the-art electronic medical records system to support medical education and training at the Medical College of Georgia (House asked for $105 Million and the Senate reduced it.)

$2.58 Million Reduced (“adjusted”) in formula funds for enrollment growth to reflect corrected credit hour data for Georgia Institute of Technology.

$540,159 Transferred for the Fort Valley State University land-grant match requirements to the Teaching Program (the funds were transferred from Agricultural Experiment Station ($378,752) and from Cooperative Extension Service ($161,407))

Dept. of Revenue
$1 BILLION Added for one-time funds for the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) program to allow for a $20,000 exemption on the assessed home value for each qualifying homestead for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023. The Governor had asked for $1.1 Billion.

Georgia Student Finance Commission
$1.62 Million Reduced for administrative costs associated with service cancelable loan programs and utilize existing funds to implement loan repayment programs for mental health professionals

$1.7 Million Reduced funds associated with the Leo Scholarship Grant Service Cancelable Loans (HB 1319 of the 2022 Session, which was not enacted into law)

$91,049 moved from GSFC Administration to the Low Interest Loans section for personnel and operations to support commission activities related to implementation of the Behavioral Health Service Cancelable Loan Program established in HB1013 (2022 Session) and the proposed Law Enforcement loan repayment program beginning on April 1, 2023. (House originally moved $405,716 but the senate reduced the amount.)
$6.6 Million Reduced for Dual Enrollment based on projections. (House reduced by $4 Million and Senate reduced further.)

$8 Million Reduced from Hope Grants for projected expenditures

$3.5 Million Reduced in Tuition Equalization Grants based on updated projections and utilize reserves to increase award amount from $900 to $950 per year, effective July 1, 2023

Technical College System of Georgia

$56.25 Million Added for various allocations regarding Quick Start Training Centers to support the electric vehicle industry. The governor had asked for $129.4 Million.

$1.67 Million Added to purchase equipment for construction industry certification programs, statewide

$1.5 Million Added for additional shared instruction space for technical education

$19.9 Million Added for design and construction of the Georgia Industrial Robotics Training Center at Ogeechee Technical College at Statesboro

$8 Million for technical education equipment refresh, statewide

Dept. of Veterans Services

$750,000 Added for a military families' mental health clinic
Legislative Update  
As of 02/25/2023

Justice, Public Safety, and School Discipline

HB 107  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires that certain procedures be followed by peace officers upon and after making contact with individuals for law enforcement purposes, including providing the peace officer's business card to any person whom the peace officer has detained in a traffic stop but has not cited or arrested, wearing of body cameras, methods to file complaints, etc.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 112  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for the creation, operation, and powers of certain citizen review boards and protocols for recording complaints alleging police misconduct and disciplinary actions, among other things.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 113  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires training on de-escalation techniques for peace officers.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 114  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires implicit bias training for law enforcement officers.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB 115  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement officers and law enforcement agencies and requires collection of related data. The bill also requires certain actions by the Attorney General and revises the state waiver of sovereign immunity.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB 136  (Petrea-166th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) commissioner to publish on the official DOC website a report of aggregate data on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers, offenses, and home countries of inmates who are not U.S. citizens and who are confined under the department’s authority. The report will include the percentage of persons who are not citizens with regard to the total population in confinement.  

HB 142  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Provides for the establishment of unified campus police forces through agreements entered into by colleges and universities, whereby a campus policeman employed by any of the colleges or universities participating in the united police force agreement who is P.O.S.T. certified shall have the same law enforcement powers, including the power of arrest, as a law enforcement officer of any local government with police jurisdiction over such campuses.  
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

HB 171  (Kennard-101st)  Bill Link
Revises the handling of arrest-only criminal history record information and provides for the automatic restriction of an individual's criminal history record information upon arrest, and provides that such criminal history record information shall be made publicly available only upon the issuance of an indictment, accusation, or other charging instrument.  
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 179 (Hutchinson-106th) Bill Link
Provides that when an inmate is subjected to confinement in a correctional facility the department shall ensure that any such confinement is imposed only within the medical units of the facility, digitally record each incident from the initiation of the confinement for the duration of the incident, and document any de-escalation efforts implemented, the reason or reasons for which the use of confinement was implemented, and the duration of the confinement. The warden or facility administrator of each correctional facility shall furnish monthly reports to the department off that data.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 197 (McCollum-30th) Bill Link
Creates the offense of drug-induced homicide and increases penalties for the distribution of fentanyl and for the distribution of controlled substances within 1,000 feet of any substance abuse treatment facility.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 218 (Hilton-48th) Bill Link
Provides for the use of hearsay as admissible evidence in sexual assault cases involving disabled adults and disabled 17 year olds.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 227 (Leverett-123rd) Bill Link
Provides for the offense of criminal interference with critical infrastructure.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

HB 231 (Gullett-19th) Bill Link
Creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 232 (Scott-76th) Bill Link
Requires public disclosure of certain data pertaining to the health, safety, or other conditions of detention of inmates.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 253 (Momtahan-17th) Bill Link
Creates the offense of drug-induced homicide and increases penalties for the distribution of fentanyl and for the distribution of controlled substances within 1,000 feet of any substance abuse treatment facility.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

HB 296 (Neal-79th) Bill Link
Requires the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to establish basic and in-service training courses on de-escalation techniques and methods.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 325 (Miller-62nd) Bill Link
Requires the establishment of guidelines for use of body cameras by peace officers and that certain peace officers be equipped with body cameras for recording audio and video of all activities performed while on duty.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 334 (Smith-18th) Bill Link
Provides for criminal history record information restriction for persons granted a pardon for certain offenses and revises the procedure for petitioning for exoneration and discharge when an individual has qualified for sentencing as a first offender.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.
HB 356  (Bazemore-69th)  Bill Link
Prohibits the use of corporal punishment by school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel with any student in any public school and requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to provide for minimum standards and model student codes of conduct which address appropriate methods for redirecting students whose behavior is dangerous or disruptive.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 376  (Holcomb-81st)  Bill Link
Prohibits that no private corporation shall operate a detention facility.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 382  (Anulewicz-42nd)  Bill Link
Adds communications made in the context of victim centered programs, including restorative justice practices, and sanctioned victim-offender dialogues in the list of conversations which are considered privileged.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 387  (Alexander-66th)  Bill Link
Codifies the proclamation by the Office of the President of the United States that would grant a pardon and restore full political, civil, and other rights regarding the offense of simple possession of marijuana.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 388  (Alexander-66th)  Bill Link
Provides that possession of certain quantities of marijuana constitute a misdemeanor and changes provisions relating to punishment.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 446  (Reeves-99th)  Bill Link
Defines the offense of drive-by shooting; modifies the offense of aggravated assault to include discharging a firearm towards a motorized vehicle or occupied building after immediately exiting a vehicle; and enhances criminal penalties for such charges.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 459  (Lumsden-12th)  Bill Link
Authorizes the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to submit felony juvenile arrest fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 462  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
"Raise the Age Act" - The bill increases the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to include children who are 17 years old and revises various references in the Code to reflect this change. The bill establishes an implementation committee, which consists of 12 members and is responsible for conferring with appropriate agencies and interested parties regarding standards and practices of other jurisdictions, the most recent national standards, and the interested parties' views. A superior court will maintain jurisdiction of those who are 17 years old at the time of the alleged crime, and are alleged to have committed criminal gang activity or are alleged to have committed an offense that would be a felony, if tried as an adult, for a second or subsequent time.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 478  (Holly-116th)  Bill Link
Codifies the proclamation by the Office of the President of the United States, that would grant a pardon and restore full political, civil, and other rights regarding the offense of simple possession of marijuana.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 500 (Silcox-53rd)  
**Bill Link**
Creates the offense of arson of a law enforcement vehicle. Any person convicted of the offense is punished by a fine up to $100,000 or by imprisonment for a minimum of five years with a maximum of 20 years, or both.

HB 505 (Cheokas-151st)  
**Bill Link**
Makes the offense of riot a felony offense punishable by imprisonment for a minimum of one year up to a maximum of 20 years. (Note that current code defines the offense of "riot" as "any two or more persons who shall do an unlawful act of violence or any other act in a violent and tumultuous manner").

HB 544 (Schofield-63rd)  
**Bill Link**
Prohibits the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes in juvenile detention facilities.
Status: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 551 (Davis-87th)  
**Bill Link**
Authorizes counties and municipal corporations to adopt ordinances governing and punishing the possession of one ounce or less of marijuana.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

SB 7 (Beach-21st)  
**Bill Link**
Increases the mandatory minimum sentence for serious violent felonies committed with possession of a firearm or knife.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 10 (Jones-10th)  
**Bill Link**
Increases penalties for drag racing and also states that any person who is knowingly present and actively facilitating an exhibition of illegal drag racing shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine of at least $250.00. Active facilitation may be evidenced by using a vehicle to block the portion of the roadway closest to exhibition participants allowing the event to take place.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 11 (Albers-56th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for concurrent jurisdiction by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in cases involving the identification, investigation, arrest, and prosecution of an individual or groups of individuals for violation of state laws concerning domestic, cyber, biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

SB 12 (Albers-56th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for sentencing to minimum terms of imprisonment for persons convicted of possession of firearms by convicted felons and first offender probationers when the offense for which such person is on probation, or has been previously convicted is a forcible felony, or a domestic violence felony, or an act of family violence. Among other things, the bill also provides that a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal gang activity offense shall stop the defendant in any related civil proceeding as to matters proved in the criminal proceeding.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

SB 30 (Jones II-22nd)  
**Bill Link**
Lessens penalties for possession of two ounces or less of marijuana.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 44 (Hatchett-50th)  
**Bill Link**
Increases mandatory minimum penalties for violations of the Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.
SB 92 (Robertson-29th)  
**Bill Link**
Creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 100 (Hatchett-50th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for the limitation of unsecured judicial release in certain circumstances where the accused has a prior conviction for the offense of bail jumping or failure to appear; for the requirement that an accused's criminal history be considered prior to issuing an unsecured judicial release; and for reconsideration of eligibility.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 110 (Walker-20th)  
**Bill Link**
Establishes the Back the Blue Fund that distributes voluntary contributions made through motor vehicle insurance policies for the purpose of increasing the pay to or enhancing the benefits of law enforcement officers.
Status: PASSED SENATE.

