March 13, 2023

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Amended FY 23 Final Budget (pending Governor’s Signature)

FY 24 Budget House Changes to Governor’s Recommendations

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2 Minute Advocacy Ask – Home Visiting

2 Minute Advocacy Ask – HB 520: 2023 Mental Health
Weekly Welcome

The other day, my friend Betsy and I were talking about how the couple of weeks leading up to Crossover Day were always so crazy and intense. We were both getting blown around like unstapled whitepapers, from hearing to hearing, meeting to meeting, advocacy event to advocacy event. In fact, I’d arrive home at night, the hum of human-filled-hallways echoing in my ears until ultimately drowned out by my dog Gus’ snoring. (I’m not sure which is worse…) Then Crossover Day happened on Monday. Despite the fact that it was the last day a bill could cross from one chamber to the other and still be able to pass, it was oddly calm. Of course, there were some wins, including the Amended FY2023 Budget, and some losses, including my favorite earring, but little hubbub overall. Betsy called it “the eye of the storm”, and boy, was she right! Now we are back in the tornado itself, along with flying cows, screen doors, a shocking number of amendments, a lemonade stand or two (SB 55), and, yes, witches in soapbox cars (HB 237). I’m not sure if we are going to land in Oz, regulate who is allowed in the field of poppies (HB 557), protect the infrastructure of the Emerald City (HB 227), or bonk into some of those creepy flying monkeys (there are NO bills about that!), or if we are going to land in the House Regulated Industries Committee for a quick snooze. I am, however, confident of two things: 1. I won’t be riding any horse-of-a-different-color since the horseracing bill (SB 57) didn’t cross, and 2. We are not in Kansas anymore (and actually never were.). As you know, I could go on about Auntie Em and kinship care (SB 230), the “Al” of the Tin Man, and try to count how many “Wizards” around the Capitol are simply just conmen from Nebraska, but the hour is already long and so is this update, so I’ll stop here, close to the end of the Yellow Brick Road.

See you next week, when I’ll be one skip closer to saying “Oh, but anyway, Gus, we’re home—home!”

-- Polly

Polly McKinney
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Amended Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

PASSED (and agreed to) BY HOUSE AND SENATE

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

Yellow = H&S Conference Committee Agreements

Juvenile Courts

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

$200,000 Subtracted due to utilization and reporting levels concerning dependency case backlog. (The CC reduced the Senate’s cut by $50,000.)

District Attorneys

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

GA Technology Authority

$3.5 Million Added to modernize the teacher certification and ethics applications at the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to improve security, efficiency, and customer service.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

$2.02 Million Added to support private psychiatric contract beds and for the Department to provide a report of total number of private psychiatric beds that exist in the state to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by June 30, 2023. (Adult Mental Health Services)

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

$300,000 Added to support operations personnel for the administration of federal opioid settlement funds. (Departmental Administration)

$650,000 Added to support DBHDD agency operations. (Departmental Administration)

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

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

$100,000 Added for technology infrastructure and environmental adaptations for students enrolled in Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs. (GA Council on Developmental Disabilities)
**Dept. of Community Affairs**

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

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

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

**Dept. of Community Health**

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

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

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

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

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

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

$184,000 Added to support existing housing with the Area Health Education Centers. (Health Care Access and Improvement)

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

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

Transferred: $29,237,181 in prior year state general funds from the Medicaid: Aged, Blind and Disabled program and $5,006,960 in prior year state general funds from the Low-Income Medicaid program to DHS Departmental Administration. These funds are provided by the 10% increase of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for home and community-based services (HCBS) pursuant to Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and utilize funds as specified in the spending plan as approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). (Under DHS Departmental Administration) In addition this budget recommendation recognizes and plans to use $153,828,763 in prior year ABD Medicaid state funds (also provided by the 10% increase of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for HCBS) in the above spending plan.
$505.9 Million Reduced in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) through June 30, 2023. ($276.71 Million in ABD Medicaid, $214.47 Million in LIM and $14.7 Million Reduced in PeachCare)

$227.45 Million Added for Medicaid Enrollment Growth and Utilization as follows:

- $79.56 Million Added for growth in Aged Blind Disabled (ABD) Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- $15.4 Million Added to reflect ABD Medicaid enrollment growth as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension (through June 30, 2023).
- $171.25 Million Added to reflect enrollment growth in Low Income Medicaid (LIM) as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension.
- $48.18 Million Reduced in LIM based on projected expenditures.
- $11.74 Million Added to reflect enrollment growth in PeachCare for Kids as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) extension.
- $2.32 Million Reduced in PeachCare for Kids based on projected expenditures.

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

**Budget Note:** Increase employer contribution per-member, per-month (PMPM) rate in the State Health Benefits Plan for certified school employees to $1,580 effective January 1, 2023. The Conference Committee landed on $50 Million to be phased in over 2 years.

$3.5 Million Added for grants for nursing program expansions.

The additions of state dollars are as follows:

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

**Dept. of Corrections**

$12.3 Million Added for physical health and pharmacy services contracts.

$20.9 Million Reduced to reflect the closure of Georgia State Prison.

$66.5 Million Added for 33 projects at 19 state prison facilities for emergency repairs ($4,050,000), upgrades to life safety and security systems ($29,955,000 – the House added $5,000,000 to the governor’s ask of $14,955,000 and the Senate increased it), and major maintenance and renovations ($32,490,000).

**Georgia Dept. of Early Care and Learning**

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

**Georgia Dept. of Education**

*Budget Note:* The Department of Education is directed to re-evaluate, in consultation with stakeholders, the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) program to provide recommendations to the Office of Planning and Budget, the House Budget and Research Office, and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office by September 30, 2023.

$5 Million Added for reimbursable grants in the amount of $3,000 each to paraprofessionals who earn certificates through the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (GaTAPP) program. The governor had asked for $15 Million but the House reduced it. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$115.7 Million Added for security grants in the amount of $50,000 per school to local school systems for school security enhancements. The governor had asked for $50,000 grants but the House increased it to $60,000 and the Senate returned the amount to the governor’s recommendation. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$143,760 Added for Sparsity Grants to reflect a data correction for Glascock County. Reduced from the governor’s ask of $149,643. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$0 Million in state dollars Added for incentive grants for Learning Loss. The Conference Committee directed: Utilize $977,508,409 in 'American Recovery Plan (ARP) Act' funds designated for learning loss. (The governor’s original ask was $25 Million for learning loss grants to support student achievement and well-being to be distributed to local school systems based on the percentage of students performing below grade level on academic year 2022 standardized tests. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

$5.77 Million Added for a management consultant to oversee and ensure quality assurance for Medicaid redeterminations due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration.

