Health and Behavioral Health

HB  85  (Cooper-45th)  Bill Link
Requires health benefit policy coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence.
Status: PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

HB  383  (Reeves-99th)  Bill Link
Defines the term "healthcare worker" as any employee or independent contractor of a hospital or other healthcare facility. Increased penalties are added when someone commits aggravitated assault against a healthcare worker or an emergency health worker located on a hospital campus. The penalty is imprisonment between three to 20 years. The bill increases penalties for committing aggravated battery against a healthcare worker or an emergency health worker located on a hospital campus. The penalty is imprisonment between three to 20 years. A new chapter in the Code is created that defines "hospital", "hospital campus", and "hospital peace officer". The provisions allow a hospital guard to have arrest powers while on a hospital campus, and hospital security who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) can be authorized by a hospital to carry a firearm or weapon. Each hospital that employs law enforcement are required to report to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and local law enforcement incidents of criminal gang activity that occurs on or adjacent to the hospital campus. The bill requires records not protected under a state disclosure law to be available for public inspection.
Status: PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB  1  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Removes the sunset on the prohibition that prevents state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of providing services, accessing a facility, issuing licenses or permits, performing duties, and other matters.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB  47  (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Adds the smoking of electronic smoking or vaping devices to the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB  65  (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Allows the state to establish a state-based healthcare exchange.
Status: PASSED SENATE, PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

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. SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR.

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...