SB 119 (Parent-42nd)  
**Bill Link**
Prohibits persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes of family violence or subject to family violence protective orders from receiving, possessing, or transporting a firearm.
Status: Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee

SB 139 (Seay-34th)  
**Bill Link**
Establishes a state-wide database of peace officer disciplinary actions and complaints of misconduct.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 175 (Halpern-39th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for additional requirements for the issuance and execution of search warrants and no-knock warrants.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 185 (Williams-25th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for the appointment of additional assistant district attorneys in judicial circuits with multiple detention facilities.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

SB 218 (Rhett-33rd)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for the issuance of identification cards to persons completing a term of incarceration; provides that the Department of Corrections share identifying information with the Department of Driver Services; and provides consent for the release of certain criminal history, vocational, and educational information to inmates upon release. The bill also provides for issuance of a personal identification card or operator's license.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 234 (Halpern-39th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for the enforcement of laws regarding the operation of a motor vehicle with equipment which produces excessive noise levels using recorded images to be penalized by a civil monetary penalty.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee
Protection and Safety

HB 121 (Anderson-10th) Bill Link
Defines the terms “wakeboarding” and “wake surfing”, and places restrictions on these activities. Except in certain circumstances, no person is to engage in either of these two defined activities between sunset and sunrise, on a body of water less than 50 acres in size, on a portion of a body of water with a width of less than 400 feet, within 200 feet of a shoreline or structure located on the water, or without wearing a personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. These restrictions do not apply to activities in which the commissioner has granted a marine event permit.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 124 (Bruce-61st) Bill Link
Allows first responders of a fire department of a municipality to be granted licenses for emergency medical transportation under certain circumstances and to then be able to transport patients under certain circumstances.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 135 (Oliver-82nd) Bill Link
Establishes the offense of failure to adequately secure a firearm.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 144 (Lewis-Ward-115th) Bill Link
Updates the rights of a ward in a guardianship by clarifying that a ward can communicate freely and privately with people other than the guardian through visitation, telephone calls, email, or personal mail. If a guardian violates the right of the ward to communicate, visit, or interact with others, in O.C.G.A. 29-4-22(b), then a ward or interested party can petition the court with evidence alleging that the guardian violated that right. If the court finds the guardian violated the ward’s right, then a court can impose a maximum fine of $1,000 for each violation. After two violations have been reported and ruled on by a court, the court can impose temporary suspension of the guardianship and appoint another guardian until the violations are resolved.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 188 (Sainz-180th) Bill Link
Revises the name of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to "Sexual Offender Risk Review Board." The bill also provides that punishment for certain sexual offenses shall be life imprisonment and shall require such persons to wear a device capable of tracking the location of the probationer by electronic means, including global positioning satellite systems.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 194 (Hutchison-106th) Bill Link
"Undocumented Persons Family Violence Protection Act" - provides that any undocumented person who in good faith seeks law enforcement assistance and who is a victim of family violence, or who seeks assistance on behalf of a victim of family violence, shall not be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for being an undocumented person.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 195 (Marin-96th) Bill Link
Requires a firearms safety training course for certain persons making application for a weapons carry license or renewal license.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 216 (Lim-98th) Bill Link
Authorizes respite care for foster parents for longer periods of time pursuant to circumstances delineated in rules and regulations established by the Department of Human Services.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 327 (Cameron-1st) Bill Link
Includes grandparent and grandchild of the whole blood or of the half blood or step-grandchild in the list of relatives
who are able to be charged with incest.

Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

HB 329  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Requires landlords of an apartment building that is being leased for residential purposes and that consists of 50 or more rental units must provide certain notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises being leased.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 344  (Lim-98th)  Bill Link
Requires that a landlord has a nonwaivable duty to maintain the premises in a habitable condition, including, but not limited to, making necessary repairs and access to essential services.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 348  (Collins-71st)  Bill Link
Requires warning signs for traffic safety enforcement devices and school zone speed limit reduction to display flashing yellow lights while the speed reduction is in effect. The speed limit may be enforced 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school starts; 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school dismisses, unless the school campus is bisected by a highway; and when the driver is 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. After a citation has been issued, the penalty must be paid within 60 days or the vehicle's registration will be suspended. The vehicle's registration will be reinstated upon receipt of payment and the collection of a $50 restoration fee. The bill authorizes the suspension of vehicle registration for an unpaid fine for improperly overtaking a school bus. The vehicle's registration will be reinstated upon receipt of payment and the collection of a $50 restoration fee.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 365  (Holcomb-81st)  Bill Link
Authorizes the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to create and operate a state-wide sexual assault kit tracking system.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 366  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for the offenses of failure to store a firearm in a secure manner.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 402  (Hilton-48th)  Bill Link
“Edna Mae McGovern Act” - Requires each public school to provide parents or students over 18 years of age with information on water safety education. At the beginning of each school year, the school will provide information to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water. This may include information on local water safety courses and swim lessons.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 404  (Carpenter-4th)  Bill Link
Requires every oral or written lease for residential rental property deemed to include a provision that the premises are fit for human habitation (habitability is defined by reference to health and safety codes and a remedy for violation provided); states that a landlord’s duties as to utilities extended to include cooling, as well as heat, light, and water; limits maximum security deposits to three months’ rent; and requires written notice and three-day right to cure before landlord can file for an eviction for late payment of rent or fees. The bill also states that for persons who engage in “criminal activity” there is no three-day notice period and provides for an expedited eviction process.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 460  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
Provides a right to counsel for a child who is the subject of a legitimation petition and a child who is party to a hearing to determine whether continuation or termination of a temporary guardianship is in the best interests of a child. Custodians or guardians whom are subject to a sworn complaint or affidavit and any other respondent to a dependency proceeding have the right to an attorney at all stages of the dependency proceedings. A child receiving
extended care youth services from the Division of Family and Children Services is provided a right to counsel for all stages of dependency proceedings. The bill requires that affidavits or sworn complaints only be used when a child is taken into custody under exceptional circumstances. A trial court can appoint an attorney for a child at all stages of proceedings for extended care youth services. The child will be provided notice of their right to an attorney and be given the opportunity to: use, waive the right, obtain an attorney of their choice, or obtain the court-appointed attorney in the court's discretion.

Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 463  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
Revises the name of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to "Sexual Offender Risk Review Board." Among other provisions, the bill also provides for punishment for certain tiers of sexual offenses, including in certain circumstances, life imprisonment.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

HB 469  (Houston-170th)  Bill Link
Requires public schools to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies and other emergency management agencies to ensure that detailed and accurate school building plans, school property site plans, and crisis response mapping data are shared. The bill also provides for requirements of crisis response mapping data.
Status: House Education Committee. This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 479  (Hutchinson-106th)  Bill Link
Provides that a legally separated spouse can petition for adoption of a child.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 499  (Hutcheson-161st)  Bill Link
Provides a court the discretion to require either one spouse, or both spouses, to pay child support for a disabled child who has become an adult but lacks the ability to take care of themselves independently. The spouses can be in a divorce proceeding, living separately, or in state of separation. A "disabled child" is defined to be an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and that meets a disability under state or federal law. The bill allows for modification of the award for child support if there has been a substantial change in the child's ability to provide support for themselves. The court can direct one or both parents to maintain life insurance for the benefit of a disabled child who has become an adult, but lacks the ability to take care of themselves independently.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 508  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
Requires the clerk of a superior court to issue a summons and deliver it for service to the party whom the order is against within 24 hours of the issuance of an ex parte order for temporary relief for a petitioner or minor from stalking.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 509  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
Expands the crime of burglary in the first and second degrees to include when a person enters the house, or other specified building or structure, of another person with the intent to commit an act of family violence.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 527  (Barnes-86th)  Bill Link
Requires that schools have non-audio, visual displays, alarms, or other suitable devices installed at each exterior door of a public school facility capable of clearly indicating to persons located inside the facility within sight of such door that it is properly secured; and electronic message boards installed at critical locations within a public school facility capable of displaying critical safety information to occupants of such facility.
Status: House Education Committee
HB 535  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Provides for the issuance of a card to each student who is a certified unaccompanied homeless youth that includes information on the rights of and benefits for such youth.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 554  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Prohibits the furnishing of a semiautomatic assault weapon to a person under the age of 21 years.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 565  (Smith-18th)  Bill Link
Extends the lifetime limit on cash assistance to needy families through TANF from 48 months to 60 months, and clarifies that assets are disregarded in determining eligibility.
Status: House Hopper

HR 209  (Carson-46th)  Bill Link
Creates the House Study Committee on Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rates.
Status: House Motor Vehicles Committee

SB 36  (Robertson-29th)  Bill Link
Increases penalties for pimping and pandering.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

SB 40  (Seay-34th)  Bill Link
Makes it unlawful to possess firearm parts in certain circumstances.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 42  (Williams-25th)  Bill Link
Relating to posting model notice with human trafficking hotline information in businesses and on internet, so as to increase the fine for failure to comply with model notice requirements.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

SB 61  (Strickland-17th)  Bill Link
Makes permanent the ability to use existing sick leave for care of immediate family members.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Industry and Labor Committee.

