practice registered nurse” (APRN) to only a person licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing who is either a certified nurse midwife, certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist or clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health, or a recognized APRN before June 30, 2006. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to practice as an APRN without a license. The bill adds anesthesiologist assistant to the Georgia Composite Medical Board in an advisory-only capacity to the board and to the board-appointed Physician Assistants Advisory Committee. Section 6 of SB 164 is the 'Anesthesiologist Assistant Act', which creates the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and provides for licensure and renewal requirements. This bill allows for anesthesiologist assistants to perform duties and responsibilities as delegated by the supervising anesthesiologist and requires the supervising anesthesiologist or an alternate supervising anesthesiologist to be immediately available to intervene if needed during the delivery of care. The bill allows for a supervising anesthesiologist to delegate to an anesthesiologist assistant the authority to order controlled substances, dangerous drugs, medical treatments, and diagnostic studies. The bill states that the board can issue a previously revoked license under certain conditions after rehabilitation and makes it a misdemeanor to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant without a license. Authority is granted for an anesthesiologist assistant to provide care for up to 48 hours during a state of emergency or public health emergency.

Status: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB 223 (Watson-1st)  Bill Link
Requires all sponsors of cancer clinical trials to provide potential patient subjects with information on whether reimbursement will be available for travel and ancillary costs for patient-subjects and those who accompany the patient-subject for support. The bill states reimbursements are provided to eliminate financial barriers to enrollment and will not be considered an undue inducement or coercive. All information provided will be reviewed by the relevant federal institution. The nature of ancillary support and guidelines on financial eligibility will be disclosed and conform to federal law.

Status: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SB 246 (Hodges-3rd)  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. Eligible students may also receive an additional IPSE grant to cover certain fees. The bill authorizes the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to provide for the repayment of up to $100,000 in student loans for eligible recipients serving as faculty members in eligible postsecondary nursing programs in this state. (Contains provisions of HB 185.)

Status: PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the governor.

SR 279 (Dolezal-27th)  Bill Link
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need Reform.

Status: PASSED SENATE. As a Senate Study Committee, it does not need agreement from the House or the Governor.

SR 371 (Hatchett-50th)  Bill Link
Creates the Senate Study Committee on Rural Medical Personnel Recruitment.

Status: PASSED SENATE. As a Senate Study Committee, it does not need agreement from the House or the Governor.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

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 for eligible professionals, provided that the healthcare professional continues operating in a rural county. The aggregate amount of the tax credit is limited to $2 million per year.

Status: PASSED HOUSE. Tabled in the Senate and therefore DID NOT PASS.