SB 20 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)  Bill Link
"Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act" - Requires insurers to contract with and maintain a sufficient and appropriate number of participating network providers. Additionally, insurers are prohibited from denying preauthorization of services that were rendered by an in-network provider because the referring provider is out-of-network. The bill gives the insurance commissioner authority to review network adequacy.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

SB 47 (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Adds the smoking of electronic smoking or vaping devices to the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005.

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

SB 140 (Summers-13th)  Bill Link
Prohibits the use of sex reassignment surgeries and hormone replacement therapies on minors in a licensed institution for the treatment of gender dysphoria. Exceptions include treatment of sex development disorders, androgen insensitivity syndrome, and other medical conditions. Additionally, minors who began hormone replacement therapies before July 1, 2023 are exempt. Licensed physicians in violation will be held administratively responsible by the medical board.
Status: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE.

SB 164 (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Creates licensure requirements for advanced practice registered nurses and changes the definition of "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) to only 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. The bill adds anesthesiologist assistant to the Georgia Composite Medical Board in an advisory-only capacity to the board and to the board-appointed Physician Assistants Advisory Committee. Section 6 of SB 164 is the 'Anesthesiologist Assistant Act', which creates the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and provides for licensure and renewal requirements. This bill allows for anesthesiologist assistants to perform duties and responsibilities as delegated by the supervising anesthesiologist and requires the supervising anesthesiologist or an alternate supervising anesthesiologist to be immediately available to intervene if needed during the delivery of care. The bill allows for a supervising anesthesiologist to delegate to an anesthesiologist assistant the authority to order controlled substances, dangerous drugs, medical treatments, and diagnostic studies. The bill states that the board can issue a previously revoked license under certain conditions after rehabilitation and makes it a misdemeanor to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant without a license. Authority is granted for an anesthesiologist assistant to provide care for up to 48 hours during a state of emergency or public health emergency.