SB 71  (Jones-10th)  Bill Link
Requires that motorcycle passengers shall be no younger than 16 years of age.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 75  (Parent-42nd)  Bill Link
Establishes the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if such child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, under certain conditions.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 107  (Burns-23rd)  Bill Link
"Izzy’s Law" - Requires the Department of Public Health to develop and make available for download from its internet website a model aquatic safety plan based on national standards for private swim instructors.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 131  (Tillery-19th)  Bill Link
Provides for service by publication relating to permanent guardianship; updates permanent guardianship proceedings.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 133 (Strickland-17th) Bill Link
Creates a uniform process for juvenile courts to follow in placing a child in the custody of DFCS for Children in Need of Services cases as well as delinquency cases.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SB 134 (Cowsert-46th) Bill Link
Provides that a child witness be deemed competent to testify without taking the oath in matters regarding termination of parental rights, and allows the use of narrative form medical reports in dependency and termination of parental rights matters.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 135 (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Bill Link
Aligns evidentiary medical and genetic testing with the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017 in order to determine paternity.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 196 (Watson-1st) Bill Link
Allows the failure to wear a safety belt or safety restraints for children as admissible evidence in civil actions, and prohibits cancellation of insurance coverage for failure to wear a safety belt or safety restraints for children.
Status: Senate Transportation Committee

SB 201 (Estevez-6th) Bill Link
Provides for the revival of claims for damages available to victims of human trafficking for 2 years (until July 1, 2025).
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 216 (Brass-28th) Bill Link
Authorizes respite care for foster parents for longer periods of time pursuant to circumstances delineated in rules and regulations established by the Department of Human Services.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SB 230 (Brass-28th) Bill Link
Revises provisions relating to the foster parents bill of rights; to provide for definitions; to provide that such rights include relative caregivers and fictive kin.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SR 159 (Strickland-17th) Bill Link
Creates the Senate Study Committee on the Parenting Time Deviation in Georgia's Child Support Guidelines Statute.
Status: Senate Rules Committee
Health and Behavioral Health

HB 4  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 5  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia to make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost to students in certain facilities or portions of facilities of institutions.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 6  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for the submission of a waiver request by the Department of Human Services to permit the recipients of certain public assistance benefits to use such benefits for the purpose of purchasing diapers or menstrual hygiene products if the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service makes such waiver available to states.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 7  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Establishes a school-linked behavioral health grant program to provide early identification of and intervention for students with mental health or substance use disorder needs and to build the capacity of K-12 schools to support students with mental health or substance use disorder needs in the classroom.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 9  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Statutorily requires DBHDD to create, operate, and maintain the Georgia Crisis and Access Line, collect certain data and requires any state-operated registry of available inpatient psychiatric beds, crisis residential beds, or substance use disorder beds to report data for purposes of the access line.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 16  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Extends the sunset provision relating to the use of sick leave for the care of immediate family members to July 1, 2026.
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

HB 37  (Beverly-143rd)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community Health to mitigate the potential loss of Medicaid coverage caused by the discontinuation of the continuous enrollment condition of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act by providing, continuing, and expanding services; and to improve training, processes, technology and communication to that end.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 38  (Beverly-143rd)  Bill Link
Expands Medicaid to cover eligibility up to a maximum of 138 percent of the federal poverty level.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 41  (Lim-98th)  Bill Link
Requires that when a person is committed involuntarily for emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency, the physician’s certificate or affidavits shall be affixed to the court order; Personally identifying the affiants shall be redacted and concealed in these instances.
Status: House Public Health Committee
HB 46  (Au-50th)  Bill Link
Expands enhanced punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers to all healthcare workers in a hospital or healthcare facility.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 62  (Park-107th)  Bill Link
"Georgia Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act" - Creates a public, premium formatted health insurance plan for eligible adults with low income.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 69  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Creates a one-year pilot program to provide a monthly supplemental benefit of $75.00 for three months to federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients who have been diagnosed with high glucose, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. The supplemental benefit can only be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets and cooperative marketing associations.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 70  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
"Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act" - Requires a nonparticipating provider, prior to performing any healthcare services, to notify a covered person if such services will require $100.00 or more in out-of-pocket costs.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 74  (Barnes-86th)  Bill Link
Would allow for Medicaid coverage for the prevention and treatment of lymphedema.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 76  (Powell-33rd)  Bill Link
Revises the requirements for an associate marriage and family therapist license to allow the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education to determine the coursework requirements, and the type and minimum amount of hours of clinical experience applicants must have. The bill also revises the clinical experience requirements for those currently licensed as an associate marriage and family therapist, those with a qualifying master's degree, and those with a qualifying doctorate degree.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children and Families Committee

HB 82  (Jackson-128th)  Bill Link
Limits eligibility for the rural physician tax credit to persons qualifying as a rural physician on or before December 31, 2023; and creates a new tax credit for rural physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee. This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 85  (Cooper-45th)  Bill Link
Requires health benefit policy coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 123  (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
Creates an exemption from state sales and use tax for certain menstrual products.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 129  (Hong-103rd)  Bill Link
Expands Temporary Assistance for Needy Families eligibility criteria to pregnant women and repeals a provision relating to elimination of increment in benefits.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children and Families Committee.
HB 140  (Hawkins-27th)  
Bill Link
Provides for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit plan.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 143  (Mathis-149th)  
Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community Health to cover continuous glucose monitors through Medicaid as a pharmacy benefit. Eligibility for coverage includes a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and patient or caregiver training. Additionally, a patient must have use of daily insulin or a history of problematic hypoglycemia to receive the benefit. An in-person or telehealth visit is required within six months prior to and every six months after initial prescription.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 150  (Mainor-56th)  
Bill Link
Revises the definition of "physical therapy" to include ordering diagnostic imaging and using ultrasound.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 161  (Au-50th)  
Bill Link
Establishes the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child. The bill also provides for exceptions and affirmative defenses, for criminal penalties and requires a notice by certain firearm dealers.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 172  (Mainor-56th)  
Bill Link
Requires that notice of admission of an involuntary minor patient under 12 years of age to certain facilities for treatment of mental illness shall be given to his or her parent or legal guardian representative by telephone or in person as soon as possible. Any such facility shall provide such parent or legal guardian representative with at least one update per calendar day as to the minor patient’s state of health and well-being. The parent or legal guardian representative of a minor patient under 12 years of age may consult with the facility regarding the development of such minor patient’s individualized service plan and the minor patient’s treatment under such plan.
Status: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 181  (Townsend-179th)  
Bill Link
Provides that mitragynine and hydroxymitragynine are Schedule I controlled substances and repeals provisions relating to the regulation of kratom.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.  This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

HB 184  (Lim-98th)  
Bill Link
Includes a specific federal regulation under mental health parity requirements.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 191  (Stephens-164th)  
Bill Link
Increases the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes from 37 cents per pack to 57 cents per pack and requires that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 192  (Stephens-164th)  
Bill Link
Increase the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products by 15% of the wholesale cost and requires that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 201  (Schofield-63rd)  
Bill Link
Authorizes the Department of Public Health to carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis of valvular heart disease and to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by valvular heart disease.
Status: House Public Health Committee
HB 213  (Dempsey-13th)  Bill Link
Revises provisions relating to required information given to parents of students in K-12 schools stating that if a local board of education provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians, then certain information about influenza disease and its vaccine and the vaccine for meningococcal meningitis disease must be included.

HB 214  (Powell-33rd)  Bill Link
Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to execute affidavits certifying an individual is disabled for purposes of obtaining special vehicle decals for persons with disabilities, to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances under certain conditions and with certain training. The bill also provides for automatic approval of identical job descriptions under certain conditions.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 215  (Powell-33rd)  Bill Link
Creates licensure requirements for advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and changes the definition of APRN to a person licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing who is either a certified nurse midwife; certified nurse practitioner; certified registered nurse anesthetist; clinical nurse specialist or clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health; or a recognized APRN before June 30, 2006. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to practice as an APRN without a license, and adds licensed APRN and physician assistant to the list of providers eligible to execute affidavits for specialty parking tags based on a person’s disability.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 216  (Lim-98th)  Bill Link
Allows for awards made from the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to sexual assault survivors for medical treatment or counseling.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 226  (Cooper-45th)  Bill Link
Allows the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the U.S. Health Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of providing Medicaid coverage for HIV treatment services. Eligible individuals must have an HIV diagnosis, an income less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level, and no health insurance.

HB 233  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for mental health treatment alternatives to imprisonment and for mental health treatment options (while imprisoned) for a defendant who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, and who currently is, or at any prior time was, eligible for public mental health services due to a diagnosed serious mental illness or who currently is, or at any prior time was, eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits due to a diagnosed serious mental illness.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 234  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires that within 48 hours of taking custody of a person for or within a penal institution, and at any other time thereafter where there is reasonable cause to believe that such person has a mental illness, a custodian shall have a physician of a facility to evaluate such person for mental illness.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 257  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Prohibits feminine hygiene products containing restricted substances from being distributed, sold, or offered for sale in this state.
Status: House Public Health Committee
HB 258  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Starting January 1, 2024, each package or box containing menstrual products sold in this state shall include a plain and conspicuous printed list of all ingredients which shall be listed in order of predominance.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 266  (Byrd-20th)  Bill Link
Repeals the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, as a condition of: access to any government service, building, or space; employment; professional licensure; access to or enrollment and attendance at any public or private pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational institution; educational diploma, certification, licensure, or degree; access to any mode of transportation; access or admittance to any child care facility, healthcare facility, long-term care facility, or nursing home; or admittance to any place of business or entertainment.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 280  (Gambill-15th)  Bill Link
Provides exclusions to unfair trade practices and unlawful inducements by allowing insurance companies to provide products to policyholders that incentivize behavior changes to improve health.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.

