March 6, 2023

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Weekly Welcome

As you read this, I am preparing to go into the mouth of the lion known as Crossover Day. If you were to picture me, lacing up my dress-up gym shoes, grabbing some extra socks, and tracking down my trash-can-sized bottle of ibuprofen, you would not be wrong. Like Sine Die (the last day of session), Crossover Day is one of those calendared events that usually requires an extra dose of stamina (with a side of fries). While hardly as dashing or as rugged as Indiana Jones, or as calm and cool as 007, I nevertheless consider myself a MacGyver-meets-Monty Python kind of advocate. Accompanied by my well-heeled and extremely trusty assistant, Thomas (an impressive “Batman’s Robin”, as it were), I will ascend the nearly vertical and ominous lot (ParkMobile 70303) towards the People’s House. In my rucksack, I carry a charging block, a paper clip, some tissues, and duct tape – though not together! – some earbuds, gum, a couple of coconut halves, a rubber band, a sharpie, and a banana (rife with comic opportunity!). You can never be too prepared for rowdy marauders, surprise amendments, or killer bunnies. Why, I’ve even started to carry handfuls of those little toothbrushes with the toothpaste built-in that my friend Jay turned me onto, just in case we encounter a herd of dental hygienists working a bill to fruition. But, most of all, I will come armed with a sense of humor and a quiver of hope that all the bills that are good for kids will “cross over” to the other chamber in time for the legislative sequel, Good Bills Can’t Die 2.

So, grab some popcorn (and a shrubbery), sit back in your (electric) Aston Martin, and enjoy the drive-in. The script is below (the bills) and the interactive part (the Action Alert) can be found here.

Galloping off into the fog –

008

Python MacGyver

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Legislative Update
As of 03/03/2023

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 Committee

**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. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

**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 of 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
Allows for the admission of an out-of-court statement, which is currently hearsay, as testimony in court when a disabled adult or a 17-year-old who is mentally or physically incapacitated describes any act of nonconsensual sexual contact or any act of physical abuse performed with or on the disabled adult or 17-year-old. The person to whom the information was told must be available to be cross examined. The disabled adult or 17-year-old who is mentally or physically incapacitated must testify about the alleged abuse.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 227  (Leverett-123rd)  Bill Link
Clarifies that the offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree can be committed through electronic means against critical infrastructure or any vital public service. The penalty for this crime is increased to imprisonment between two to 20 years. The bill revises the misdemeanor crime of interfering with property of public utility companies, municipalities, or political subdivisions owning critical infrastructure by prohibiting a person from altering or interfering with critical infrastructure. The definition for "critical infrastructure" in O.C.G.A. 16-11-220 is amended to include other vital public services.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

HB 231  (Gullett-19th)  Bill Link
Creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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

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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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
Modifies the crime of aggravated assault to include when someone immediately exits a vehicle and discharges a firearm at a person, an occupied motor vehicle, or an occupied building. The penalty is five to 20 years imprisonment. The crime of criminal damage to property in the first degree is revised to include when someone knowingly and without justification causes damage to a building by discharging a firearm while inside a vehicle or after immediately existing a motor vehicle. This also increases the penalty for second or subsequent violations to imprisonment of between five to 20 years. The bill creates a new crime of drive-by shooting when a person who is either in a motor vehicle or is close to a motor vehicle that they used to drive to the location, discharges a firearm at another person, motor vehicle, or dwelling, with the intent to injure. The penalty is between five to 20 years imprisonment. Penalties for drive-by shootings that result in serious bodily injuries or are against a person under the age of 16 years old are also imprisonment of between five to 20 years.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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 when those individuals are alleged to have committed criminal gang activity or an offense that would be a felony, if tried as an adult, for a second or subsequent time. Parts I and IV of the bill become effective upon the governor's signature. Parts II and III of the bill become effective January 1, 2025, subject to appropriations. If the co-chairpersons of the implementation committee determine that money was not appropriated for that year, the determination will be made during the following years until January 1, 2030. If those funds are appropriated in one of the following years, it will become effective on January 1 of that fiscal year.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. The bill will be on the House Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

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").
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

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

HR 348  (Silcox-53rd)  Bill Link
Creates the House Study Committee on Excessive Vehicle Noise and Related Crimes.
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 will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: PASSED SENATE.

