Health and Behavioral Health

PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND WAITING ON CONSIDERATION FROM THE GOVERNOR

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 also adds a definition for "bare knuckle boxing match" to O.C.G.A. 43-48-1, and exempts the term from the current definition of "boxing match." The Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission shall have jurisdiction over any bare-knuckle boxing match that is held in the state, is filmed in the state, or is broadcast in the state. Rules are also provided for contestants of bare-knuckle boxing matches.
Status: PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE  Awaits consideration by the governor.

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

HB 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, PASSED SENATE  Awaits consideration by the governor.

HB 383 (Reeves-99th)  Bill Link
Defines the term "healthcare worker" as any employee or independent contractor of a hospital or other healthcare facility. Increased penalties are added when someone commits 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, PASSED SENATE  Awaits consideration by the governor.

HB 414 (Blackmon-146th)  Bill Link
Creates the Veterans Mental Health Services Program, a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The grant program will provide behavioral health services to service members, veterans, or family members through non-profit community behavioral health programs.
Status: PASSED HOUSE, PASSED SENATE  Awaits consideration by the governor.

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, PASSED SENATE  Awaits consideration by the governor.