HB 286  (Au-50th)  Bill Link
Provides for certain consumer protections against surprise billing for ambulance service; and requires a healthcare plan to reimburse for ambulance service provided to a covered person by a nonparticipating ambulance provider.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 295  (Hawkins-27th)  Bill Link
Improves policies and powers of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to combat surprise billing by insurers.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 308  (Newton-127th)  Bill Link
Replaces the structure for tax credits provided to a physician for medical preceptor rotations from a $500 credit for each of the first three rotations and a $1,000 credit for the fourth through 10th rotation in a calendar year to $1,000 for every medical preceptor rotation up to 10 in a calendar year. The structure for an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is also revised from a $375 credit for each of the first three rotations and a $750 credit for each of the fourth through 10th rotation in a calendar year to $750 for every preceptor rotation up to 10 in a calendar year. The bill adds licensed dentist as eligible for the same tax credit as a physician.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 320  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to require all certificated public school personnel to receive annual training in depression and suicide awareness and prevention.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 339  (Hutchinson-106th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to conduct or coordinate all audits of behavioral health providers.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 343  (Newton-127th)  Bill Link
Requires pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 345  (Mathiak-74th)  Bill Link
Eliminates sales and use tax for products for maintaining oral hygiene, including but not limited to toothbrushes, toothpaste, tooth powders, mouthwash, dental floss, or similar oral hygiene products.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 358  (Bazemore-69th)  Bill Link
Provides for instruction on the best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons in a course of study in sex education and AIDS prevention instruction, and encourages physicians and nurses providing a tampon for use by any female patient under his or her care to recite and provide certain written information regarding the best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 361  (Jackson-128th)  Bill Link
"Eurie Lee Martin Act" - Creates a statewide data base by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to be known as the "ELM Data Base" which will include identifying information from arrest records of individuals who suffer from addictive disease, developmental disabilities, or mental illness. Requires law enforcement officers to use the ELM Data Base whenever practicable while responding to a call. The bill also provides for additional training on how to identify and respond to individuals who suffer from addictive disease, developmental disabilities, or mental illness.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 362  (Mathiak-74th)  Bill Link
Requires a benefit provider upon written request from a treating healthcare provider to provide, within 30 days of such request, a written accounting of any and all payments and reimbursements for such provider’s healthcare.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 378  (Hutchinson-106th)  Bill Link
Updates the reference to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders relating to coverage for autism.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 383  (Reeves-99th)  Bill Link
Enhances penalties for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers and healthcare workers located on a hospital campus.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 399  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Creates the Commission for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.
Status: House Human Resources Committee

HB 405  (Crawford-84th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community Health to conduct an annual review of medications and treatment for sickle cell disease for Medicaid recipients.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 414  (Blackmon-146th)  Bill Link
Creates a grant program within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide behavioral health services to military service members, veterans, and their families.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 416  (Silcox-53rd)  Bill Link
Authorizes qualified pharmacy technicians to administer any COVID-19 vaccine and any vaccine that is included on the adult immunization schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to individuals 18 years of age or older.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 417  (Knight-134th)  Bill Link
Prohibits insurers from denying, restricting, refusing to authorize or approve, failing to cover, or reducing payment to a participating healthcare provider for a provider administered drug or the administration of a provider administered drug in certain circumstances.
Status: House Insurance Committee. This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 428  (Hugley-141st)  Bill Link
Requires the state to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program to children from birth through 18 years of age.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 440  (Stoner-40th)  Bill Link
Authorizes public and private schools to stock a supply of undesignated ready-to-use glucagon and permits prescribers to provide such medication to schools. (Glucagon is a hormone that your pancreas makes to help regulate your blood glucose (sugar) levels.)
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Public Health Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

HB 441  (Dempsey-13th)  Bill Link
Authorizes and regulates teledentistry in this state by licensed dentists pursuant to permits issued by the Georgia Board of Dentistry.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 448  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Prohibits insurers from denying, restricting, refusing to authorize or approve, failing to cover, or reducing payment to a participating healthcare provider for a provider administered drug or the administration of a provider administered drug in certain circumstances.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 487  (Newton-127th)  Bill Link
Expands enhanced punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers to all healthcare workers in a hospital or healthcare facility.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

HB 510  (Barnes-86th)  Bill Link
Provides for breakfast and lunch programs for all public school students in this state, and for such meals to be offered at no cost to students who qualify for reduced price meals under federal and state guidelines. The bill also provides for school breakfast programs under the Quality Basic Education Act regarding funding, and encourages the use of Georgia grown products in school breakfast and lunch programs.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 520  (Jones-25th)  Bill Link
The bill advances policies relative to improving behavioral health outcomes. Among other policies, the bill prohibits denial of renting to individuals with criminal convictions unless those convictions are related to tenancy; changes current law regarding Assisted Outpatient Treatment to ensure that it abides by the state constitution; requires DBHDD in partnership with certain other agencies to define “severe mental illness” and “serious mental illness”; requires CSBs to hire at least one coordinator to handle CSB-Criminal Justice System partnerships*; establishes a public-private partnership to be a clearing house for “familiar faces”, best practices, etc.; develops a pilot program for county jail behavioral health screenings*; conducts a study of behavioral health workforce issues and also a study of expansion of Co-Occurring Clubhouse programs; evaluates need for services for autism (DBHDD & DCH); recommends reform so DJJ can refer to psychiatric treatment and residential services; expands forensic peer monitors; improves response to homelessness, behavioral health and substance misuse; analyzes capacity/policy/services for those found incompetent to stand trial; modernizes licensing boards systems and improve the licensure process for foreign-trained professionals;
adds new data collection/sharing protocols for various state agencies; mandates Medicaid coverage for autism diagnosis, psychological assessments, therapeutic foster care services, etc.; cancels student loans for mental health professionals who are no longer in school and are working delivering mental health services; improves data survey and collection about behavioral health providers; requires the Dept. of Community Affairs to expand supportive housing for mentally ill patients who have criminal records and other challenges.

(*Signifies that the policy is dependent upon appropriations.)

Status: House Public Health Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

**HB 521** (Hilton-48th)  
Provides for Medicaid coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing.  
Status: House Public Health Committee

**HB 525** (Ridley-22nd)  
Provides standards for acceptance by a court of any clinical evaluation relating to substance use or abuse, and requires a clinical evaluation and possible substance abuse treatment for first convictions of driving under the influence.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 546** (Jasperse-11th)  
Revises the definition of "pharmacy care" to allow pharmacists to adapt prescriptions for various reasons.  
Status: House Health Committee

**HB 557** (Stephens-164th)  
Authorizes physicians to delegate the authority to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances to people over 18 under certain conditions.  
Status: House Public Health Committee

**HB 576** (Gullet-19th)  
Prohibits certain health care providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the vaccine status of the potential recipient.  
Status: House Hopper

**HB 578** (Wilkerson-38th)  
Requires the development and distribution of an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student athlete is prescribed an opioid for a sports related injury.  
Status: House Hopper

**HR 43** (Au-50th)  
Creates the Costs and Effects of Smoking Joint Study Committee.  
Status: House Health Committee

**HR 185** (Bennett-94th)  
Creates the House Healthy Food Retail Study Committee to investigate the lack of access to fresh, healthy food in certain rural and urban areas.  
Status: House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

**HR 232** (Hutchinson-106th)  
Creates the House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers.  
Status: House Public Health Committee

**HR 279** (Glaize-67th)  
Creates the Joint Head and Heart Student Health Study Committee.  
Status: House Public Health Committee

**SB 1** (Dolezal-27th)  
Makes permanent (by removing the sunset provision) the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring...
proof of COVID vaccination for government services.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Health Committee.

SB 8  (Davenport-44th)  Bill Link
Creates the Commission for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 9  (Rhett-33rd)  Bill Link
"Kathleen Cominski Act" - Requires state office buildings to have at least one functional automated external defibrillator on site at all times.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 16  (Albers-56th)  Bill Link
Authorizes local entities to establish boundaries for the provision of emergency medical services.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 17  (Rhett-33rd)  Bill Link
Creates a public, premium formatted health insurance plan for eligible adults with income between 100-138% of the Federal Poverty Level.
Status: Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

SB 20  (Kirkpatrick-32nd)  Bill Link
"Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act" - Ensures consumer access to quality healthcare by setting adequacy standards for network plans offered by an insurer.
Status: Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

SB 22  (Kirkpatrick-32nd)  Bill Link
Prohibits the purchase of, sale of, and the offering of samples of hemp products by or to any individual under the age of 18 years old.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 24  (Butler-55th)  Bill Link
Authorizes appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers on behalf of Medicaid recipients and funding the state's portion of the cost to expand the Medicaid program.
Status: Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 47  (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Provides that vaping in restricted areas is a misdemeanor punishable by fine.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Health Committee.

SB 51  (Islam-7th)  Bill Link
Exempts the sale or use of certain menstrual products.
Status: Senate Finance Committee

SB 76  (Merritt-9th)  Bill Link
Requires state health benefit plans to cover insulin medication at an amount not to exceed $35.00 per 30-day supply.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Industry and Labor Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 99  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Provides an exemption from certificate of need for acute care hospitals established in rural counties that meet certain criteria.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote today (MONDAY).
SB 102  (Walker-20th)  Bill Link
Allows the administration of anesthesia by certified registered nurse anesthetists, pursuant to an order by a duly licensed physician, dentist, or podiatrist.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 109  (Echols-49th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 140  (Summers-13th)  Bill Link
Prohibits certain surgical procedures and/or hormone replacement therapies for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors from being performed in hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 141  (Dixon-45th)  Bill Link
Prohibits health care providers from performing specified practices on minors relating to altering a person’s appearance relating to gender and from aiding or abetting such practices for minors. The bill also prohibits school nurses and other employees and officials from engaging in certain conduct relating to a minor’s perception of his or her gender.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 150  (Halpern-39th)  Bill Link
Requires certain public schools, health clubs, and public sports facilities to have at least one functional automated external defibrillator on site.
Status: Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

SB 162  (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Eliminates certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 164  (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Provides for a misdemeanor to practice advanced nursing practice without a license. The bill also clarifies certain roles under the definition of advanced practice medical nurse (APRN) and specifies some licensure protocols.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

SB 177  (Jones II-22nd)  Bill Link
"Food Insecurity Eradication Act" - Creates the Georgia Food Security Advisory Council.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 198  (Harrell-40th)  Bill Link
Creates the Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 223  (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Authorizes reimbursement of patient incurred expenses related to participation in a cancer clinical trial.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**
SB 238  (Hodges-3rd)  Bill Link
Provides for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System and for collaboration with state licensing boards. The bill also provides for a publicly accessible website and for collection of data from state licensing boards.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 246  (Hodges-3rd)  Bill Link
Provides for student loan repayment for certain nursing faculty.
Status: Senate Hopper
Maternal Care and Child Care