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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. Assigned to House Insurance Committee

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: PASSED HOUSE.

HB 188  (Sainz-180th)  Bill Link
Changes the name of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to the Sexual Offender Risk Review Board (SORRB). The bill defines the term "sexual felony" to be a felony conviction of the following crimes: aggravated assault; kidnapping that involves a victim under the age of 14, except by a parent; sex trafficking; rape; aggravated sodomy; statutory rape; child molestation; aggravated child molestation; enticing a child for indecent purposes; improper sexual contact by employee or agent in the first or second degree or improper sexual contact by a foster parent in the first or second degree, unless the punishment was not subject to O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.2; incest; aggravated sexual battery; and sexual exploitation. Any person who was previously convicted of a sexual felony who is convicted of aggravated assault with the intent to rape; kidnapping; human trafficking for sexual servitude; rape; aggravated sodomy; statutory rape; aggravated child molestation; enticing a child for indecent purposes; improper sexual contact by an employee, agent, or foster parent in the first or second degree; incest; sexual exploitation of children; or aggravated sexual battery is subject to imprisonment for life or a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment followed by probation for life that includes electronic monitoring as a condition of probation. The bill also removes the crime for removing or inhibiting an electronic monitoring device who is required to wear it under O.C.G.A. 42-1-14, as a response in part to the Supreme Court of Georgia case Park v. State. The bill changes the name of SORRB and requires that a defendant who was sentenced to probation submit to SORRB within 60 days of being sentenced for a risk assessment rather than the current requirement of 10 days. Among other provisions, the bill also adds the crime of electronically furnishing obscene material to minors to the list of crimes defined as a "dangerous sexual offense" under O.C.G.A. 42-1- 12(a)(10)(B.4) and clarifies the procedure for when a sexual offender moves from another state or territory to Georgia, the risk assessment process for sexually dangerous predators, and the timelines for when risk assessment evaluations need to be made by SORRB.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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: PASSED HOUSE.

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. When a citation is issued, the driver will receive an assigned hearing date that must be within 60 days of issuance of the citation. If a penalty is unpaid 30 days after a final notice has been mailed, the vehicle's registration cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees have been collected. The bill requires an assigned hearing date to be issued with a citation for improperly overtaking a school bus. Registration of the vehicle cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees are collected.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

HB 404 (Carpenter-4th)  
Bill Link
Requires that rental properties are fit for human habitation. The bill includes cooling as a utility that cannot be shut off prior to an eviction action. Landlords are prohibited from requiring a security deposit that exceeds two months' rent. A tenant, when they fail to pay charges owed to landlord, is afforded a three business day written notice period prior to an eviction proceeding being filed. The eviction notice will be posted conspicuously on the property door in a sealed envelope and delivered via any methods agreed to in the rental agreement.  
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children and Families 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

HB 469 (Houston-170th)  
Bill Link
Directs the Department of Education to evaluate and share best practices with public schools and school systems for the development of crisis response mapping data. The department will work with all state and local governmental entities to facilitate proper communication and sharing of pertinent information relating to threats, warnings, and developing situations. The department will evaluate best practices in the development, acquisition, and implementation of crisis response mapping data by September 1, 2023.  
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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  (Hitchens-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: House Juvenile Justice 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children and Families 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 maximum cash assistance available through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program from 48 months to 60 months effective July 1, 2023. The bill increases the resource limit of an applicant to $5,000, excluding the value of a vehicle if it is used for activities related to work, training, or education. If there is an additional vehicle not used for these purposes, a $4,650 exclusion is applied.

HB 603  (Wiedower-121st)      Bill Link
Expedites and prioritizes processes for the termination of parental rights in certain cases involving parental incapacity and child maltreatment. The bill also revises circumstances for when reasonable efforts by DFCS are not required and requirements for non-reunification hearings.
Status: House Juvenile Justice Committee

HB 638  (Holcomb-81st)      Bill Link
Facilitates state-wide uniformity in policies and procedures concerning law enforcement contact with victims of sexual assault and notifications regarding related forensic medical examinations by law enforcement officers and agencies.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
HB 656  (Reeves-99th)  Bill Link
Revises the offenses of cruelty to children in the second and third degrees and establish the offense of traveling to meet a minor for indecent purposes.
Status: House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Health Committee.

