vote on the Senate floor for either today (MONDAY) or this WEDNESDAY.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 228  (Dempsey-13th)  Bill Link
Expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions which offer: baccalaureate programs in nursing; have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least five years; have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions must have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85% for the National Council Licensure Examination, and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved for students who enroll on or before July 1, 2025. The bill was amended to include provisions from HB 641 which, relates to definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities. It revises the definition of approved school to include schools which were previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, are now accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill is scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor for either today (MONDAY) or this WEDNESDAY.

HB 249  (Martin-49th)  Bill Link
Provides Georgia College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed 70% of a four-year program or 45% of a two-year program. The maximum award amount per eligible student is set at $3,500, with no single payment exceeding $2,500. The bill was amended to also include a provision which, subject to appropriations, allows the state to pay for commercial motor vehicle training for military veterans.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill is scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor for either today (MONDAY) or this WEDNESDAY.

HB 301  (Ridley-6th)  Bill Link
This bill originally increased penalties for overtaking a school bus, but was amended on Legislative Day 38 and those provisions were removed and ultimately amended into HB 348. This bill, HB 301, currently contains the contents of SB 11 and SB 12, which 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. The bill also enhances penalties for abuse of a disabled person or an elder adult. It allows in a criminal proceeding in which the accused is accused of family violence, abuse of a disabled person, an elder adult, or a series of crimes driven by certain prejudices, that evidence of the accused's prior commission of any other like acts to be admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant. The bill grants original jurisdiction to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) for violation of laws concerning domestic, cyber, biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.