HB 1  (Kendrick-95th)  Bill Link
Provides for the compensation of pregnant women who but for a fetal heartbeat law could choose to terminate the pregnancy but are compelled to carry the pregnancy to term and give birth to a child.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 75  (Roberts-52nd)  Bill Link
Provides that natural persons do not include an unborn child and shall not be included in certain population-based determinations.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 211  (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
Creates a tax exemption for certain absorbent diapers, undergarments, and pads.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 235  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for policies for breast milk storage and the breast feeding of a child of an inmate.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 236  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Exempts from licensure early care and education programs that operate on a military installation or are licensed as a family child care provider by a branch of the armed services of the United States.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 298  (Daniel-117th)  Bill Link
Excuses or defers from jury service a natural or adoptive parent who has a child six months of age or younger and has custody of that child, with the excusal or deferment granted upon the parent executing an affidavit.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 496  (Dunahoo-31st)  Bill Link
Adds a section to our homicide law where a human is defined to include an “unborn child...from fertilization until birth.” Functionally, this completely bans abortion and opens pregnant women up to homicide charges should their behavior, intentional or unintentional, cause harm to their pregnancy.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 556  (Smith-18th)  Bill Link
"Pregnancy Protection Act" - Provides for reasonable accommodations to job applicants and employees for circumstances related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions.
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

SB 15  (Harrell-40th)  Bill Link
Provides that natural persons do not include an unborn child and shall not be included in certain population based determinations.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 46  (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Requires physicians and healthcare providers to test all willing pregnant women for HIV and syphilis at the first prenatal visit, at 28–32 weeks’ gestation, and at delivery.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 81  (Anderson-43rd)  Bill Link
Creates the State Board of Community Midwifery and defines roles, responsibilities, and licensure requirements relating to community midwifery.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee
SB 89  (Merritt-9th)  Bill Link
Allows child care and other caregiving services associated with a candidate's campaign to constitute ordinary and necessary expenses of a campaign.
Status: Senate Ethics Committee

SB 106  (Walker-20th)  Bill Link
Provides for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for remote maternal health clinical services under the Medicaid program.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 187  (Setzler-37th)  Bill Link
Includes child-placing agencies and churches as safe haven facilities where newborn infants can be left and sets law regarding when the Division of Family and Children Services would assume custody of infants left at "safe haven" locations.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee
Education

HB 3  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration to support students living in poverty.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 8  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires school attendance policies regarding excused absences take into consideration mental and behavioral health.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 14  (Kendrick-95th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Labor to establish criteria for the certification of workforce readiness programs and the certification of workforce-ready graduates. The bill allows that on and after January 1, 2024, an employer that employs a workforce-ready graduate in a full-time job for at least 40 weeks during a 12-month period shall be eligible for an income tax credit in the amount of $9,600.00 for each workforce-ready graduate.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 39  (Lim-98th)  Bill Link
Provides that no institution of higher education shall refuse to provide an unofficial transcript to a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt, condition the provision of an unofficial transcript on the payment of a debt, or charge a higher fee for obtaining an unofficial transcript or provide less favorable treatment for such a request because a current or former student owes a debt.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 51  (Pirkle-169th)  Bill Link
Authorizes local boards of education to utilize alternative means of transportation other than school buses to transport students to school and school-related activities where appropriate.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 54  (Carson-46th)  Bill Link
Increases the annual aggregate limit of tax credits available for the qualified education tax credit from $120 million to $200 million per year starting in 2024.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 56  (Petrea-166th)  Bill Link
Provides undergraduate full tuition grants to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and prison guards who were killed in the line of duty who attend institutions of the University System of Georgia, so long as the eligible student is under 22 years of age and maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 65  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
"Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia’s Economy Act" - Provides for a pilot program to provide grants for up to six local school systems to develop learning recovery programs for at-risk students to mitigate COVID-19 related lost instructional time.
Status: House Education Committee
HB 81  (Corbett-174th)  Bill Link
Revises the eligibility criteria that a local school system must be currently, or in the most recent three years, ranked in the bottom 25 percent of school systems in sales revenue per full-time equivalent (FTE) student count and value of property per FTE student count. For local school systems in which the amount of special purpose local option sales tax revenues is ranked in the bottom 25 percent of eligible local school systems receiving such sales tax revenues, that system may submit a request to the Department of Education for consideration. The system must commit five years of such revenues to the project. Educational facilities must be more than 35 years old to be consolidated. Once a local school system has received a capital outlay grant and its need is met as determined by the department, it is not eligible to receive another grant for a period of 10 years.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

HB 87  (Erwin-32nd)  Bill Link
Provides for the transition of system-collaborative charter schools to completion special schools by July 1, 2023. Any system-collaborative charter school that did not transition to become an alternative charter school by July 1, 2021, will operate as a state chartered special school. If the state chartered special school does not transition to a completion special school by July 1, 2023, the school will cease operating upon expiration of its current charter with the State Board of Education. The board may not expand the current attendance zone of the school. The bill also creates the 'Completion Special Schools Act'. The board will adopt policies for the establishment, funding, and operation of completion special schools, which focus on dropout recovery/prevention or high school credit recovery for grades nine through 12. The board is authorized to provide up to $5 million in grant funding to encourage and authorize the creation of new completion special schools, subject to appropriation. The board will adopt policies for the dissolution or temporary dissolution of a completion special school upon the recommendation of the state school superintendent for failure to comply with the requirements of Article 31C.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

HB 111  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Creates a pilot program with 6 school systems to implement the student-based funding recommendations of the 2015 Education Reform Commission, mandates pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for all children prior to entering first grade and includes funding for mandatory Pre-K programs.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 122  (Hawkins-27th)  Bill Link
Provides for membership of the board of directors for the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan (GHESP). The bill removes the specified maximum GHESP account balance of $235,000 and allows the board of directors to set a reasonable maximum amount. The bill authorizes the GHESP board of directors to govern the Georgia Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program Corporation.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

HB 127  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Requires the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations for local school system outreach efforts regarding the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs, and to engage in such community outreach efforts. The bill also provides for standards for foreign language interpreters providing services to students in educational settings and requires local school systems to provide certain notices concerning interpretation services.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 130  (Gambill-15th)  Bill Link
Establishes a student loan repayment program for eligible full-time peace officers. The total repayment amount must not exceed $20,000 or the total student debt amount, whichever is less. Payments will be paid in annual installments for a period not exceeding five years. The Georgia Student Finance Authority is authorized to establish rules and regulations to implement the program, and the program is contingent upon appropriation of funds by the General Assembly.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 131  (Carpenter-4th)  Bill Link
Provides that certain students shall be deemed opportunity students and shall be classified for opportunity tuition, subject to certain conditions. The bill also provides for priority consideration for students classified for in-state tuition.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 141  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Requires local school systems to conduct suicide screenings on all students ages eight through 18.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 147  (Wade-9th)  Bill Link
“Safe Schools Act” - Requires the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) to consult with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS), the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to create a school safety and anti-gang endorsement for eligible certificated professional personnel who volunteer to complete a training program approved by the PSC in multidisciplinary best practices for promoting and preserving safe schools, and for identifying and deterring youth gangs. The legislation adds GEMA/HS to those agencies to which the school must submit their school safety plan. Schools are required to conduct intruder alert drills by October 1 of each school year and report to GEMA/HS when the drill is completed. All students are required to participate, but each system may allow an option for a parent/legal guardian to elect, in writing, that the child is not participating.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

HB 148  (Hugley-141st)  Bill Link
Establishes grant funds to be paid by public schools to student teachers who successfully complete their student teaching requirements and requires the State Board of Education to establish rules and regulations to implement the program.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 152  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Adopts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which expedites and enhances the ability of teachers to move across state lines.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 157  (Evans-57th)  Bill Link
Provides that students may receive HOPE grants for remedial and developmental courses within the Technical College System of Georgia that are required for seeking an associate degree there.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 173  (Kennard-101st)  Bill Link
Establishes mandatory pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for all children prior to entering into first grade and lowers the age of compulsory school attendance from six years old to four years old.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 174  (Bentley-150th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Education to provide to parents and guardians of students entering the sixth grade information regarding recommended adolescent vaccinations in print and electronic form.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 177  (Clark-108th)  Bill Link
Requires that the prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention instruction under QBE is age appropriate; to include the subject of consent in such course of study.
Status: House Education Committee
HB 185  (Gaines-120th)  Bill Link
Provides for the establishment of Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) grants. The grants would be awarded to eligible Georgia students enrolled on or before July 1, 2028, in authorized IPSE programs at qualified postsecondary institutions in an amount equal to the current academic year undergraduate tuition at each student's qualified institution.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 202  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Provides that student performers shall not be counted absent from school due to performing in certain productions and requires the instruction and related services provided by a studio teacher to a student performer are aligned with the curriculum and content standards being delivered at the student performer's school. The bill also authorizes the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop certification forms and promulgate rules and regulations and provides for authorizations by parents or guardians relating to the education records of student performers.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 228  (Dempsey-13th)  Bill Link
Expands the definition of "approved school" relating to definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, so as to include certain nursing schools.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 238  (Bruce-61st)  Bill Link
Establishes a five-year pilot program to incentivize qualified local units of administration to utilize school bus monitors to promote and enhance student safety and appropriate student conduct as part of the local unit of administration's transportation program.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 249  (Martin-49th)  Bill Link
Provides Georgia College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed 70 percent of a four-year program or 45 percent of a two-year program. The maximum award amount per eligible student is set at $3,500, with no single payment exceeding $2,500.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 276  (Scoggins-14th)  Bill Link
Revises the definition of approved school with regards to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities to include those located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 282  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Provides for a minimum course of study in career readiness education for students in grades six through 12, including instruction and training experiences focused on employability and career readiness skills. The bill also directs the Department of Education to develop instructional resources and materials concerning employability and career readiness skills, career exploration, and career oriented learning experiences.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 297  (Neal-79th)  Bill Link
Revises the minimum base salary for certificated professional personnel with bachelor's degrees and no experience, for certificated professional personnel with bachelor's degrees and five years of creditable experience, and for a minimum base salary for licensed paraprofessionals. The bill also provides for periodic salary studies.
Status: House Education Committee
HB 310 (Wilkerson-38th)  Bill Link
Revises the definition of the term "Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar" by removing the SAT and ACT score requirements for students who graduate from eligible high schools and updates the SAT and ACT requirement for eligible high school students relating to dual enrollment.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 313 (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
Creates a pilot program whereby qualifying private, nonprofit entities provide instruction and other services for eligible students 21 years of age and older to attain a high school diploma.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 316 (Evans-57th)  Bill Link
Provides that all HOPE grants shall equal the student's undergraduate tuition amount for the current academic standard year and repeals the Zell Miller Grant Scholar program.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 318 (Hilton-48th)  Bill Link
Reestablishes the Office of Charter School Compliance, create the Office of District Flexibility, and requires administrative fees held back by the state or local school system for the administration of charter schools to be used solely for that purpose. The Office of Charter School Compliance is reestablished under the State Charter Schools Commission and assists with the administration, review of, and creation of new local charter schools. The bill creates the Office of District Flexibility under the Department of Education to help school systems become and remain a charter system. Up to three percent may be retained by local boards of education from the charter school funding to provide administrative services for the local charter school. The local board of education must spend these funds solely and directly on administrative services performed for the local charter school. Any funds not expended should be remitted to the local charter school each year by June 30th. The Department of Education may retain up to 3% for the administration of state chartered special schools. Any funds not used by June 30th for the administration of the state chartered special school will be remitted to the school. The State Charter School Commission must follow the same structure relating to retaining and reimbursing state charter schools for the 3% administrative fee collected.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 319 (Martin-49th)  Bill Link
Abolishes the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation and transfers any obligations, liabilities, or assets to the Georgia Student Finance Authority.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