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

$500,000 Reduced for non-programmatic expenditures in the Out-of-School Care Services.

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

Employees’ Retirement System of Georgia

$26.75 Million Added a one-time benefit adjustment to retired state employees.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

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

$2.4 Million Added to upgrade security at domestic violence shelters.

$4.08 Million Added in one-time funds for domestic violence shelters to off-set loss of federal funds.

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, Georgia

$0 Added for statewide deployment of gang case-related analytics and repeat offender solutions. (The Senate had asked for $1.5 Million.)

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

$92 Million Added for the state reinsurance program.

Dept. of Natural Resources

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

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

Dept. of Public Health

*$3.47 Million Reduced* for non-utilization of funding for Georgia Coordinating Center. This is in response to a House Budget Note: The Georgia Coordinating Center should utilize existing funds to procure a HIPAA-secure multimodal software communication and patient logistics platform to provide multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional all-hazards response for emergency rooms and other critical care services statewide. (The Senate previously sought a larger reduction.)

*$1.7 Million Reduced* in one-time funds provided by the General Assembly for infrastructure and support disregarded and redirected to general grant-in-aid.

Dept. of Public Safety

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

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

University System of Georgia

*$3 Million Added* for one-time funding for the replacement of cabins at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. (The Senate had asked for $5 Million.)

*$105 Million Added* to implement a state-of-the-art electronic medical records system to support medical education and training at the Medical College of Georgia.

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

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

Dept. of Revenue

*$950 Million Added* one-time funds for the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) program to allow for the maximum exemption on the assessed home value as authorized in the Georgia Constitution Article VII, Section IIA for each qualifying homestead for the tax year beginning January 1, 2023. The Governor had asked for $1.1 Billion.

Georgia Student Finance Commission

*$1.62 Million Reduced* for administrative costs associated with service cancelable loan programs and utilize existing funds to implement loan repayment programs for mental health professionals.
$1.7 Million Reduced funds associated with the Leo Scholarship Grant Service Cancelable Loans (HB 1319 of the 2022 Session, which was not enacted into law).

$405,716 Added to support commission operations and student access to financial aid programs, including the implementation of the College Completion Grants program, HOPE High School Equivalency Exam program, additional HOPE Career Grant program areas, and the Behavioral Health Service Cancelable Loan program as established in HB 1013 (2022 Session).

$6.6 Million Reduced for Dual Enrollment based on projections (House reduced by $4 Million and Senate reduced further).

$8 Million Reduced from Hope Grants for projected expenditures.

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

**Technical College System of Georgia**

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

$0 Million Added to purchase equipment for construction industry certification programs, statewide. (The Senate had asked for $1.7 Million.)

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

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

$8 Million for technical education equipment refresh, statewide.

**Dept. of Veterans Services**

$750,000 Added for a military families' mental health clinic.
Fiscal Year 2024 Budget – House Changes to the Governor’s Recommendations

Total: $32.45 Billion

(Decreased from the governor’s Amended FY23 estimate of $32.56 Billion)

Turquoise = House Changes

Multi-Agency Budget Info

**Statewide: Added $2,000 cost-of-living adjustment** for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023 to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This includes certified Pre-K teachers, assistant Pre-K teachers, certified K-12 teachers and certified K-12 employees.

**State Base Salaries Adjusted by $2,000** for certified K-12 teachers, certified K-12 employees, certified Pre-K teachers and assistant pre-k teachers (GaDOE, DECAL, DJJ, GA Military College Prep School) effective September 1, 2023. Of note, Public Safety – POST certified state employees received a total $4,000 salary adjustment.

**FMAP:** Increase state funds by $227 Million to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.02% to 65.89%. (The details: DBHDD/Adult Developmental Disability Services = $2,530,852; DBHDD/Adult Mental Health Services = $425,974; DCH/ Aged Blind Disabled Medicaid = $102,313,915; DCH/Low Income Medicaid = $115,091,077; DCH-GBHCW = $186,744; DECAL/Child Care Services = $1,045,544; DHS/Adoption Services = $3,336,400; DHS/Out-of-Home Care = $1,654,598; DPH/Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services = $46,636)

**e-FMAP:** Increase state funds by $9.3 Million ($2 Million from DCH/LIM, $7.24 Million from DCH/PeachCare, $28,900 from DHS/Departmental Administration) to reflect an adjustment in the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (e-FMAP) from 76.21% to 76.12%.

**Council of Accountability Court Judges**

$97,331 Added for one Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Statewide Coordinator position.

**Juvenile Courts**

$0 Added for grants to counties for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit (Governor had recommended $25,000).

**Dept. of Administrative Services**

$51.23 Million one-time funding Eliminated for the NextGen ERP Cloud Modernization project ($50 Million) to reduce state financial system costs and improve service delivery, and the All-Payer Claims Database ($1.23 Million) to enable analysis and public reporting of health care costs and utilization for medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services (under the Georgia Technology Authority).

**Dept. of Agriculture**
$637,232 Added to implement the 'Georgia Raw Dairy Act' (2022 Session).

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

**Budget Note:** “Change the name of the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services - Special Project program to Adult Developmental Disabilities Respite Services program.”