SB 131  (Tillery-19th)  Bill Link
Provides for service by publication relating to permanent guardianship; updates permanent guardianship proceedings.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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: FAILED SENATE.

SB 201 (Estevez-6th)  Bill Link
Provides that for a period of two years following July 1, 2023, any victims who were time barred from filing a civil action for damages resulting from sexual servitude due to the expiration of any statute of limitations in effect on June 30, 2023, shall be permitted to file such actions against any perpetrator before July 1, 2023, thereby reviving those civil actions which had lapsed or technically expired under the law in effect on June 30, 2023.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Currently "Tabled" in the full Senate.

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

SB 258 (Hatchett-50th)  Bill Link
Creates additional duties regarding legal representation of children and parents in the Georgia Child Advocate for the Protection of Children Act and requires an annual report.
Status: Senate Children and Families Committee

SB 281 (Harbison-15th)  Bill Link
Provides judicial discretion in determining the right of a surviving parent to custody of a child when such surviving parent is criminally charged with the murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent.
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
Relating to tax credits for rural physicians, limiting eligibility for the current tax credit to rural physicians who qualify on or before May 15, 2023 and repealing the credit on December 31, 2028. The bill subsequently creates a tax credit of up to $5,000 for rural healthcare professionals, defined as physicians and dentists operating in a rural county. The tax credit may be claimed for up to five years, provided that the healthcare professional continues operating in a rural county. No healthcare professional practicing in a rural county on or before May 5, 2023 is eligible for the tax credit unless they have practiced in a non-rural county for at least three years. If a healthcare professional qualifies for less than the full 12 months in their first year, they will receive a prorated amount of the credit.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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. Recommended Do Pass by Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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
Adds the compound 7-hydroxymitragynine to the definition of "kratom". The bill limits the methods that kratom can be ingested and requires that the sale of kratom be only behind the counter in stores. Anyone violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The bill requires all kratom products to be derived from the natural kratom plant. Any plants that are manufactured or processed cannot be modified to increase the levels of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine beyond the following limits: 150 mg of mitragynine per serving; 0.5 7-hydroxymitragynine per gram; or 1 mg 7-hydroxymitragynine per serving. No product can be sold or delivered in this state above those thresholds. A kratom processor cannot sell or distribute a kratom product that is adulterated or contains certain compounds or substances within it. An entity that manufactures, distributes, sells, or delivers kratom must maintain a registered agent in the state. A processor who knowingly or recklessly commits an act in violation of O.C.G.A. 16-13-122 will be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor as a first offense and a felony on a second or subsequent offense, with a penalty of imprisonment between one to 15 years; a maximum fine of $100,000; or both.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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
Relates to surprise billing and clarifies provisions relating to arbitration. The bill requires the designation of plans that are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the 'Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974'. The bill extends the time insurers have to submit data after an arbitration request is made from 30 to 60 days.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.
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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance 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 benefit providers to provide a written account of payments and reimbursements for services to treating providers upon 30 days of a request being made.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

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
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 aggravated 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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee.

HB 416 (Silcox-53rd)  
Bill Link
Allows for qualified pharmacy technicians to administer any COVID-19 vaccine and any vaccine on the adult immunization schedule to individuals 18 years of age or older. The supervising pharmacist will have discretion over delegating the authority to administer vaccines and must be readily available to the pharmacy technician when a vaccine is being administered.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services 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. The bill will be heard in committee this morning (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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
HB 441  (Dempsey-13th)  
Prevents licensed dentists from providing teledentistry unless the dentist has been issued a permit by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Permits will only be issued after a licensed dentist proves there is an established referral relationship with a dentist who practices in a physical dental office in Georgia within 50 miles of where the teledentistry interaction will occur. The teledentistry permit allows a dentist to authorize a licensed dental hygienist to perform dental hygiene functions; prescribe medications that are not controlled substances; authorize digital scans; and authorize the transmittal of patient records. The bill includes conditions for providing dental care through teledentistry as well as insurance coverage requirements. The bill allows dental assistants to perform coronal polishing on a patient under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 448  (Schofield-63rd)  
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)  
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. **The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