HB 338 (Erwin-32nd)  Bill Link
“Student Technology Protection Act” - amends the 'Quality Basic Education Act' by revising O.C.G.A 20-2-324 to provide that schools promote the safe and appropriate use of technology. By October 1, 2023, each local board of education and charter school governing body will adopt an acceptable use policy with the purpose of preventing and prohibiting any computer or network from accessing obscene materials. Each system will take necessary steps to implement and enforce the acceptable use policy to filter grade-appropriate content on school-owned devices.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 340 (Corbett-174th)  Bill Link
Allows for daily duty-free planning periods for teachers in grades six through 12.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 341 (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Enacts the "Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act". Among other things, the bill requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired student to determine such student's need for Braille instruction; and requires Braille instruction in the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student as Status: House Education Committee
HB 367 (Scott-76th)  
Bill Link
Provided for up to $500,000 in matching grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration for the purpose of providing home reading programs for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, prioritizing economically disadvantaged households.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 392 (Jasperse-11th)  
Bill Link
Creates the Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals to foster a public-private partnership for support of postsecondary teaching professionals in high demand courses, subjects, and disciplines.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 427 (Kennard-101st)  
Bill Link
Prohibits the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, and public postsecondary institutions from asking applicants whether they have been arrested or convicted of certain crimes.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 443 (Horner-3rd)  
Bill Link
Requires a printed copy of the United States Constitution to be provided to every public school student in this state in a grade to be determined by the State School Superintendent; allows for a printed copy of the United States Constitution to be part of a bound volume including other historically significant documents; and for the volume to be distributed during Celebrate Freedom Week by public schools.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 457 (Ballard-147th)  
Bill Link
Removes the needs development rating from the group of performance evaluation ratings which may adversely impact an educator’s ability to obtain a renewable certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 504 (Hatchett-155th)  
Bill Link
Excludes amounts attributable to level 1 freeport exemptions for purposes of calculating local five mill share.
Status: House Education Committee.  
This bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 506 (Ehrhart-36th)  
Bill Link
Changes the criteria for agencies which accredit public K-12 schools and creates the Georgia Commission for Educational Accreditation.
Status: House Education Committee.  
This bill will be heard in subcommittee this TUESDAY.

HB 513 (Clark-108th)  
Bill Link
Provides that the prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention instruction is age appropriate.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 537 (Evans-89th)  
Bill Link
Requires the Department of Early Care and Learning to provide for age-appropriate, evidence-based literacy instruction training requirements for certain child care providers and for the Professional Standards Commission to require that teacher education programs include mandatory coursework in age-appropriate, evidence-based literacy instruction. The bill also requires the Professional Standards Commission to revise standards for acquiring and maintaining teacher certification in all teaching fields to include requirements regarding age-appropriate, evidence-based literacy instruction.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 538 (Ballard-147th)  
Bill Link
"Georgia Early Literacy Act" - Requires the State Board of Education to approve high-quality instructional materials to be used for teaching students in kindergarten through third grade.
Status: House Education Committee.  
This bill will be heard in subcommittee this TUESDAY.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 562</td>
<td>Jones-25th</td>
<td>Recognizes certain accrediting agencies as evaluators of the quality of education offered in public schools. Status: House Education Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 579</td>
<td>Barrett-24th</td>
<td>Revises the prior school year requirement for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act and revises provisions for expedited completion of a student's first Individualized Education Program as well as the requirement that students who previously qualified for the scholarship have an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan. Status: House Hopper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 585</td>
<td>Jones-25th</td>
<td>Allows each local board of education of a high growth school system to, by resolution, impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees within any area of such school system with a total increase in student enrollment of 20% or more during the immediately preceding ten-year period. Status: House Hopper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 42</td>
<td>Scoggins-14th</td>
<td>Constitutional Amendment - Authorizes the General Assembly to provide by law that local school superintendents shall be elected by voters as an alternative to being appointed by local boards of education, if approved by local referendum. Status: House Education Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 278</td>
<td>Parsons-44th</td>
<td>Creates the House Study Committee on Civics Education in Georgia. Status: House Special Rules Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 281</td>
<td>Olaleye59th</td>
<td>Creates the House Study Committee on Lottery Revenues, Reserves, and Educational Programs. Status: House Higher Education Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 303</td>
<td>Jones-25th</td>
<td>Constitutional Amendment for enabling legislation (HB 585) that provides that the General Assembly may by general law authorize local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees and use the proceeds to pay for a share of the cost of education-related expenses. Status: House Hopper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 4</td>
<td>Davenport-44th</td>
<td>Enacts the &quot;Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act&quot;. Among other things, the bill requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired student to determine such student's need for Braille instruction; and requires Braille instruction in the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student as appropriate. Status: Senate Education &amp; Youth Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 18</td>
<td>James-35th</td>
<td>Allows students and their siblings to attend the same schools so long as they continue to reside in the same resident school system. Status: Senate Education &amp; Youth Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 32</td>
<td>Anavitarte-31st</td>
<td>&quot;Alyssa's Law&quot; - Requires local education agencies to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple state and local first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency. Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education &amp; Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SB 45 (Anavitarte-45)  Bill Link
Allows a parent or guardian of a student being treated for epilepsy or a seizure disorder to seek support and services for the student's seizures while the student is at school or participating in a school related function by submitting to the local school system or school at which the student is enrolled a copy of a seizure action plan.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SB 50 (Burns-23rd)  Bill Link
Allows that local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety.
Status: PASSED SENATE

SB 52 (Parent-42nd)  Bill Link
Requires the Georgia Student Finance Commission to establish participation and performance targets for the Dual Enrollment program and to annually measure and evaluate the program and report certain data analyses related to the program to the Governor and the General Assembly.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 58 (Hickman-4th)  Bill Link
Revises and repeals certain provisions for alternative charter schools; provides for the continued operation of state chartered special schools until no later than the expiration of each such school's current charter with the State Board of Education.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 86 (Brass-28th)  Bill Link
Allows eligible students participating in the Dual Enrollment program to access HOPE career grant funds for certain CTAE courses irrespective of whether they have reached maximum credit hour caps.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 88 (Summers-13th)  Bill Link
Prevents an adult acting in loco parentis from providing to or obtain from a child information of a sensitive nature (meaning sex ed or information regarding a child's sexual orientation or gender identity, other than the child's biological sex) without the express written permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, including if a child indicates a desire to discuss information of a sensitive nature with an adult acting in loco parentis. The bill also prohibits an adult acting in loco parentis from engaging in instruction, education, or training of a child while dressed in a sexually provocative manner, applying current community standards, as determined by the school, social services agency, library, camp, or similar facility or program, without the express written permission of the child's parent or legal guardian. In addition, any request to change a student's official school record to reflect a change in the student's gender shall be in writing and accompanied by a copy of the student's amended birth certificate reflecting the change in gender and a written consent form signed by all of the child's parents or legal guardians.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 96 (Anavitarte-31st)  Bill Link
Provides that the Professional Standards Commission's standards and procedures for certification programs shall be neutral with respect to whether such programs are provided by for-profit or not-for-profit entities and shall consider teacher programs outside of this state which meet certain requirements of the commission.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 98  (Anavitarte-31st)  Bill Link
Prohibits local board of education members from discussing individual personnel matters with school officials except under certain circumstances provided by law; states that no local board of education member shall retaliate against the local school superintendent or a school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel for engaging in protected political activity; and that local board of education members should be professional and provide fair and courteous treatment in their dealings with members of the public.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 105  (Walker-20th)  Bill Link
Revises the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retiree retirement benefits payable upon normal, early, or delayed retirement in the Public School Employees Retirement System.
Status: Senate Retirement Committee

SB 112  (Anavitarte-31st)  Bill Link
Establishes a pilot program whereby qualifying private nonprofit entities provide instruction and other services for eligible students 21 years of age and older to attain a high school diploma.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee.