$10.95 Million Added to annualize the cost of 513 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This amount in an increase from the governor’s recommendation of $10.18 Million. (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

$8.06 Million Added for 375 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provide administrative workload support. The governor had recommended adding $4.2 Million for 250 additional slots. (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

**Budget Note:** “Begin implementation of the 2022-2023 provider rate study pending approval by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).” (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

$200,000 Added for Citizen Advocacy to restore previous cuts and expand services. (Adult Developmental Disability Services)

$1.22 Million Added for an additional five forensic evaluators and four forensic peer mentors. (Adult Forensic Services)

$277,000 Added to increase salaries for forensic peer mentors. (Adult Forensic Services)

$10.15 Million Added to increase salaries for state psychiatric hospital staff to address agency recruitment and retention. (across DBHDD)

$6.29 Million Added for additional mobile crisis teams to address increasing demand. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$7.03 Million Added to annualize the operating cost of a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center at Serenity Behavioral Health Systems in Augusta. The governor had recommended adding $2 Million. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$6.65 Million Added for a 15-bed and 18 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center in Fulton County. The governor had recommended adding $5.69 Million. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$10.82 Million Added to convert a crisis stabilization unit at CSB of Middle Georgia in Dublin to a 24-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center. The governor had recommended adding $5.41 Million. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$932,300 Reduction for one-time funds for a study on reimbursement rates for behavioral health providers. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$2.25 Million Added for additional program and administrative support to manage the national ‘988’ hotline. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$4.56 Million Added to convert a crisis stabilization unit at Highland Rivers to a 32-bed and 16 temporary observation chair behavioral health crisis center. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$1.9 Million Added for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement. (Adult Mental Health Services)
$2.77 Million Added for the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network for peer services. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$8.07 Million Added to support private psychiatric contract beds. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$825,000 Added for one-time funding to coordinate outreach to address homelessness in the Atlanta area. (Adult Mental Health Services)

$277,519 Added to create a crisis response team at View Point Health. (Adult Mental Health Services)

Budget Note: “The department is directed to work with the Department of Community Health (DCH) to increase Medicaid PRTF rates up to 75% of Medicare Inpatient Facility Rates, contingent upon Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval and agreement by facilities to follow DCH-defined payment polices that prioritize Georgia’s youth for placement.” (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

$600,000 Added for one-time gap funding for Georgia psychiatric residential treatment facilities receiving less than $500 per patient per day while under current cost report reimbursement methodology. (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

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

$1 Million Added for the Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) teams to support collaboration across state agencies to meet the treatment needs of children. (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

Budget Note: “Utilize funds in the Adult Mental Health program for mobile crisis for children and family response.” (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

$261,823 Eliminated from DBHDD departmental administration. These funds were originally appropriated to pay for administrative infrastructure necessary to implement the terms of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation settlement, the Georgia Opioid Abatement Trust funds, and the activities of the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory (ORRFA) Council. But... see next entry>>>

$300,000 Added to support operations personnel for the administration of federal opioid settlement funds.

$650,000 Added to support DBHDD agency operations.

$200,000 Added to expand the Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) program. (GA Council on Developmental Disabilities)

$1.6 Million Transferred to the Adult Developmental Disabilities Services – Special Project program to consolidate funds for respite services.

Dept. of Community Affairs

$200,000 Added for the Helping Hands Ending Hunger program expansion to increase access to food, reduce food waste, and encourage better educational outcomes and sustainability.

Dept. of Community Health

$6.5 Million Eliminated to replace the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) with the Medicaid Enterprise System Transformation. (MEST)
$1 Million Reduction of one-time funds for a study on reimbursement rates for mental health care providers. (Departmental Administration)

$800,000 Transferred from DCH Departmental Administration to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC) to establish operational funds for the All-Payer Claims Database.

$3 Million Reduced for Rural Hospital Stabilization Grants in anticipation of the new hospital directed payment program.

$500,000 Eliminated one-time start-up funding for federally qualified health centers.

$750,000 Added for three federally qualified health center start-up grants for primary care in Union County, behavioral health expansion at Christ Community Health Services of Augusta, and a school-based health center in Emanuel County.

$250,000 Added for charity clinics statewide.

$500,000 Added for Mercy Care Atlanta to support increased patient volume.

$409,000 Added to support existing and new housing with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC).

$1.2 Million Added in one-time funds for Colquitt Regional Medical Center for medical education training equipment and clinical space.

$425,000 Added in one-time funds for St. Francis Hospital to support graduate medical education facility expansion.

$1.2 Million Added for Archbold Medical Center for infrastructure support for new residency programs.

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

$32.67 Million Reduced for growth in Aged Blind Disabled (ABD) Medicaid based on projected utilization. The governor had added $79.16 Million but the House eliminated that and reduced it further.

$1.79 Million Added for adult coverage of dental services. ($1.39 Million for ABD, $1.4 Million for LIM)

$650,651 Added for a 5% increase to emergency medical services (EMS) reimbursement rates. ($650,651 for ABD, $442,464 for LIM, $11,243 for PeachCare)

$5.26 Million Added for a 2% rate increase for home and community-based service providers. (ABD)

$854,167 Added for a 5% rate increase for Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) providers. (ABD)

$308,666 Added to increase the dispensing fee to $11.50 for low-volume pharmacies that fill under 65,000 prescriptions per year. ($308,666 for ABD, $312,630 for LIM)

$2.2 Million Added to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers. ($2.2 Million for ABD, $5.04 Million for LIM)

Budget Note: “Submit a State Plan Amendment to adjust psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) rates up to 75% of Medicare Inpatient Facility Rates, contingent upon CMS approval and agreement by facilities to follow DCH defined payment policies that prioritize Georgia’s youth for placement. (ABD)

$871,029 Added to reimburse for family psychological and therapy services. (LIM)

$584,061 Added to remove the five-year waiting period for pregnant women and children who are lawful permanent residents. (LIM)
**$18.72 Million Added** to increase select primary care and OB/GYN codes to 2021 Medicare levels. (LIM)

**Budget Note:** “The department shall require Medicaid managed care organizations to reimburse at no less than 100% of the state Medicaid program Durable Medical Equipment fee schedule for the same service or item of durable medical equipment, complex rehab technology, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. This shall also apply to managed care contractor subcontractors and third-party administrators.” (LIM)

**Budget Note:** “Increase employer contribution per-member, per-month (PMPM) rate for the State health benefits Plan for Certified and Non-Certified school employees to $1,580 effective January 1, 2023.” (SHBP)

**Budget Note:** “It is the intent of the General Assembly that the department shall make annual recommendations to adjust State Health Benefit Plan employer and employee contributions as needed to maintain the financial stability of the plan and report to the Office of Planning and Budget, the House Budget and Research Office, and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office by September 1.” (SHBP)

Recognize Reduction in ABD Medicaid ($74.65 Million), LIM ($74.25 Million), and PeachCare ($624,600) from HB 81 (2021 Session) to reflect the temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase provided by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) through December 31, 2023. (ABD Medicaid)

Recognize **$65.46 Million** from HB 81 (2021 Session) and **Add $52.22 Million** in new dollars to implement the Georgia Pathways to Coverage program established by the Patients First Act (2019 Session), effective July 1, 2023 (LIM)

**Georgia Board of Healthcare Workforce (GBHW)** (administratively attached to DCH)

**$180,000 Added** for additional staff and technology to assist with loan repayment program expansion.

**$2.01 Million Added** for 116 new residency slots in primary care medicine. The Governor had recommended $1.77 Million for 102 slots.