HB 510  (Barnes-86th)  
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)  
Authorizes the Department of Community Health (DCH) to collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to study the psychiatric treatment residential facilities referral processes with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill prohibits health benefit plans from implementing step therapy protocol for medications prescribed to treat severe mental illness. DBHDD is authorized to work with certain other agencies to create guidance for standardized terminology such as the definition of serious mental illness. Definitions for homeless individuals, recidivism, and other terms may also be developed. DBHDD will also work with individuals to provide county-based coordinators to work with criminal justice and behavioral health providers to reduce jail admission of those in a mental health crisis that do not pose a public safety risk. A state-wide public-private partnership will be established by DBHDD to serve as a clearinghouse for best practices, information, and resources to support "familiar faces". These are individuals with serious mental illness that have frequent contact with criminal justice, homeless, and behavioral health systems. Subject to appropriations, DBHDD will develop a pilot program to assist jails in implementing behavioral health screening programs and protocols and create a grant program to create or expand jail in-reach and reentry programs which will focus on "familiar faces" and connect individuals with community resources. A comprehensive study on the public behavioral health workforce will be conducted by DBHDD to understand recruitment and retention issues, and target solutions to help with shortages. The bill adds certain members to the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRIC)BHIRC, with DBHDD, is required to develop a common definition of "serious mental illness" and include "familiar faces" to initiative coordination. BHRIC is tasked with creating a multi-year plan to expand the use of forensic peer mentors. BHIRC is required to establish a task force to build a continuum of care. The task force will comprehensively study access to inpatient behavioral health beds, and make recommendations on needed capacity building, youth specific care, and autism spectrum-related care. The task force will also formally review competency evaluation and restoration challenges, and forensic laws and regulations that affect those interacting with the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. This task force will study increased capacity of
child and adolescent substance misuse intensive outpatient treatment programs. BHIRC will convene a task force to review the effect of behavioral health on homeless populations across the state. A physician's certificate or affidavit is required to be attached to a court order for involuntary treatment. (Personally identifying information will be removed from such document.) OHSC is required to study behavioral health provider licensing requirements to identify barriers to entry or licensure. Professional boards to be included in the study are Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists; State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and the Georgia Board of Nursing. The study will update licensing application and renewal systems, create pathways for foreign-trained practitioners, and update practicum and supervision requirements. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists is authorized to waive experience requirements for applicants licensed under another state that have maintained good standing in that jurisdiction for at least two years. The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and the Georgia Board of Nursing are authorized to manage a professional health program for impaired health care professionals across the state. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) will hire a director as the executive head of the Georgia Data Analytic Center (GDAC). GDAC will serve as the central repository for Georgia from which data can be released to requesting agencies. The director will have the authority to review data sharing disputes between executive state agencies when a data request made by one agency is denied by another with the reasoning that it would violate state or federal law. If the director determines such a request does not break the law, the agency is compelled to cooperate with such request. DCH will ensure that the Medicaid program includes reimbursement for psychological diagnostic assessments and treatment and family therapy services; reimbursement for licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and certified peer specialists; psychiatric hospitals as eligible for inpatient care for those under the age of 21 years enrolled in fee-for-service Medicaid; updates of reimbursement rates for the assessment and treatment of autism spectrum disorder in collaboration with relevant agencies and organizations; and therapeutic foster care for those under the age of 21 years. Necessary requests for Medicaid state plan amendments or waivers will be made to the United States Department of Health and Human Services by December 1, 2023. DCH is also required to take necessary steps to ensure the receipt of relevant federal funds to provide services, such as housing and employment supports and case management, for recipients and their caregivers if they are under the age of 19 years. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is required to work with state licensing boards to establish the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System to collect and share de-identified descriptive data about licensed health care professionals in Georgia. Such information will be stored in a publicly accessible repository on the board's website. Information will include demographics and geographical distribution of licensed health care professionals across the state. Licensing boards must provide such data upon request or up to two times annually as required. Information provided by licensing boards will include age, race, gender, ethnicity, language spoken at home, practice location, and license type.

**Status:** PASSED HOUSE.

**HB 521 (Hilton-48th) [Bill Link]**

Provides for Medicaid coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing.

Status: House Public Health Committee

**HB 525 (Ridley-22nd) [Bill Link]**

Requires anyone convicted of driving under the influence to undergo a clinical evaluation and complete a substance abuse treatment program if recommended as part of the evaluation. The bill establishes that any case where a defendant has undergone clinical evaluation relating to substance use or abuse, whether as an order of the court as part of a sentence or a condition of probation, or pursuant to participation in a pretrial intervention, release, diversion program, or similar pretrial program, the results will only be accepted when performed by clinical evaluators on the registry published by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

HB 546  (Jasperse-11th)  Bill Link
Amends the definition of "pharmacy care" within the 'Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act' to allow for adaption of a prescription drug order. The bill allows a pharmacist to adapt a prescription drug order, under certain circumstances, by changing the quantity of medication prescribed, changing the dosage form of the prescription, and completing missing information on a prescription drug order. Adaptions must be documented and done with patient consent.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 557  (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
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.

HB 576  (Gullet-19th)  Bill Link
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 Health Committee

HB 578  (Wilkerson-38th)  Bill Link
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 Education Committee

HB 606  (Cooper-45th)  Bill Link
Revises definitions relative to certificate of need; to revise exemptions from certificate of need requirements.
Status: House Health Committee

HB 629  (Beverly-143rd)  Bill Link
Provides that reimbursement rates for services provided to Medicaid recipients are equal to applicable Medicare maximum allowable reimbursement rates, and provides for submission of any necessary state plan amendment or waiver.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 648  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for requirements related to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students, and for relevant distribution of work-study verification forms.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 653  (Bonner-73rd)  Bill Link
Prohibits health care providers from performing specified practices on minors relating to altering a person’s appearance relating to gender.
Status: House Public Health Committee

HB 659  (Parrish-158th)  Bill Link
Provides for coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence.
Status: House Special Committee on Healthcare

HB 663  (Hatchett-155th)  Bill Link
Establishes certain rights of minors and adults admitted to hospitals. The bill authorizes hospitals and long-term care facilities to limit or restrict visitation in certain circumstances, and to require visitors to wear personal protective equipment. The bill also requires hospitals and long-term care facilities to post certain information on their websites. The bill prohibits certain actions by state agencies against hospitals and long-term care facilities.
Status: House Hopper
HB 665  (Glaize-67th)  Bill Link
"Johnny Tolbert III Heat Stroke Youth Protection Act" - Requires local governments or authorities operating parks and recreation facilities used by youth athletic organizations to ensure such parks and facilities are equipped with certain vessels for heat related injuries.
Status: House Hopper

HB 667  (Davis-87th)  Bill Link
Establishes the Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Program to provide financial assistance, as shall be appropriated to the division, to disadvantaged communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water and to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets the standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
Status: House Hopper

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

HR 185  (Bennett-94th)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
Creates the Joint Head and Heart Student Health Study Committee.
Status: House Public Health Committee

SB 1  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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. Currently "Tabled" in the full Senate.

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.

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: PASSED SENATE.

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 will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).
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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote 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 will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote 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

SB 246 (Hodges-3rd)  Bill Link
Provides for student loan repayment for certain nursing faculty.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

SB 274 (Harbin-16th)  Bill Link
Creates the Commission for the Blind and the Visually Impaired and transfers the direction and supervision of Georgia Industries for the Blind from the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to the commission.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).
SB 286 (Watson-1st)  
Bill Link
Requires pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale.
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: PASSED HOUSE.

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" - Creates additional protections for pregnant women who are employed. The bill includes several conditions that would constitute an unfair employment practice by an employer, unless the employer can show that the business would suffer an undue hardship as a result. Employers are required to provide written notice of the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of pregnancy to: new employees upon employment; existing employees within 120 days after the effective date; and any employee who notifies the employer of the pregnancy within 10 days of the notification. A claimant under the bill has a cause of action for retaliation when an employer retaliates against a claimant because she: asked for a reasonable accommodation; made a report or a charge related to pregnancy protection; instituted or participated in an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action related to pregnancy protection; or provided information, testified, or is known by the employer to be planning to testify in a matter related to pregnancy protection. Relief under this action can include compensation for lost wages, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and other related expenses. A court can also grant an injunction, temporary restraining order, or other order.

HB 604 (Byrd-20th)  Bill Link
Provides that life is valued and protected from the moment of conception and that each life, from that moment, is accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed to all persons.
Status: House Public Health Committee
HB 661  (Parrish-158th)  Bill Link
Requires the Department of Community Health to allow mothers giving birth to retain Medicaid eligibility for one year following such birth.
Status: House Special Committee on Healthcare

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Health 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: PASSED SENATE.

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

SB 283  (Strickland-17th)  Bill Link
Provides for reasonable accommodations to job applicants and employees for circumstances related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions.
Status: Senate Judiciary 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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 for 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 so 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education 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 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 percent 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 institutions for students who enroll on or before July 1, 2025.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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 will be on the House Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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
Clarifies that the career course that the State Board of Education must prescribe for grades six through 12 must be a career readiness course, focusing on instruction and training experiences. The bill requires the Department of Education to assemble and develop resources and materials regarding career readiness and employability, and to make those resources available to state public schools.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

HB 340  (Corbett-174th)  Bill Link  
Protects planning periods for teachers. Teachers who are in the classroom more than 50 percent of a regular school day are required to have a duty-free planning period, with some exceptions related to safety.  
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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 needed.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 367  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides 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. The purpose of the endowment is to receive and distribute funds to support outstanding teaching professionals in high-demand fields within the Technical College System of Georgia.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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
Removes the value of level 1 freeport exemptions from the equalized property tax digest for the purpose of calculating local five mill share and equalization.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 506  (Ehrhart-36th)  Bill Link
Defines an accrediting agency as a reliable authority as to the quality of education offered in Georgia secondary schools. The bill sets the standards and criteria accrediting agencies must meet by the State Board of Education to be recognized as an accrediting agency. The State Board of Education will have oversight authority of accrediting agencies, and may determine if an agency is not in compliance with state standards. When disputes arise between an accrediting agency and a public secondary school, the school has the right to appeal to the state board.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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 develop evidence-based literacy instruction training requirements for childcare providers. The department must require annual training for teachers on developmentally-appropriate evidence-based literacy instruction. The Professional Standards Commission will create and implement standards for certifying educators and maintaining certification which focus on developmentally-appropriate evidence-based literacy instruction.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 538  (Ballard-147th)  Bill Link
Creates the “Georgia Early Literacy Act” to implement the science of reading in Georgia. School systems will be required to teach high-quality instructional materials approved by the State Board of Education in grades kindergarten through third grade. The Department of Education must develop and provide training to kindergarten through third-grade teachers on the science of reading so teachers have the skills and knowledge to teach young students to read. Students across the state will take a universal reading screener assessment to monitor their progress in foundational literacy skills multiple times a year.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 562  (Jones-25th)  Bill Link
Recognizes certain accrediting agencies as evaluators of the quality of education offered in public schools.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 579  (Barrett-24th)  Bill Link
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 Education Committee

HB 585  (Jones-25th)  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: House Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 605  (Dickey-145th)  Bill Link
Provides that victims of human trafficking are eligible for the Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 607  (Pirkle-169th)  Bill Link
Changes the ACT score requirement for a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar from 26 to a score equivalent to 1,200 on the SAT, as determined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission using nationally recognized standards.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 640  (Holcomb-81st)  Bill Link
Provides that noncitizen students with certain refugee, special immigrant, or humanitarian parolee status under federal law are classified as in-state for tuition purposes subject to certain conditions.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 641  (Bentley-150th)  Bill Link
Relating to definitions regarding tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities, the bill 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: House Higher Education Committee
HB 646  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
Prohibits public schools and local school systems that receive state funding under the “Quality Basic Education Act" from using Native American names, symbols, or images as school mascots, logos, or team names.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 652  (Mainor-56th)  Bill Link
Requires public schools to disseminate through multiple methods its school report card each year to the parent, guardian, conservator, or other person having lawful control of each student at the school and requires public school governing bodies to adopt procedures for parents to submit written requests for the Professional Standards Commission to investigate certain allegations.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 668  (Olaleye-59th)  Bill Link
Adds a program for students living in poverty to the table of quality basic education instructional programs with weights and student-teacher ratios.
Status: House Hopper

HR 42  (Scoggins-14th)  Bill Link
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

HR 278  (Parsons-44th)  Bill Link
Creates the House Study Committee on Civics Education in Georgia.
Status: House Special Rules Committee

HR 281  (Olaleye-59th)  Bill Link
Creates the House Study Committee on Lottery Revenues, Reserves, and Educational Programs.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HR 303  (Jones-25th)  Bill Link
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 Governmental Affairs Committee

SB 4  (Davenport-44th)  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 appropriate.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

SB 18  (James-35th)  Bill Link
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 & Youth Committee

SB 32  (Anavitarte-31st)  Bill Link
"Alyssa's Law" - 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.
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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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. Assigned to House Education Committee.

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. 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

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. Currently "Tabled" in the full Senate.

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

SB 204  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Establishes new standards for school accrediting agencies and prevents such agencies from charging for services to assist in the findings of a review.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 211  (Hickman-4th)  Bill Link
Establishes the Georgia Council on Literacy which is administratively attached to the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement. The bill also replaces the Education Coordinating Council with the Alliance of Education Agency Heads.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

SB 237  (Hatchett-50th)  Bill Link
Provides for student loan repayment for peace officers.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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

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 Education and Youth Committee
SB 261  (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Prohibits the use of political litmus tests in postsecondary educational institutions, local school systems, and elementary and secondary schools and prohibits such entities from passing certain tests or meeting certain qualifications as a condition of admission into, or promotion within, any public educational institution of the state, as teacher, employee, or student.
Status: Senate Education and Youth Committee

SB 264  (Jackson-41st)  Bill Link
Provides that noncitizen students with certain refugee, special immigrant, or humanitarian parolee status under federal law are classified as in-state for tuition purposes subject to certain conditions.
Status: Senate Higher Education Committee

SB 268  (Islam-7th)  Bill Link
Provides for limitations on waiver and variance requests by local school systems requesting flexibility, and removes the requirement that local school systems requesting flexibility must select at least one waiver or variance request from a prescribed list of options.
Status: Senate Education and Youth Committee

SB 275  (Harbin-16th)  Bill Link
Provides for student loan repayment for General Assembly staff members.
Status: Senate Government Oversight Committee

SB 284  (Estevez-6th)  Bill Link
Adds a program for students living in poverty to the table of quality basic education instructional programs with weights and student-teacher ratios.
Status: Senate Education and Youth Committee

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SR 251  (Davenport-44th)  Bill Link
Creates the Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee.
Status: Senate Hopper
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: House Judiciary 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)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
Establishes protocols for review of cold case murder files by law enforcement agencies.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 89  (Bruce-61st)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
Establishes a student loan repayment program for full-time medical examiners employed with the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The total repayment amount must not exceed $120,000 or the total student debt amount, whichever is less, and the 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 the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.

HB 167  (Momtahan-17th)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
Designates the Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as the official soap box derby of the State of Georgia.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

HB 241  (McClain-109th)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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
Petitions for the appointment, modification, or termination, of a guardian, emergency guardian of an adult,
conservator, or emergency conservator, and can be supported by an affidavit of an advanced practice registered
nurse, licensed practical nurse, or registered professional nurse; a physician assistant; or a licensed clinical social
worker, licensed master's social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor. If a
proposed ward is a patient in a federal medical facility and certain licensed parties are not available, affidavits of new
licensees may be used for petitions for the appointment of a guardian or emergency guardian. If a petition is not
dismissed, the court may appoint an evaluator who is an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed practical nurse,
registered professional nurse; a physician assistant; or a licensed clinical social worker, licensed master’s social
worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor.
Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children and Families 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: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety 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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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
Relating to conservatorships and guardians, defines "gross settlement" as 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 allotted to a structured settlement or other similar financial arrangement.
Status: PASSED HOUSE.
HB 380  (Wiedower-121st)  Bill Link
Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting by the Georgia Lottery Corporation. Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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)  Bill Link
Prohibits discrimination based on hairstyles associated with race, color, or national origin with regards to housing. Status: House Judiciary Committee

HB 433  (Schofield-63rd)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
Removes the age cap that applies to age discrimination claims in the state by making it apply to those age 40 years or older. The bill also allows a minor 14 years or older to be employed during school vacations for purposes of working in the care and maintenance of lawns, gardens, and shrubbery owned and leased by the employer of the minor, including the operation of equipment. The minor must be covered by an insurance plan for accident or sickness, or a workers' compensation plan. The bill preempts localities from requiring issuance of an employment certificate or a youth work permit as a condition of payment or requiring an employer to obtain an employment certificate from a minor. The commissioner of the Department of Labor is permitted to investigate the age of any minor employed, hear evidence, and require the production of relevant books and records. Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Industry and Labor Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 507  (Ridley-6th)  Bill Link
Requires beauty pageant operators to provide the email address of the individual overseeing the pageant and the person approved to accept service of process. The operator must provide the pageant website and the website of the financial institution holding the entry fees. This information must be given to contestants before the operator is authorized to accept any entry fees. Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Small Business Development Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HB 534  (Gillard-162nd)  Bill Link
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)  Bill Link
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)  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 612  (Marin-96th)  Bill Link
Requires reasonable access to public services for non-English speakers.
Status: House Government Affairs Committee

HB 613  (Marin-96th)  Bill Link
Provides for an income tax credit with respect to qualified citizenship expenses for low-income families.
Status: House Ways & Means Committee

HB 616  (Evans-89th)  Bill Link
Requires state agencies to consider antisemitism when determining whether an alleged criminal act was motivated by discriminatory intent.
Status: House Government Affairs Committee

HB 627  (Taylor-92nd)  Bill Link
Repeals current law and thereby allows any county or municipal corporation to enact, maintain, or enforce any ordinance or resolution which would regulate in any way the amount of rent to be charged for privately owned, single-family, or multiple-unit residential rental property.
Status: House Government Affairs Committee

HB 630  (Lim-98th)  Bill Link
Prohibits bundled sales of certain foreclosures.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

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

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

HR 210  (Beverly-143rd)  Bill Link
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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill now rests in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 48 (James-35th)  Bill Link
Creates the Equity and Reconciliation Commission of Georgia.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 55 (Parent-42nd)  Bill Link
“Georgia Lemonade Stand Act” - 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 $5,000.00 or less in a calendar year per business and sells nonconsumable goods or prepackaged foods or lemonade or other non-potentially hazardous nonalcoholic beverages.
Status: PASSED SENATE.

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: FAILED SENATE.

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.
Status: PASSED SENATE.

SB 64 (Robertson-64th)  Bill Link
Following adoption and legitimation or paternity determination, the bill allows for the issuance of a copy of the original birth certificate to anyone 18 years old or older who were adopted. If a person is deceased, then any parent, sibling, or descendant of that person may receive a copy of the decedent's original birth certificate.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

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: 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 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: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote 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

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

SB 235 (Halpern-39th)  
**Bill Link**  
Creates the HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Commission.  
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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 State and Local Government Operations Committee

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

SB 269 (Islam-7th)  
**Bill Link**  
Relating to transfers or purchases of firearms subject to the NICS, information concerning persons who have been involuntarily hospitalized to be forwarded to the FBI, and prohibits the transfer or purchase of a firearm in proximity of a school safety zone or hospital.  
Status: Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee

SB 278 (Estevez-6th)  
**Bill Link**  
Provides for investigations or inspections of certain residential rental property when there is a reasonable suspicion of a code violation.  
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 280  (Halpern-39th)  
Requires landlords to conduct background screening on employees and to provide requirements therefor, and to maintain a log for the issuance and return of keys, and to develop policies and procedures regarding unissued keys. The bill also provides for rights and duties of landlords regarding entry into dwelling units.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

SR 6  (Gooch-51st)  
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)  
Creates the Senate Safe Firearm Storage Study Committee.
Status: Senate Rules Committee
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK
Raise the Age
Be a voice for children!

The Ask: Call members of the Georgia House of Representatives TODAY and ask them to vote YES on House Bill 462 (the “Raise the Age Act”) when it comes before them on the House floor TODAY (Monday).

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 vote YES on House Bill 462 when it comes before you MONDAY on the House floor. This bill creates a multi-agency implementation committee to explore changing 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. The bill has a staggered roll out for the work of the committee and funding-reliant implementation. 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.:
Call your Member of the Georgia House of Representatives
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

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