SB 123  (Anavitarte-31st)  Bill Link
Requires a state funded administration of a nationally recognized career and college readiness assessment and an assessment leading to a nationally recognized workforce credential to public school students in grades 11 and 12 who choose to participate.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 137  (Burns-23rd)  Bill Link
Revises the definition of approved school with regards to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities to include those located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 147  (Still-48th)  Bill Link
Permits student transfers between local school systems without contracts between the local school system where the student resides and the local school system where the student seeks to enroll. The bill also caps on tuition that can be charged to a student by an enrolling local unit of administration that exclusively provides virtual instruction to such student.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 154  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Eliminates the library exception from the sale or distribution of harmful materials to minors law.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 169  (Payne-54th)  Bill Link
Provides for limits on the extension of hearing dates for student discipline tribunals and requires local school systems to provide appropriate grade-level instructional materials to any student subject to in-school suspension, short-term suspension, or long-term suspension pending completion of the student discipline tribunal.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 170  (Albers-56th)  Bill Link
Provides for the qualification and selection of students to advise the State Board of Education and local boards of education, and provides for the Georgia Teacher of the Year to be invited to advise the State Board of Education.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 202 (Rahman-5th) **Bill Link**
Provides for the GaDOE to establish and study a pilot program of outdoor learning spaces on elementary and secondary school property in order to determine whether and how to implement best practices and design standards for outdoor learning spaces.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

SB 204 (Dolezal-27th) **Bill Link**
Recognizes certain accrediting agencies as evaluators of the quality of education offered in public schools in this state.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 207 (Estevez-6th) **Bill Link**
Revises the minimum base salary for certificated professional personnel with bachelor's degrees and from zero to two years of creditable service to no less than $49,092.00. The bill also provides for periodic salary studies.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 208 (Dolezal-27th) **Bill Link**
Allows each local board of education of a high growth school system to, by resolution, impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees within any area of such school system with a total increase in student enrollment of 20% or more during the immediately preceding ten-year period.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 211 (Hickman-4th) **Bill Link**
Establishes the Georgia Council on Literacy and requires local school systems to develop and implement five-year literacy plans for such school system and individual literacy plans for students in kindergarten through grade five. The bill also replaces the Education Coordinating Council with the Alliance of Education Agency Heads.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 233 (Dolezal-27th) **Bill Link**
Provides for the establishment of promise scholarship accounts for private schools to be funded by the state in the amount of $6,000.00 per school year for each participating student in K-12.
Status: Senate Education & Youth Committee

SB 237 (Hatchett-50th) **Bill Link**
Provides for student loan repayment for peace officers.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB 241 (Hickman-4th) **Bill Link**
Lowers the starting age for compulsory education attendance from six years to five years of age.
Status: Senate Hopper

SB 252 (Anavitarte-31st) **Bill Link**
Authorizes the State Board of Education to establish a program to assist public schools, local school systems, and students in home study programs to use interactive online learning modules for instruction of students in grades six through 12 in United States history based on content standards approved by the State Board of Education.
Status: Senate Hopper

SR 121 (Butler-55th) **Bill Link**
Creates the Senate Helping Georgia Students Overcome COVID-19 Related Learning Loss Study Committee.
Status: Senate Rules Committee

SR 144 (Estevez-6th) **Bill Link**
Creates the Senate Expanding Early Childhood Education Study Committee.
Status: Senate Rules Committee
SR 175  (Brass-28th)  Bill Link
Creates the Joint Study Committee on Dual Enrollment for Highly Skilled Talent at Younger Ages.
Status: Senate Rules Committee

SR 189  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Constitutional Amendment for enabling legislation (SB 208) that provides that the General Assembly may by general law authorize local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees and use the proceeds to pay for a share of the cost of additional educational facilities.
Status: Senate Education and Youth Committee
Miscellaneous

HB 15  (Kendrick-95th)  Bill Link
Requires the state to establish a task force to evaluate and monitor the broadband equity of state-funded broadband network projects.
Status: House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee

HB 24  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Provides for the placement of a digital monument within the state capitol building or upon the capitol grounds to memorialize the Georgians who have died from COVID-19.
Status: House Special Rules Committee

HB 25  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Allows each toy manufacturer that increases its expenditures incurred in this state for materials or labor used directly in the manufacture of wooden toys for children by at least 30 percent from its preceding taxable year to claim a tax credit in the amount of 20 percent of the increase in such expenditures.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 26  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community affairs to include certain indoor air quality provisions in applicable state minimum standard codes to require the installation of indoor air quality equipment and utilization of best practices in new construction permitted on or after July 1, 2024. These provisions include (but are not limited to) HVAC systems that can utilize a MERV 13 filter; adequate humidity control to maintain the humidity near or below 50 percent at room temperature; and fresh air ventilation through HVAC systems.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 30  (Carson-46th)  Bill Link
Defines "antisemitism" for purposes of state law, using the advisory definition adopted on May 26, 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The bill includes the examples of antisemitism set forth by the IHRA. State departments and agencies will consider antisemitism as evidence of discriminatory intent for any law that prohibits discrimination or under any hate crimes provision. The bill does not diminish any rights protected under the First Amendment. The bill amends the terroristic threats statute in O.C.G.A. 16-11-37 by including in the offense of a terroristic act using in an unlawful manner antisemitic imagery such as a swastika with the intent to terrorize another person, their household, their property, or their public property.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 32  (Douglas-78th)  Bill Link
Requires athletic associations to utilize instant replay or a video review protocol during Georgia high school football state championship games.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 44  (Au-50th)  Bill Link
Requires universal background checks in all manner of firearm transfers and purchases.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 68  (Thomas-65th)  Bill Link
Increases the tax credit available to employers that offer certain child care services for employees from 50% to 90% of the taxpayer's liability.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 78  (Alexander-66th)  Bill Link
Requires all employers to implement paid sick leave for employees. Requires an employee to be compensated at the same rate of pay and with the same benefits, including, but not limited to, healthcare benefits, as the employee earns from the employer at the time the employee uses the sick time.
Status: House Industry & Labor Committee
HB 79  (Park-107th)  
Revises a state income tax credit based to provide for a state income tax credit equal to 25% of the federal child tax credit, and for an income tax credit equal to 20% of the federal earned income tax credit.  
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 83  (Gunther-8th)  
Allows owners, operators, lessees, or tenants of the property at which an athletic contest, entertainment event, or performing arts event is being held, or the sponsor of such a contest or event, may restrict access to such property and may reserve the right to revoke the license granted by a ticket at any time and for any lawful reason, including without limitation for safety and security reasons or due to any other lawful purpose.  
Status: House Regulated Industries Committee

HB 88  (Gaines-120th)  
Establishes protocols for review of cold case murder files by law enforcement agencies.  
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill now rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 89  (Bruce-61st)  
Establishes the Georgia Equity and Fairness Commission for examining the impact of slavery on the descendants of slaves and recommending appropriate remedies.  
Status: House Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 163  (McDonald-26th)  
Provides for student loan repayment for medical examiners employed by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.  
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 167  (Momtahan-17th)  
Amends the list of individuals with a suspended, revoked, or cancelled license eligible to apply for a limited driving permit by adding persons not in compliance with a child support order. The bill provides conditions for revocation of a limited driving permit.  
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

HB 180  (Martinez-111th)  
Exempts from taxes equipment sold to and used by a qualified food bank for their primary purposes.  
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 237  (Hagan-156th)  
Designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia.  
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Special Rules Committee. The bill will be on the House floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

HB 241  (McClain-109th)  
Increases the minimum wage from $5.15 to $15.00 per hour. The bill states that employers of employees that meet the eligibility requirements for the tip credit under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 203(t), may credit tips toward the satisfaction of up to 50% of the minimum wage. There are exclusions for various employment situations.  
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

HB 242  (Hitchens-161st)  
Increases traffic violation under 'Joshua's Law' fines by 3%.  
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.
HB 245 (Evans-57th)  [Bill Link]
Repeals certain provisions relating to the preemption of wage and employment benefit mandates adopted by a local government entity.
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

HB 291 (Scoggins-14th)  [Bill Link]
Adds advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered professional nurse, physician assistant, licensed master’s social worker, marriage and family therapist, and professional counselor to the list of those authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a guardian for an adult.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 293 (Byrd-20th)  [Bill Link]
Provides for protections against the infringements on the right to keep and bear arms and prohibits the enforcement or assistance in the enforcement of certain federal laws or actions relative to firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 301 (Ridley-6th)  [Bill Link]
Sets the penalty at $250 for improperly overtaking a school bus and prohibits the addition of any other fees, fines, or penalties. The bill caps the maximum fee that may be charged for electronic processing of a penalty for speeding in a school zone at $25. Any agent, law enforcement agency, or governing body that violates this provision will be fined $1,000. O.C.G.A. 40-14-11 now includes penalties collected for speeding in a school zone in the calculation for total speeding fine revenue.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 304 (Neal-79th)  [Bill Link]
Increases protections for tenants of residential properties.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 321 (Scott-76th)  [Bill Link]
Establishes the Healthy Food Development Program to expand access to healthy foods in eligible areas by providing assistance to grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets, and other small food retailers.
Status: House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

HB 353 (Powell-33rd)  [Bill Link]
Legalizes coin-operated amusement machines overseen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation
Status: House Regulated Industries Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

HB 357 (New-64th)  [Bill Link]
Provides a process for individuals to change their surname to their birth certificate surname.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 375 (Leverett-123rd)  [Bill Link]
Defines the term "gross settlement" to mean the present value of all amounts paid or to be paid in settlement of the claim, including cash, medical expenses, expenses of litigation, attorney’s fees, and any amounts allocated to a structured settlement or other similar financial arrangement when relating to authority of conservator and cooperation with guardian or other interested parties.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 380 (Wiedower-121st)  [Bill Link]
Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting by the Georgia Lottery Corporation.
Status: House Higher Education Committee.