**$375,000 Added** for five Graduate Medical Education (GME) feasibility grants to assist hospitals in establishing or expanding GME programs.

**$153,352 Transferred** from the Morehouse School of Medicine Grant program to GBHW Graduate Medical Education program for nine psychiatry residency slots and provide funds for one additional psychiatry resident position.

**$240,000 Transferred** from the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Morehouse School of Medicine Grant program to the GBHW Graduate Medical Education program for child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship positions.

**$35,000 Eliminated** one-time funds for a statewide dental workforce assessment.

**$648,507 Added** for six child and adolescent psychiatry fellows at the Medical College of Georgia.

**$150,000 Added** for a Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia.

**$663,100 Added** for the fourth year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine’s medical school campus in Columbus.

**$240,000 Added** to support the start-up of a new rural OB/GYN graduate medical education program to address maternity care deserts in rural Georgia.

**$1.5 Million Added** to support the increase of the Morehouse School of Medicine class size and expand rural clinical training.

**$850,000 Added** to establish a loan repayment program for mental health professionals. (Physicians for Rural Areas)
$0 Added to establish the medical examiner loan repayment program. The governor had recommended adding $190,000 but the House noted “Reflect in the Georgia Student Finance Commission’s Service Cancelable Loans program”. (Physicians for Rural Areas)

$1.56 Million Added for the physician loan repayment program to increase award amount and update program guidelines. The governor had recommended $2.04 Million. (Physicians for Rural Areas)

$440,000 Added for additional loan repayments for five physician assistants and 39 advanced practice registered nurses. (Physicians for Rural Areas)

$500,000 Added to establish the nursing faculty loan repayment program. The governor had recommended $1.05 Million. (Undergraduate Medical Education)

$636,341 Added for Georgia medical student capitation payments to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM).

$314,373 Added for personal services to support increased licensure application volume. (GA Composite Medical Board)

Dept. of Corrections

$25.15 Million Added for physical health and pharmacy services contracts.

$20.9 Million Reduced to reflect the closure of Georgia State Prison.

$2.68 Million Added for safety and security technology projects.


Dept. of Early Care and Learning

$179,000 Reduced in formula funds for training and experience for Pre-K teachers.

$11.93 Million Added to reflect an increase in the employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for lead and assistant teachers at public Pre-K providers effective January 1, 2023.

$14.04 Million Added for classroom operations and redirect existing funding to Pre-K lead teacher salaries.

Georgia Dept. of Education

$253,635 Added to reflect an increase in the employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to $1,580 effective January 1, 2023. (Ag Education)

$171,000 Added for 18 new extended day/year programs. (Ag Education)

$288,000 Added for three young farmer positions in Barrow, Lowndes, and Hall counties. (Ag Education)

Budget Note: “The Department of Education is authorized to establish a pilot program consisting of a representative sample of schools and school systems to study whether the use of advanced technologies capable of reliably detecting children at potential risk of harming themselves or others based on their internet use patterns is effective at reducing rates of youth suicide and violence; provided, however, that such study is limited to internet use on school-issued devices.” (Central Office)
$3 Million Added for Plasma Games statewide rollout and evaluate usage and effectiveness after one year. (Central Office)

$1.7 Million Added for charter facility grants pursuant to HB 430 (2017 Session). (Charter Schools)

$262,000 Added for Communities in Schools for additional affiliates.

$200,000 Added for life science industry certification for rural school districts. (Curriculum Development)

$4.71 Million Reduced for enrollment and Training and Experience decline in GNETS.

$211,250 Added for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment data. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$152,463 Reduced formula funds for Residential Treatment Facilities based on attendance. The governor had recommended a reduction of $406,200. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$200,000 Added for feminine hygiene grants due to inflation and increased enrollment. (Non-QBE Formula Grants)

$6.33 Million Added for school nutrition with a note from the House saying “for the cost of breakfast and lunch for reduce-paying students”. The governor had recommended adding $1.58 Million.

$1.5 Million Added for a 5.1% salary increase for school nutrition workers.

$4.47 Million Added to Preschool Disability Services.

$1.34 Million Added for pupil transportation. The governor had recommended adding $1.6 Million.

$4.65 Million Added for a 5.1% salary increase for school transportation workers. The governor had recommended adding $14.32 Million.

$122.28 Million Added in formula funds for QBE Equalization grants.

$155 Million Added for enrollment growth and training and experience (QBE Program).

$13.28 Million Added in formula funds for the State Commission Charter School supplement. The governor had recommended adding $20.67 Million. (QBE Program)

$43.87 Million Reduced for State Charter Supplement funds for Mountain Education (($18,543,435)) and Coastal Plains (($9,447,172)) and Foothills Charter High School (($15,874,465)). The governor had recommended a reduction of $26.07 Million which included an increase for Foothills. (QBE Program)

$27.75 Million Reduced in QBE formula funds due to expiration of state charter contracts for Mountain Education and Coastal Plains pursuant to SB 153 (2021 Session). (QBE Program)

$8.75 Million Added to provide a salary supplement of $1,000 to all custodians.

$296,000 Added in formula funds for the charter system grant. (QBE Program)

$188,500 Added in formula funds for the local charter school grant. (QBE Program)

$464,969 Reduced in formula funds for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers. The governor had recommended reducing the funds by $655,100. (QBE Program)

$26.93 Million Added to fully fund school counselor ratio at 1:450 for all QBE student categories pursuant to HB 283 (2013 Session). (QBE Program)

$49,493 Added to provide a military counselor to Chattahoochee County and evaluate the utilization of existing grants for military counselors. The governor recommended using existing funds. (QBE Program)
$73,853 Added for RESAs based on enrollment growth. This nearly doubled the governor’s recommended addition.

$482,496 Added for a 5.1% salary increase for RESAs.

$1.8 Million Added for a 5.1% salary increase for school nurses, along with a Budget Note to maintain current funding and hold harmless for formula reduction for school nurse funding.

$495,700 Added in formula finds for Training and Experience in State Schools.

$711,000 Added for construction industry certification. (Technology/Career Education)

$1 Million Added for a construction ready pre-apprenticeship program. (Technology/Career Education)

**Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget**

$1.95 Million Transferred from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget to reflect funds appropriated for the Georgia Data Analytic Center.

**Governor’s Office of Student Achievement**

$1 Million Added to support the implementation of a digital learning-based Pre-K through 5 program that teaches language and literacy curriculum for all students to increase their ability to meet grade-level reading standards.

**Dept. of Human Services**

$185,000 Added to reflect FY 2022 collections of marriage and divorce filing fees pursuant to HB 511 (2021 Session). (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention)

$400,000 Added to expand services for at-risk girls at Pace Center for Girls.

$1 Million Added to the court appointed special advocates (CASA) to enhance statewide capacity.

$20,000 Added to operate the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing. (Vocational Rehabilitation)

$11.05 Million Added to annualize funds provided in Amended FY 2023 to support the staffing of 450 case managers, 75 supervisors, and one district manager for Medicaid redeterminations due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration. The governor had recommended an addition of $3.24 Million for 300 additional Medicaid eligibility caseworkers.

Budget Note: “Provide alternative housing options for youth with complex needs.” (Out-of-Home Care)

$500,000 Reduced for non-programmatic expenditures in Out-of-School Care Services.

$89,600 Added to reflect FY 2022 collections from the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission

$3.38 Million Added to assist in the rehabilitation of children, youth, and adult victims of sexual trafficking. (Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission)

$20,000 Reduced for the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing. (Departmental Administration)
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

$61 Million Added for the state reinsurance program. The governor had recommended an addition of $92 Million.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (administratively attached to the GA Bureau of Investigation)

$94,250 Added for one position to administer the sexual assault kit tracking system.

$4.57 Million Added for personal services and operations for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund.

$7.5 Million Reduced one-time funds for training grants.

$2.53 Million Added for sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) coordinators and improve access to SANE resources for sexual assault centers.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Budget Note: “The department shall study recruitment and retention strategies to reduce turnover and report back to the Office of Planning and Budget and the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by July 1, 2023.”

Dept. of Law

$90,800 Added for one business operations analyst position in the human trafficking unit

Dept. of Public Health

$363,675 Added for the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia.

$500,000 Added for pregnancy and parenting grant programs.

$50,000 Added for the Georgia Council of Lupus Education and Awareness to support research, data collection, awareness, and education.

$250,000 Added for the Georgia Poison Center.

$1.69 Million Added for a pilot to provide home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality.

$402,421 Added to increase reimbursement rates for speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy providers in the Babies Can’t Wait program.

$1.7 Million Removed one-time funds provided by the General Assembly for infrastructure and support disregarded and redirected to general grant-in-aid formula grants to counties.
Dept. of Public Safety

$2.07 Million Added for equipment, installation, and training associated with a new statewide public safety radio network to achieve statewide interoperability.

$292,000 Added for annual CPR training for dispatchers. (GPSTC)

$0 Reduced for driver’s education and training. The governor recommended a reduction of $2.9 Million.

University System of Georgia

$600,000 Transferred for K-12 rural Georgia computer science pilot program to the Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives program. (GA Tech Research Institute)

$9.88 Million Added to reflect a 2.3% decrease in enrollment with an increase in higher-cost program areas ($7,568,313) and 0.6% increase in square footage ($2,313,040). The governor recommended adding $12.65 Million. (Teaching Division)

$0 Million Reduced (“adjusted”) in formula funds for enrollment growth to reflect corrected credit hour data for Georgia Institute of Technology. The governor recommended adding $2.76 Million.

$2.45 Million Decreased for the Augusta University / University of Georgia Medical Partnership Expansion.

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

$59,625 Added for the public libraries’ formula based on an increase in state population.

$556,796 Added for public libraries for materials grants by 5 cents from $0.60 to $0.65 per capita.

$1.4 Million Added for K-12 rural Georgia computer science pilot program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

$90,000 Added for the STEM Teacher Academy through the Georgia Youth Science Technology Center.

$814,761 Added for Middle Georgia Aviation to support increased enrollment.

$775,000 Added to expand the Archway Partnership into five additional communities.

$750,000 Added to support operations and address a backlog of projects at the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation.

$344,500 Added for the Anne Frank Holocaust Education Center.

Secretary of State

$191,915 Added for two nursing analysts and one full-time educator for the Georgia Board of Nursing to address increased licensure and complaint volume.

$308,959 Added for five analysts to address increased licensure volume.
$10 Million transferred for postsecondary gap funding grants from the Low Interest Loans program to the College Completion Grants program to reflect increased utilization.

Budget Note: “Utilize other existing funds to support commission operations and student access to financial aid programs, including the Behavioral Health Service Cancelable Loan program as established in HB 1013 (2022 Session), and the law enforcement and medical examiner loan repayment programs.”

$6.6 Million Reduced in Dual Enrollment based on projected need.

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

$0 Transferred from Engineer Scholarship to Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program based on 2017 Department of Audits and Accounts Performance Audit. The House added the note: “Recognize existing funds for the Scholarship for Engineering Education at Mercer University, which is designed to incentivize students to pursue a career in engineering and remain in Georgia upon graduation.” The governor had recommended transferring $315,000.

$1.92 Million Added to meet the projected need for the HOPE Grant program at a factor rate of 95% and reduce out of pocket needs for students in Commercial Driver’s License and Law Enforcement programs at TCSG. The governor had recommended adding $3.23 Million or a factor rate of 100%.

$15.37 Million Added to increase the HOPE Private Zell award from $2,977 to $3,100 and adjust the HOPE Private award amount to 95% of the Zell award, increasing it from $2,282 to $2,945.

$1.45 Million Added to meet the projected need for the HOPE Scholarship at private institutions.

$31.93 Million Added to meet the projected need for the HOPE Scholarships programs at factor rate of 95% at public postsecondary schools. The governor had recommended adding $57.9 Million or a factor rate of 100%.

$955,830 Added for IPSE grants to be awarded to eligible students enrolled in IPSE programs at postsecondary institutions across the state.

Budget Note: “Utilize state and other funds to fully fund REACH program needs.”

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

Budget Note: “Utilize existing other funds to support the Georgia Military College Transfer Service Cancelable Loan.”

$3.2 Million Added to provide up to $20,000 maximum loan repayments across five years of service to support recruitment and retention of public law enforcement officers across the state.

$140,000 Added and recognize in existing funds to establish the medical examiner loan repayment program.

Budget Note: “Utilize existing funds ($10,000,000) to provide service cancelable loans to Georgia residents enrolled in degree programs in qualified behavioral health professions pursuant to HB 1013 (2022 Session).”
Technical College System of Georgia

$8.98 Million Reduced to reflect a 3.5% decrease in credit hours (-$9,292,213) with an increase in funds to reflect a 2.1% increase in square footage ($315,390) (Technical Division).

$325,000 Added for a Quick Start style program to address healthcare shortages throughout the state.

$8.23 Million Added for the first year of a three-year phase-in for increased credit hour earnings for the Aviation, Commercial Driver's License, and Nursing programs to reflect the high-cost nature of providing these programs.

$1.1 Million Added to implement the Tools for Success matching grant program.
Justice, Public Safety, and School Discipline

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
Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill rests in Senate 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
Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 231 (Gullett-19th)  Bill Link
Creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission, which consists of an investigative panel and a hearing panel. The investigative panel is responsible for investigating alleged conduct that constitutes grounds for discipline, which is specifically outlined in the bill and includes: mental or physical incapacity; willful misconduct in office; willful and persistent failure to perform duties; conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice; allowing an assistant district attorney or assistant solicitor general to commit acts that would constitute removal; and violating the State Bar of Georgia's Rules of Professional Conduct. Complaints made to the investigative panel are required to show evidence that constitutes the grounds for discipline. If the complaint makes an allegation on the basis of a charging decision, plea offer, or one of the other specific issues in the bill, then the complaint must also show that it was likely that the decision was made based on one of the specific criteria such as: undue bias; an undisclosed conflict of interest; or a stated, written policy that demonstrates a district attorney or solicitor general categorically refuses to prosecute certain offenses.
Status: PASSED HOUSE
Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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: PASSED HOUSE
Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 Rules Committee.

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

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 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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

SB 92 (Robertson-29th) Bill Link
Creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee WEDNESDAY.

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 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.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee TUESDAY.

HB 107 (Scott-76th) Bill Link
Requires that certain procedures be followed by peace officers upon and after making contact with individuals for law enforcement purposes, including providing the peace officer's business card to any person whom the peace officer has detained in a traffic stop but has not cited or arrested, wearing of body cameras, methods to file complaints, etc.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
HB 112  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for the creation, operation, and powers of certain citizen review boards and protocols for recording complaints alleging police misconduct and disciplinary actions, among other things.
Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

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

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

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

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

HB 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 232  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Requires public disclosure of certain data pertaining to the health, safety, or other conditions of detention of inmates.

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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)**  
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 478 (Holly-116th)**  
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 544 (Schofield-63rd)**  
Prohibits the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes in juvenile detention facilities.

Status: House Juvenile Justice Committee

**HB 551 (Davis-87th)**  
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)**  
Creates the House Study Committee on Excessive Vehicle Noise and Related Crimes.

Status: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

**SB 7 (Beach-21st)**  
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)**  
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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

**SB 30 (Jones II-22nd)**  
Lessens penalties for possession of two ounces or less of marijuana.

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee

**SB 100 (Hatchett-50th)**  
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 119 (Parent-42nd)**  
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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

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 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  Assigned to Senate Children and Families Committee.

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:  PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Public Safety 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, 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.
Status: PASSED HOUSE Assigned to Senate Children and Families 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 Assigned to Senate Judiciary 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 Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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 Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

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

HB 508  (Ballinger-23rd)  Bill Link
Requires the clerk of a superior court to issue a summons and deliver it for service to the party whom the order is against within 24 hours of the issuance of an ex parte order for temporary relief for a petitioner or minor from stalking.
Status: PASSED HOUSE Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).
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. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 36 (Robertson-29th) Bill Link
Increases penalties for pimping and pandering.
Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

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. The bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.

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

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 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 and include relative caregivers and fictive kin as parties to those rights.  
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  
Assigned to House Juvenile Justice 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 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 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 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 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 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: Recommended Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
   (Since it is a House Study Committee, it only needs approval by the House and so is still viable for passage this session.)

SB 40 (Seay-34th)  Bill Link
Makes it unlawful to possess firearm parts in certain circumstances.
Status: Senate Judiciary 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 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. The bill was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

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

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SR 282 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)  [Bill Link]
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Foster Care and Adoption.
Status: Senate Rules Committee
Health and Behavioral Health

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. The bill was amended in Senate committee to eliminate the GA Occupational Regulation Review Council (GORRC).
Status:  PASSED HOUSE  Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

HB  82  (Jackson-128th)  Bill Link
Relating to tax credits for rural physicians, 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 15, 2023 is eligible for the tax credit unless they have practiced in a non-rural county for at least three years.
Status:  PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Finance 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  Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules 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  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. 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 this Code section can also bring a civil action for actual damages, which are presumed to be at least $250, together with court costs.
Status:  PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services 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 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 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  Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

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 343  (Newton-127th)  Bill Link
Requires prescription drug coinsurance or deductible amounts to be calculated at the point of sale based on a price reduced by an amount equal to at least 50% of all rebates received or to be received for the dispensing or administration of the prescription drug. The bill requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to report annually to the Department of Insurance the aggregate amounts received for rebates; administrative fees; insurer administrative service fees; rebates and administrative fees that did not pass through to health plans or insurers; retained rebate percentages; rebates and administrative fees used to decrease premiums; and the expected and actual premium impacts. Any health plan administered by the state is exempt from this bill, including the State Health Benefit Plan and Medicaid health plans, as well as self-funded employer-sponsored health insurance plans regulated under the 'Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974' (ERISA).
Status: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services 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  Assigned to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

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: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services 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. The bill will be heard in committee TUESDAY.

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 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  Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 520  (Jones-25th)  Bill Link
 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. (Personaly 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
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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. Assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

HB 557  (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances in emergency situations under certain circumstances. These circumstances include good standing with the applicable medical board and at least one year of post-licensure clinical experience. The patient receiving the prescription must be at least 18 years old unless the medication is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the supervising physician is a pediatrician, family practice physician, internal medicine physician, or psychiatrist. The bill only allows for an initial prescription that does not exceed a five-day supply. Authorization must be included in the provider's nurse protocol agreement and physician assistant's job description.

Status: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities 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 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Insurance 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 76  (Merritt-9th)  Bill Link
Requires state health benefit plans to cover insulin medication at an amount not to exceed $35.00 per 30-day supply.

Status: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).
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 109 (Echols-49th)  
**Bill Link**
Requires the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients.
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Public Health Committee.

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. The bill states that "A licensed physician who violates this Code section shall be held administratively accountable to the board for such violation but shall not be held civilly liable for damages to any person in any civil or administrative action or criminally responsible for injury, death, or loss to person or property on the basis that such physician did or did not comply with this Code section."
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Public Health 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: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Health Committee. **The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

SB 177 (Jones II-22nd)  
**Bill Link**
"Food Insecurity Eradication Act" - Creates the Georgia Food Security Advisory Council.
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.

SB 223 (Watson-1st)  
**Bill Link**
Authorizes reimbursement of patient incurred expenses related to participation in a cancer clinical trial.
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Health Committee. **The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).**

SB 246 (Hodges-3rd)  
**Bill Link**
Provides for student loan repayment for certain nursing faculty.
Status: **PASSED SENATE**  Assigned to House Higher Education Committee. **The bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.**

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 123 (Stephens-164th)  Bill Link
Creates an exemption from state sales and use tax for certain menstrual products.
Status: House Ways & Means 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 417 (Knight-134th)  Bill Link
Prohibits insurers from denying coverage of an in-network provider for provider administered medication or the administration of such medication under certain circumstances.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

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 441 (Dempsey-13th)  Bill Link
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 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 transmission 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)  Bill Link
Prohibits insurers from denying, restricting, refusing to authorize or approve, failing to cover, or reducing payment to a participating healthcare provider for a provider administered drug or the administration of a provider administered drug in certain circumstances.
Status: House Insurance Committee

HB 487 (Newton-127th)  Bill Link
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 while performing their job. The penalty is imprisonment of between three to 20 years. The bill increases penalties for committing aggravated battery against a healthcare worker while performing their job. The penalty is 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 510 (Barnes-86th)  Bill Link
Provides for breakfast and lunch programs for all public school students in this state, and for such meals to be offered at no cost to students who qualify for reduced price meals under federal and state guidelines. The bill also provides for school breakfast programs under the Quality Basic Education Act regarding funding, and encourages the use of Georgia grown products in school breakfast and lunch programs.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 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 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 Health Committee
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 Government Affairs Committee

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 Natural Resources and Environment Committee

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 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 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 51  (Islam-7th)  Bill Link
Exempts the sale or use of certain menstrual products.
Status: Senate Finance 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 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 198  (Harrell-40th)  Bill Link
Creates the Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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 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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

SB 286  (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Requires pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee
SB 293 (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Provides that operational policies and procedures of the Department of Public Health apply to local personnel and authorizes the department to establish health districts. The bill also revises the manner of selection and qualifications of district health directors and provides for a chief medical officer for a health district under certain circumstances.
Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SR 279 (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform.
Status: Senate Rules Committee
Maternal Care and Child Care

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  PASSED SENATE

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

SB 46  (Hufstetler-52nd)  Bill Link
Requires that a pregnant woman be tested for HIV and syphilis by their prenatal provider at their first prenatal visit, at 28-32 weeks gestation, and at delivery. The patient will have the option to opt out of such testing.

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  Assigned to House Public Health Committee.

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 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)  
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)  
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

HB 684 (Davis-87th)  
Provides for the licensure and regulation of community midwives and the creation of the Certified Community Midwife Board.
Status: House Public Health Committee

SB 15 (Harrell-40th)  
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 81 (Anderson-43rd)  
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)  
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 187 (Setzler-37th)  
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)  
Provides for reasonable accommodations to job applicants and employees for circumstances related to pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions.
Status: Senate Judiciary Committee
Education

HB 51  (Pirkle-169th)  Bill Link
Authorized 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 81  (Corbett-174th)  Bill Link
Revises the eligibility criteria that a local school system must be currently, or in the most recent three years, ranked in the bottom 25% 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% 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 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 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 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**
Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate floor for a vote today (MONDAY).

**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 228** (Dempsey-13th)  
**Bill Link**
Expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions which offer: baccalaureate programs in nursing; have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least five years; have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions must have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85% for the National Council Licensure Examination, and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved institutions for students who enroll on or before July 1, 2025.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**HB 249** (Martin-49th)  
**Bill Link**
Provides Georgia College Completion Grant eligibility to students who have completed 70% of a four-year program or 45% of a two-year program. The maximum award amount per eligible student is set at $3,500, with no single payment exceeding $2,500.

Status: **PASSED HOUSE**  Assigned to Senate Higher Education 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 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% of a regular school day are required to have a duty-free planning period, with some exceptions related to safety.
Status: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

HB 348  (Collins-71st)  https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64242
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  Assigned to Senate Public Safety 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: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Higher 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: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Finance 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: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Education and Youth 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: PASSED HOUSE  Assigned to Senate Higher Education 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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education 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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee 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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

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. The bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.

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. The bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.

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: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee WEDNESDAY.

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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).
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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee 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: PASSED SENATE  Assigned to House Education 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 purpose of the council is to conduct comprehensive reviews of birth to postsecondary programs, align state support for such programs, and other issues related to improving the literacy outcomes of Georgia students. The bill also replaces the Education Coordinating Council with the Alliance of Education Agency Heads. Status: PASSED SENATE  Assigned to House Education Committee.

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

SB 237 (Hatchett-50th)  
Bill Link

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. The bill will be heard in subcommittee today (MONDAY).

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 341  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Enacts the "Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act". Among other things, the bill requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired student to determine such student's need for Braille instruction; and requires Braille instruction in the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student as
Status: House Education Committee

HB 367  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provided for up to $500,000 in matching grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration for the purpose of providing home reading programs for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, prioritizing economically disadvantaged households.
Status: House Education Committee

HB 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 506  (Ehrhart-36th)  Bill Link
Possibly amended to SB 204. 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 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 local boards of education of high-growth school systems to impose, levy, and collect educational development impact fees. The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2025, which is dependent on passage of a constitutional amendment to authorize educational development impact fees.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules 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 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 Education Committee

HB 677 (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Provides for policies and procedures regarding sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking, and creates the Higher Education Interpersonal Violence Advisory Commission.
Status: House Higher Education Committee

HB 712 (Davis-87th)  Bill Link
Increases the state allocation of QBE funding for pupil transportation.
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 proposes an amendment to allow the General Assembly to authorize, by general law, local boards of education to impose, levy, and collect development impact fees and use the proceeds to pay for a share of additional educational facilities.
Status: Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

HR 444 (Erwin-32nd)  Bill Link
Recognizes October 2-6, 2023, as Georgia Pre-K Week.
Status: House Adopted

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 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 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 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 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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

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 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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

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 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 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 Rules Committee

SR 259  (Dixon-45th)  Bill Link
Recognizes October 2-6, 2023, as Georgia Pre-K Week.
Status: Senate Adopted
**Miscellaneous**

**HB 30 (Carson-46th)  Bill Link**
Provides a definition of antisemitism for purposes of state government, using the advisory definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on May 26, 2016. IHRA defines antisemitism as a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews, and includes rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions, and religious facilities. All state agencies will consider antisemitism as evidence of discriminatory intent for any law or policy which prohibits discrimination. Nothing in the bill will be construed to infringe upon First Amendment rights or an individual's right to engage in legally protected conduct or activity pertaining to U.S. foreign policy or international affairs.

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

**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 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 242 (Hitchens-161st)  Bill Link**
Increases traffic violation under 'Joshua's Law' fines by 3%.

Status: PASSED HOUSE Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.

**HB 353 (Powell-33rd)  Bill Link**
Legalizes coin-operated amusement machines overseen by the Georgia Lottery Corporation.

Status: PASSED HOUSE Assigned to Senate Economic Development and Tourism 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 Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 3 (Albers-56th)  Bill Link**
"Reducing Barriers to State Employment Act of 2023" - Requires the Department of Administrative Services to regularly assess and reduce, when possible, the requirements for jobs within state government.

Status: PASSED SENATE Recommended Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House 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  Assigned to House Small Business Development Committee. The bill will be heard in committee today (MONDAY).

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  Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee TUESDAY.

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: PASSED SENATE  Assigned to House Regulated Industries Committee.

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% from its preceding taxable year to claim a tax credit in the amount of 20% 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% at room temperature; and fresh air ventilation through HVAC systems.

Status: House Public Health 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 44</td>
<td>(Au-50th) Bill Link</td>
<td>Requires universal background checks in all manner of firearm transfers and purchases.</td>
<td>House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 68</td>
<td>(Thomas-65th) Bill Link</td>
<td>Increases the tax credit available to employers that offer certain child care services for employees from 50% to 90% of the taxpayer's liability.</td>
<td>House Ways &amp; Means Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 78</td>
<td>(Alexander-66th) Bill Link</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>House Industry &amp; Labor Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 79</td>
<td>(Park-107th) Bill Link</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>House Ways &amp; Means Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 83</td>
<td>(Gunther-8th) Bill Link</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>House Regulated Industries Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 89</td>
<td>(Bruce-61st) Bill Link</td>
<td>Establishes the Georgia Equity and Fairness Commission for examining the impact of slavery on the descendants of slaves and recommending appropriate remedies.</td>
<td>House Governmental Affairs Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 180</td>
<td>(Martinez-111th) Bill Link</td>
<td>Exempts from taxes equipment sold to and used by a qualified food bank for their primary purposes.</td>
<td>House Ways &amp; Means Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 241</td>
<td>(McClain-109th) Bill Link</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>House Industry and Labor Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 245</td>
<td>(Evans-57th) Bill Link</td>
<td>Repeals certain provisions relating to the preemption of wage and employment benefit mandates adopted by a local government entity.</td>
<td>House Industry and Labor Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 293</td>
<td>(Byrd-20th) Bill Link</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 357  (New-64th)  Bill Link
Provides a process for individuals to change their surname to their birth certificate surname.
Status: House Judiciary Committee

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  (McCain-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.

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.

Legislative Update – March 13, 2023  www.georgiavoices.org
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

HB 679  (Scott-76th)  Bill Link
Prohibits discrimination in housing; protects the right to equal enjoyment of and privileges to public accommodations; and prohibits discrimination in private and public employment.
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
HR 413  (Byrd-20th)  
Bill Link
Constitutional Amendment recognizing the paramount right to life of all human beings as persons at any stage of development.
Status: House Rules 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 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 was TABLED in the Senate and did NOT crossover to the House.

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 228 (Rahman-5th)  
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)  
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)  
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)  
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)  
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)  
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)  
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

SR 275 (Albers-56th)  
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Expanding Georgia's Workforce.
Status: Senate Rules Committee

SR 293 (Halpern-39th)  
Creates the Senate Study Committee on an Equity Impact Tool for Legislation.
Status: Senate Hopper
The Ask: Ask members of the Senate Appropriations Health and Human Development Subcommittee to maintain or increase the House addition of $1.7 Million in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to fund Home Visiting pilots for new mothers and infants in 12 high needs counties.

The Why:

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

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

Dear Senator ________,

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

The Contact Info.:

Contact Members of the Senate Appropriations Health and Human Development Subcommittee
2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK
HB 520: 2023 Mental Health

Be a voice for children!

The Ask: **TODAY** - Call members of the Senate Mental Health Parity Subcommittee **ASAP** and ask them to vote **Do Pass** when the House Bill 520 comes before them in subcommittee this afternoon (MONDAY).

The Why:

HB 520 is legislation encompassing many of the recommendations of the 2022 report by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission. It is the next step in improving behavioral health protocols, services and workforce for children and adults in the state.

Check out our factsheet on the [Crisis in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health](#)

For more details of HB 520 itself, see the summary below.

The Message:

Dear Senator __________,

Please vote Do Pass when HB 520 comes before you in subcommittee TODAY. This bill encompasses many of the recommendations of the 2022 report by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission. It continues the excellent work championed by the late Speaker David Ralston and his wife, Sheree. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for Georgia’s children ages 5-17, and the number of children in Georgia who visited emergency rooms for reasons related to suicide nearly tripled between 2008 and 2021. This legislation is the next, crucial step in improving behavioral health protocols, services and workforce for children and adults in the state. Thank you for your service and for all you do for Georgia’s children.

The Contact Info.:

[Contact Members of the Senate Mental Health Parity Subcommittee](#)
HB 520 Basic Summary:

HB 520 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).

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.

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. 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.

The 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.

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.

Subject to appropriations, the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce is authorized to provide student loan repayment for recipients delivering services as mental health and substance use professionals under certain capacities.