HB 420 (Roberts-52nd)  [Bill Link]
Prohibits a landlord from knowingly and willfully suspending air conditioning.
Status: House Judiciary Committee
**HB 432 (Schofield-63rd)**  
Prohibits discrimination based on hairstyles associated with race, color, or national origin with regards to housing.  
Status: House Judiciary Committee

**HB 433 (Schofield-63rd)**  
Requires the General Assembly to develop equity impact statements regarding policy areas including, but not limited to, racial, socioeconomic, health, and other similar factors, and that such statements be prepared for and attached to all proposed legislation that would impact such policy areas.  
Status: House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee

**HB 485 (McClain-109th)**  
Requires that by January 1, 2024, all eligible full-time state employees shall be paid a minimum wage of not less than $15.00 an hour.  
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

**HB 501 (Silcox-53rd)**  
Allows youth 14 years old or older to be hired in summer months to do yard work, including on the grounds of mills and factories. The bill also states that an employment certificate, a certificate of age, or a youth work permit is not required as a condition of employment for a youth 18 or younger to work for a government job.  
Status: House Industry and Labor Committee

**HB 507 (Ridley-6th)**  
Requires certain additional information to be provided to beauty pageant contestants before accepting a fee.  
Status: House Small Business Development Committee. **This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

**HB 534 (Gillard-162nd)**  
Repeals restrictions on rent regulation by local governments and requires landlords to provide at least 60 days' notice to terminate certain tenancies  
Status: House Government Affairs Committee

**HB 555 (Scott-76th)**  
Prohibits the possession of devices which attach to firearms to produce rapid fire.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HB 570 (Cameron-1st)**  
Establishes the Healthy Food Development Program to expand access to healthy foods in eligible areas by providing assistance to grocery stores, corner stores, farmers' markets, and other small food retailers.  
Status: House Hopper

**HR 10 (Thomas-65th)**  
Creates the House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities.  
Status: House Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunications Committee

**HR 139 (Neal-79th)**  
Creates the House Study Committee on Alternatives to Mass Shooter Prevention Methods.  
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**HR 210 (Beverly-143rd)**  
Constitutional Amendment - Authorizes the Georgia General Assembly to provide by general law for sports betting, pari-mutuel betting, and casino gambling and directs allocation of revenues of such activities to education, poverty reduction, infrastructure, economic development, the arts, and other priorities.  
Status: House Regulated Industries Committee
SB  3  (Albers-56th)  Bill Link
"Reducing Barriers to State Employment Act of 2023" - Requires every state department, agency, board, bureau, office, commission, public corporation, and authority to regularly assess the educational, experiential, and training requirements necessary for each position of employment within the entity and identify positions where the educational, experiential, and training requirements could be reduced from their present level; and when practicable, reduce the number of positions for which a four-year college degree is required as a condition of employment.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee.

SB  25 (Butler-55th)  Bill Link
Increases the Georgia minimum wage to reflect cost of living increases.
Status: Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

SB  38 (Robertson-29th)  Bill Link
Removes schools from signing off on cameras that enforce speed limits in school safety zones.
Status: Senate Public Safety Committee

SB  48 (James-35th)  Bill Link
Creates the Equity and Reconciliation Commission of Georgia.
Status: Senate Government Oversight Committee

SB  55 (Parent-42nd)  Bill Link
Prohibits the regulation of businesses of persons under 18 years of age which are located on private property with the permission of the property owner and generate gross receipts of $3,000.00 or less in a calendar year per business.
Status: Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee

SB  57 (Hickman-4th)  Bill Link
Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting and for additional powers and duties of the Georgia Lottery Corporation.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Insurance Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB  62 (Summers-13th)  Bill Link
Prohibits certain local ordinances or policies relating to public camping or sleeping; requires a performance audit by the state auditor on public spending on homeless programs; provides for sanctioned camping areas for the homeless; and among other things, requires the use of certain federal funds for supportive services in transitional housing for the homeless.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee

SB  64 (Robertson-64th)  Bill Link
Allows for the issuance of a copy of the original birth certificate to persons 18 years old or older who were adopted.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SB  67 (Moore-53rd)  Bill Link
Provides for protections against the infringements on the right to keep and bear arms and prohibits the enforcement or assistance in the enforcement of certain federal laws or actions relative to firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB  77 (Robertson-29th)  Bill Link
Establishes protocols for review of cold case murder files by law enforcement agencies.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB  82 (Anderson-43rd)  Bill Link
Prohibits discrimination based on protective hairstyles associated with race, color, or national origin.
Status: Senate Industry and Labor Committee
SB 118  (Parent-42nd)  Bill Link
Creates a state income tax credit equal to 25% of the federal child tax credit and an income tax credit equal to 20% of the federal earned income tax credit.
Status: Senate Finance Committee

SB 125  (James-35th)  Bill Link
Repeals restrictions on rent regulation by local governments.
Status: Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee

SB 172  (Cowsert-46th)  Bill Link
Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting, overseen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation.
Status: Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

SB 174  (Dixon-45th)  Bill Link
Legalizes coin-operated amusement machines overseen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation
Status: Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee

SB 180  (Setzler-37th)  Bill Link
Provides for the preservation of religious freedom relating to state government.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 195  (Walker-20th)  Bill Link
Enacts statutes to facilitate licensure of transitioning service members, military spouses, and other qualified individuals who have certifications from or work experience in the military or licenses from or work experience in another state.
Status: Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 228  (Rahman-5th)  Bill Link
Establishes the position of director of outdoor recreation in the Department of Natural Resources.
Status: Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee. This bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

SB 232  (Kennedy-18th)  Bill Link
Provides for probate court fees and to provide for funding of the State Children’s Trust Fund, among other things.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 235  (Halpern-39th)  Bill Link
Creates the HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Commission.
Status: Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee

SB 256  (Mallow-2nd)  Bill Link
Authorizes counties and municipalities to enter into certain long-term leases relating to affordable workforce housing projects or undertakings.
Status: Senate Hopper

SB 257  (Mallow-2nd)  Bill Link
Changes the definition of "business enterprise" to include new workforce housing construction and workforce housing rehabilitation.
Status: Senate Hopper

SR 6  (Gooch-51st)  Bill Link
Agreed upon adjournment resolution (schedule) for the General Assembly through Sine Die (the last day of the 2023 legislative session).
Status: ADOPTED by both chambers
SR 203  (Jones-10th)  Bill Link
Creates the Senate Safe Firearm Storage Study Committee.
Status: Senate Hopper
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

Raise the Age

Be a voice for children!

The Ask: Ask House Rules to vote YES to get the “Raise the Age Act”, House Bill 462 up for a vote by the full house.

The Bill: HB 462 creates a multi-agency implementation committee to change the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to encompass non-violent 17-year-olds who are first-time offenders.

The Why:

• In juvenile court, more so than in adult court, a 17-year-old is much more likely to be mandated to attend school, make restitution to victims and attend community-based rehabilitative programs that focus on the causes of the problem behavior.
• The vast majority of offenses committed by 17-year-olds are misdemeanors.
• Raising the age will improve youth outcomes, save taxpayer dollars, and make our state safer by solving problems in an effective way.
• Studies about brain development support the idea of keeping youth who commit offenses in juvenile court until at least age 17.
• The juvenile justice system does a better job than the adult system of holding young people accountable when they commit minor offenses.
• Current law shuts out parents of 17-year-olds. These children -and their parents- deserve the opportunity to navigate the court system as a family, with full parental rights intact.
• Georgia is one of the last three states (along with Texas and Wisconsin) that processes all 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system.

• If HB 462 passes, serious offenders 13 and older will continue to be processed in adult court.

• Click Here for our Groovy Factsheet on RTA!
The Message:

Dear Representative __________,

Please bring HB 462 to the House floor for a vote by the full House. This bill creates a multi-agency implementation committee to change the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to encompass non-violent 17-year-olds who are first-time offenders. The juvenile justice system does a better job than the adult system of holding young people accountable when they commit minor offenses by requiring youth to attend school, make restitution to victims, and attend community-based rehabilitative programs that focus on the causes of the problem behavior. Please note that this bill does NOT affect serious young offenders, who will continue to be tried in adult court. Thank you for your service and for all you do for Georgia’s children.

The Contact Info.:

Click Here to Contact the House Rules Committee Members
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

Home Visiting

Be a voice for children!

The Ask: Ask members of the House Appropriations Health Subcommittee to include $2 Million in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to fund Home Visiting pilots for new mothers and infants in 12 high needs counties.

The Why:

- This program will provide home visiting in at risk/underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality/morbidity.
- Home visiting programs can:
  - Increase healthy pregnancies,
  - improve parenting skills,
  - improve child health and development,
  - strengthen family connectedness to community support, and
  - reduce child abuse and neglect.
- This pilot will provide a full spectrum of services to support families during this time, including:
  - Clinical Services for pregnant and postpartum women like blood pressure checks, temperature, weight, assessment of pregnancy warning signs, etc.
  - Support for mother/infant bonding, lactation support, postpartum depression screening and link to services, feeding assessment and weight checks for baby, assessment of safe sleep practices and education as indicated, age-appropriate infant development screening assessments, etc.
  - Link to resources and services as indicated including health care and care coordination with primary provider, Children 1st, WIC, SNAP/TANF, Medicaid, behavioral health services, infant items (car seats, clothing, etc.), dental services, domestic violence community resources, etc.
- This pilot will be conducted in the following counties: Coffee, Atkinson, Clinch, Jeff Davis, Evans, Candler, Toombs, Bulloch, Habersham, Stephens, Franklin, Hart, and Banks

- Learn more about Home Visiting with Voices Home Visiting Factsheet
- Learn more about the Home Visiting Pilot with the DPH Factsheet
The Message:

Dear Representative _____________,

Please include $2 Million in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Department of Public Health to fund Home Visiting pilots for new mothers and infants in 12 high needs counties. This program will provide home visiting in at risk/underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality and morbidity. What’s more, home visiting has been shown to improve parenting skills, improve child health and development, and reduce child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the children and families of our great state.

The Contact Info.:

Click Here to Contact the House Appropriations Health Subcommittee Members
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for these events:

Tuesday’s starting Jan 24
Talk Justice Tuesdays
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER