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Governmental Affairs

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Weekly Legislative Report # 1

Week ending January 15, 2016

Short Session Expected

The Georgia General Assembly launched the second half of its two-year term on Monday, January 11th with an eye towards completing its work in a compressed timeframe. The House and Senate are limited to no more than 40 legislative meeting days (recess days do not count), but one veteran legislator said he wasn't convinced all of them would be used. Regardless, leadership has assured members they would not be in session past March 24th, the day before Good Friday. It's an election year and officials want to get back home to campaign . . . and perhaps raise a little money, as they are prohibited from doing so while in session.

Beyond the normal start-up fanfare, there were two big items of actual news this week – the Governor's spending plan for the motor fuel gas tax and his recommendations for the FY 2017 state budget.

The FY 2017 Budget

The state constitution requires that the General Assembly pass a balanced budget each year, with the appropriations bill beginning its journey in the House of Representatives. However, tradition dictates that the Governor provide a "budget report" that puts on paper his recommendations for state spending. The Governor also gets to set the official revenue estimate - a figure which state spending cannot exceed. Plus, the Governor has the ability to veto specific line items in the budget, so it is incumbent on both the executive and legislative branches to exercise some degree of cooperation.

On Thursday the Governor's Budget Report was distributed to legislators and made public online at opb.georgia.gov. FY 2017 state spending has been set at \$23.7 billion based on a predicted more than 4% increase in tax revenues (about 45% of which will be generated by the 2015 Transportation Funding Act). While total spending is the most ever, Georgia's population –

including those using services such as schools, roads, healthcare, etc. -- has also grown considerably. Chris Riley, Governor Deal's Chief of Staff, told reporters Thursday that the budget is about equivalent to 1998 spending when calculated on a per-resident basis.

Some FY 2017 Budget Highlights:

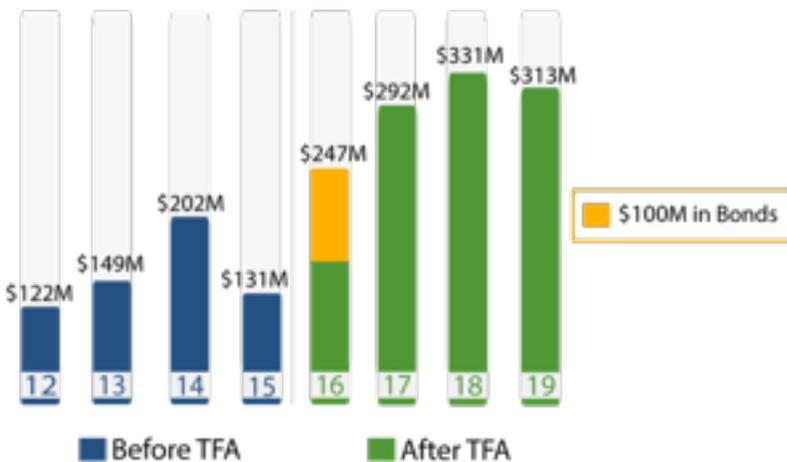
- A 3% pay raise for state employees.
- Additional funds for four state agencies -- Public Health, Behavioral Health, Juvenile Justice and Corrections -- to provide larger than 3% raises in high-turnover positions.
- \$300 million to school districts intended to give school teachers a 3% pay increase. (Deal warned administrators that don't pass the money along that they put their future flexibility to spend state dollars in jeopardy.)
- \$825 million for transportation infrastructure (primarily bridge repair and road resurfacing and expansion- see next heading).
- \$26.5 million for expenses associated with new Hepatitis C and Cystic Fibrosis drugs.
- \$4.7 million for 20 additional GBI agents.
- \$10 million for Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) grants.
- \$10 million for the One Georgia Authority for rural economic development projects.
- \$2.1 million in new state funds to complete the phase-in (combines years 6 and 7) of the revised grant-in-aid funding formula to hold harmless county public health departments.
- \$7.9 million for 174 additional case workers and 10 kinship navigators to manage increasing child abuse and neglect caseloads.
- \$51.5 million for costs associated with the increased number of children in state custody.
- \$1 million for 11 new adult protective service caseworkers and program expenses.
- \$2 million to increase funds for 1,000 Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Service slots.
- \$8.9 million for salary adjustment for direct care staff to reduce the turnover rate of behavioral health workers.
- \$11.9 million for a rate increase for providers under the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- \$13 million in bonds to renovate Metro State Prison to serve as a re-entry facility that will support efforts to reduce recidivism and promote successful re-entry of offenders returning to the Metro Atlanta area.

Transportation Infrastructure

As legislation to raise taxes on motor fuel was being debated last session, the promise of "transparency" in the process and subsequent spending was repeated often. Well, that's one commitment that public officials have delivered on. The Georgia Department of Transportation has enhanced its web site so that anyone can access the plans for transportation infrastructure projects in their hometown or elsewhere in the state. The site, www.garoads.org, allows a visitor to examine projects by county, house/senate district, or congressional district, and includes several charts that show anticipated project spending by year. (See example below.)

Bridge Projects

Prior & Forecast Funds for Bridge Projects



(TFA is last year's Transportation Funding Act)

There is also a state map showing the location of planned infrastructure projects for the next 18 months (primarily bridges and resurfacing) and a 10-year view of plans to increase Georgia's mobility and freight corridors (bottom right of home page).

Governor Deal told a press conference that over the next 18 months the plans call for initiating projects that would:

- Quadruple the current rate of resurfacing (2500 miles of state routes and interstates)
- Double the number of completely new replacement bridges (118)
- Double the routine maintenance and rehab on bridges (300)
- Widen 36 roads from two lanes to four lanes
- Upgrade 109 intersections

The state expects the new tax structure for motor fuels to generate \$800 million to \$1 billion per year for transportation infrastructure projects over the next decade.

Next Week

The legislature will be in recess Monday and Tuesday, but unlike recent years, will be in session Wednesday through Friday for Legislative Days 6-8. Governor Deal will address the Joint Appropriations Committees on Tuesday, as will the State's Fiscal Economist and 11 state agency heads. Appropriations subcommittees will hold hearings on the FY 16 Amended Budget on Wednesday and Thursday, with Friday reserved for any leftover testimony, if needed.

Week ending January 15, 2016

Tracking List

Here are the bills we are tracking. **New activity is noted in red.** Click on the [Bill Number](#) to access the current version of the bill.

The 2016 Legislative Session is the second session of the 2015-2016 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated last session are carried over to the 2016 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2015 session have been recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

Aging and Adult Services

[HB 92, Family Leave Act](#) (Rep. Tommy Benton-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to labor and industrial relations, so as to allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions to take leave; to provide that retaliatory actions are unlawful. **Status:** Referred to Industrial Relations Cmte.

[HB 684, Access to Oral Health](#) (Rep. Chuck Martin-R)

Relating to dental hygienists, so as to provide for delegable services and procedures that may be performed by dental hygienists; to revise provisions regarding direct supervision of dental hygienists by dentists in certain settings. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[SB 242, Family Leave Act](#) (Sen. Michael Williams-R)

So as to allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Withdrawn from Insurance Committee and Recommitted to the Health Cmte.

Business

[HB 81, Limits on Lien Creditor's Remedies](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to the effect of redemption of property, so as to require the confirmation of certain redemptions; to limit the lien creditor's remedies. **Status:** Referred Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 500, Revises the Definition of Employment](#) (Rep. Ronnie Mabra-D)

Relating to employment security, so as to change certain provisions of a definition in order to provide that services performed by an individual for wages shall be deemed to be employment unless the Department of Labor makes a contrary determination based upon evidence submitted of certain factors demonstrating that such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance

of such services. **Status:** Referred to Industry & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Recommitted to Industry & Labor Cmte.**

City/County, Regional Commissions & State Planning

[HB 318, Regional Commission Dues](#) (David Stover-R)

To provide that membership in regional commissions is optional for counties and municipalities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 433, MPO Process](#) (Rep. Kevin Cooke-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Affairs, so as to provide for the formation of a metropolitan planning process for the Atlanta Urbanized Area and Atlanta Air Quality region. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 581, Atlanta Urbanized Area and Air Quality Region](#) (Rep. Dustin Hightower-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Affairs, so as to provide for the formation of a metropolitan planning process for the Atlanta Urbanized Area and Atlanta Air Quality region. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HR 978, House Study Committee on Historic Site Preservation](#) (Rep. Debbie Buckner-D)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on Historic Site Preservation; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte.

[SB 258, Ad Valorem Tax](#) (Sen. Fran Millar-R)

Relating to creation of county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals, so as to provide that the assessed value established by the board of tax assessors during an appeal of such valuation for such taxable year by the taxpayer but may be reduced as a result of the appeal of the taxpayer. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

[SB 259, Provide for a Homestead Exemption from Ad Valorem Taxes](#) (Sen. Fran Millar-R)

Relating to Property Tax Exemptions and Deferral, so as to provide for a homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes for state, county, municipal, or school purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the adjusted base year assessed. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

Economic Development

[HB 677, Casino Gaming](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for casino gaming in this state at a limited number of licensed resort facilities in counties and municipalities that have approved by public referendum the establishment of such facilities; to provide for the comprehensive regulation of such activities; to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Lottery and Casino Gaming Commission. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

[HR 807, Casino Gaming](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for local authorization of a limited number of licensed casino resorts within the state; to authorize the operation and regulation of casino gaming within the state; and to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

Environment & Natural Resources

[HB 4, Interbasin Transfers Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District](#) (Rep. Harry Geisinger-R)
Relating to water supply and water conservation management plan and interbasin transfers relative to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, so as to provide an exemption to the prohibition on interbasin transfers from certain rivers. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte.

[HB 116, Prohibits Ground Water into Floridan Aquifer](#) (Rep. Alex Atwood-R)
Relating to wells and drinking water, so as to prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridan aquifer in certain counties. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte.

[SB 36, Prohibits Ground Water into Floridan Aquifer](#) (Sen. William Ligon-R)
Relating to wells and drinking water, so as to prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridan aquifer in certain counties. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte, Hearing Only Held, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Natural Resources Cmte, Passed Environmental Quality Subcmte, Pending Cmte.

Governmental Affairs & Regulations

[HB 14, Approving of Federal Funds by the General Assembly](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)
Relating to participation in federal programs, so as to provide that no local authority or local government shall accept federal funds in any form or for any purpose unless the acceptance of such federal funds has been approved by an Act of the General Assembly. Relating to general provisions regarding state government, so as to provide that no state authority, agency, board, bureau, commission, department, office, public corporation, or other entity of state government shall accept federal funds in any form or for any purpose unless the acceptance of such federal funds has been approved by an Act of the General Assembly. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte.

[HB 351, Relating to Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machines](#) (Rep. Ben Harbin-R)
Relating to bona fide coin operated amusement machines, so as to change certain provisions relating to master licenses and requirements and restrictions for licensees; to change certain provisions relating to the Class B accounting terminal, communication networks, and other procedures and policies. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 358, Establish Legislative Oversight Cmte for State Contracts](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)
To establish the Legislative Oversight Committee for State Contracts. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte.

[HB 462, Classification of Sale Leaseback Transactions](#) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)
Relating to general provisions relative to leases, so as to provide for the classification of sale leaseback transactions under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Withdrawn and Referred to Banks and Banking Cmte, Hearing Held.

[HB 485, Access Cards for Lobbyists](#) (Rep. “Rusty” Kidd-I)
Relating to registration required of lobbyists, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, so as to provide for access cards for lobbyists. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 569, Licensure of Durable Medical Equipment](#) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)
Relating to Pharmacists and Pharmacies, so as to provide for the licensure of durable medical equipment suppliers. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[SB 155, Georgia Lottery Benefitting Veterans](#) (Sen. Ed Harbison-D)

Relating to lottery for education, so as to provide a short title; to provide that the Georgia Lottery Corporation shall offer one or more games to benefit veterans; to provide for the deposit of proceeds into the general fund. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte.

[SB 191, Blasting or Excavating Near Utility Facilities](#) (Sen. Lindsey Tippins-R)

Relating to blasting or excavating near utility facilities, so as to prohibit local governing authorities from adopting or enforcing ordinances which mandate marking requirements or standards which are different from those contained in state law or the rules and regulations of certain departments of this state. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte.

[SB, 264, Horse Racing; Provide for Pari-mutuel Wagering](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing; to provide for definitions; to provide for conditions for horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering; to provide for the regulation and operation of horse racing; to provide for licensing of facilities and persons participating in horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.

[SB 266, Lobbyist Who Make Expenditures Influencing Passage of Casino Gambling](#) (Vincent Fort-D)

Relating to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to provide that any person who is a lobbyist and who makes expenditures of any amount for the purpose of influencing the passage of legislation for the purpose of legalizing casing gambling in this state, whether directly or indirectly, shall disclose all such expenditures, regardless of amount or value. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte.

Health – Developmental Disabilities & Mental Health

[HB 179, License Requirements for Pain Management Clinics](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to licensure requirements for pain management clinics, so as to revise a provision relating to the health care professionals who must be on-site at a pain management clinic in order for the clinic to provide medical treatment or services. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 359, Relating to Separate Standard Cmtes](#) (Rep. Beth Beskin-R)

Relating to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, so as to change certain provisions relating to separate standards committees for the professional counseling specialty, the social work specialty, and the marriage and family therapy specialty. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 498, Revise Definition of Professional Counselor](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to definitions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and others, so as to revise the definition of "professional counseling." **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries.

[HB 705, Require a Care Provider to Provide Periodic Opportunities etc.](#) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to general provisions relating to the governing and regulation of mental health, so as to require a mental health care provider to provide periodic opportunities for a patient to designate a family member or other individual he or she chooses as a person with whom the provider may discuss the patient's medical condition and treatment plan. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 710, Georgia Achieving a Better Life Experience \(ABLE\) Act](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to disabled persons, so as to provide for the establishment of a qualified ABLE program in this state to enable the contribution of funds to tax exempt accounts to pay for the qualified expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities. **Status:** referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[SB 87, Limit Use of Specialty Board Designations by Physicians](#) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Relating to physician profiles, dissemination to public, content and maintenance requirements, corrections, judgments prior to April 11, 2001, sealed judgments, arbitration awards, and settlements prohibited, so as to limit the use of specialty board designations by physicians. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

Health – General

[SB 86, Patient Compensation Act](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to torts, so as to create an alternative to medical malpractice litigation whereby patients are compensated for medical injuries; to establish the Patient Compensation System and the Patient Compensation Board. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

Health – Public Health

[HB 15, Regulation of Fireworks](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to regulation of fireworks, so as to allow for the sale of consumer fireworks not prohibited under federal law, relating to definitions relative to crimes related to explosives and other devices, relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to allow for local regulation of fireworks. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 53, HIV Test Consent](#) (Rep. Keisha Waites-D)

To provide that a person consenting to the provision of medical or surgical care by a health care provider operates as consent for such provider to perform and HIV test; to provide for withdrawal of consent for an HIV test. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 105, Meningococcal Disease Vaccinations and Disclosures](#) (Rep. Joe Wilkinson-R)

Relating to meningococcal disease vaccinations and disclosures, so as to revise provisions regarding vaccination against meningococcal disease of college students. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 111, Advertising on School Buses](#) (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

Relating to powers of state and local school officials with respect to school buses, so as to provide for commercial advertising on school buses by local boards of education. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte.

[HB 119, AIDS Disclosure](#) (Rep. Bert Reeves-R)

Relating to disclosure of AIDS confidential information, so as to change provisions relating to disclosure of such information under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte.

[HB 129, Public Water Fluoride Removal](#) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to fluoridation of public water systems, state funds for cost of fluoridation equipment, chemicals, and materials, and tax deduction for fluoride-removing devices, so as to provide that communities may impose or remove fluoridation by referendum under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 155, Requiring Vaccine Registration by Those Who Administer Them](#) (Rep. Nikki Randall-D)

Relating to the control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to require registration with the vaccination registry by persons who administer vaccines and by pharmacies, agencies, or businesses employing persons who administer vaccines; relating to medical practice, so as to provide that certain pharmacists and nurses who enter into an influenza vaccine protocol agreement with a physician shall register with the vaccination registry. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services.

[HB 219, Exempt Certain Private Swimming Pools from Inspection and Licensing](#) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to health and public swimming pools, so as to exempt certain privately owned swimming pools from inspection and licensing requirements; to authorize inspection requests to board of health by residents or owners. **Status:** Referred to State Planning & Community Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to State Planning & Community Affairs Cmte.

[HB 362, Prescribing Albuterol Sulfate for Schools](#) (Rep. Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to authorize licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Education & Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree – Disagree.

Note: SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor.

[HB 391, Exempt Sales Tax for Certain Nonprofit Health Centers](#) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

Relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, so as to provide a new exemption from state sales and use tax only for a limited period of time regarding the sale or use of tangible personal property to certain nonprofit health centers; to provide a new exemption for a limited period of time with respect to certain nonprofit volunteer health clinics. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 726, Excise Tax; Tobacco Products; Clarify Certain Charges](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco products so as to clarify that certain charges are not subject to state excise tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[SB 29, Firefighters and Occupational Diseases](#) (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to compensation for occupational diseases; to provide for a rebuttal presumption that certain medical conditions suffered by firefighters are occupational diseases; to provide for applicability; to provide for benefits. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 32, State Employee Election of Coverage Under Different Administrator](#) (Sen. Valencia Seay-D)

Relating to the State Employees’ Health Insurance Plan, so as to require that the Board of Community Health shall reopen the 2014 open enrollment period to permit any employee whose elected medical claims administrator declared a major medical facility to be out of such administrator’s network to elect coverage under a different administrator. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 34, Immunity if Rescuing Child in Motor Vehicle](#) (Sen. Greg Kirk-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to torts, so as to provide immunity from liability under certain circumstances for persons entering a parked motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a child from such motor vehicle. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 35, Penalty Leaving Child in Certain Motor Vehicles](#) (Sen. Donzella James-D)

Relating to cruelty to children, so as to provide that leaving certain children in vehicles under certain circumstances constitutes cruelty to children in the third degree. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to the House, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

[SB 41, Georgia Family Planning Initiative](#) (Sen. Horacena Tate-D)

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to enact the "Georgia Family Planning Initiative"; to authorize public and private funding; to provide for distribution of funds for family planning services; to provide for priority of patients and cost of services. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services.

[SB 43, Provide Employee Breast Feeding Time](#) (Sen. Donzella James-D)

To change certain provisions relating to an employer's obligation to provide time for an employee to express breast milk for an infant child. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor.

[SB 55, Immunity When Rescuing Child in Motor Vehicle](#) (Sen. Vincent Fort-D)

Relating to general provisions regarding torts, so as to provide for civil immunity for a person who causes property damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a minor from such vehicle due to the belief of imminent danger to the minor. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte.

[SB 130, Bans Smoking in Vehicle with a Passenger Under 15](#) (Sen. Bruce Thompson-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to the uniform rules of the road, so as to provide that any person in control of a motor vehicle who smokes or permits another occupant to smoke when a person under the age of 15 is in the vehicle shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte. Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to the House, Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte.

Hospitals

[HB 247, CON Exemptions for Mental Health Facilities](#) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to exemptions from certificate of need requirements, so as to revise an exemption relating to mental health facilities. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 248, Regulation and Licensure of Short-term Mental Health Facilities](#) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to the powers and duties of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities regarding the regulation of mental health, so as to provide for the regulation and licensure of short-term mental health facilities by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; to provide for a transfer of duties and obligations from the Department of Community Health. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 249, Repeal the CON Program](#) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to health, so as to repeal the certificate of need program. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 321, Regarding Costs for Providing Copies of Health Records](#) (Rep. Kevin Cooke-R)

Relating to health records, so as to revise provisions regarding imposition of costs for providing copies of health records; to authorize certain charges for producing records in various forms. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 349, Physician Assistant Ability to Authorize Schedule II](#) (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

Relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants, so as to authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Subcmte as Amended, Pending Cmte.

[HB 354, Must Cover Certain Trauma Centers with the State Health Benefit Plan](#) (Rep. Barry Fleming-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require an insurer providing services under the state health benefit plan to include certain trauma centers in its provider network; to provide for a mechanism to resolve disputes between insurers and hospitals. **Status:** Referred to Judicial Cmte. Passed Subcmte as Amended, Pending Cmte.

[HB 362, Prescribing Albuterol Sulfate for Schools](#) (Rep. Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to authorize licensed health practitioners to prescribe albuterol sulfate for schools. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, House Rules Calendar, House Postponed, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Education & Youth Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate as Amended, Sent to House for Agree – Disagree.

Note: SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor.

[HB 399, Regarding County and Municipal Hospital Authorities](#) (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

Relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise various requirements and provisions relative to county and municipal hospital authorities. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[HB 482, Revises CON Requirements for a Destination Cancer Hospital](#) (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to revise the requirements for a destination cancer hospital for purposes of certificate of need. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte.

[HB 501, Relating to a State-wide Health Care Data System](#) (Rep. David Stover-R)

Relating to health care data system established and departmental authority, so as to remove the authority of the Department of Community Health to use existing data collection systems in establishing and operating a state-wide health care data system. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 727, Fireworks; Further Regulations by Counties and Municipal Corporations](#) (Rep. Paul Battles- R)

Relating to regulation of fireworks, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale, use, or explosion thereof. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 732, Super Speeder Law](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to speed restrictions of motor vehicles, so as to provide for "super speeder" classification upon conviction of driving a commercial motor vehicle at a speed of ten or more miles per hour above the posted speed limit. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte.

[SB 114, Protocol Agreements Between Physicians and RNs](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, so as to revise provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement with at any one time. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte.

[SB 115, P.A. Authority to Prescribe Schedule II](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to delegation of authority to physician assistants, so as to authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances; to provide for additional continuing education requirements regarding Schedule II controlled substances. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health Cmte.

Note: SB 115, Physician Assistant’s authorization to prescribe level II substances by Senator Hufstetler was added to HB 362 on the Senate Floor, Sent to House, Speaker Never Called for a Vote.

[SB 143, Inclusion of Certain Trauma Centers in a Provider Network](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require an insurer providing services under the state health benefit plan to include certain trauma centers in its provider network; to provide for a mechanism to resolve disputes between insurers and certain hospitals. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte as Amended, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Senate by Substitute, Sent to House, Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[SB 158, Consumer and Provider Protections on Health Insurance](#) (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide certain consumer and provider protections regarding health insurance; to provide for health insurer transparency; to provide for health care providers' right to choose; to provide for health care provider stability. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

Insurance

[HB 193, Written Notice to Certain Life Insurance Policyholders](#) (Rep. Carl Rogers-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for the "Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Model Act"; to provide for written notice to certain life insurance policyholders that request the surrender of, a loan against, or accelerated death benefit, nursing home benefit, critical illness benefit, or any other living benefit under a life insurance policy. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Referred to Life & Health Subcmte.

[HB 224, Regulation of Transportation Referral Services - Uber](#) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to preserve existing certificates of public necessity and convenience and medallion systems for taxicabs and to restrict the future use thereof; relating to motor vehicles, so as to provide for the comprehensive regulation of transportation referral services, transportation referral service providers, ride share network services, and ride share drivers. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 226, Regarding Chauffeur License Endorsements - Uber](#) (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to local government and motor vehicles and traffic, respectively, so as to change certain terminology regarding chauffeur license endorsements; to provide that drivers must have an endorsement in order to carry passengers for hire. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte.

[HB 303, Uninsured Motorist Coverage Recovery](#) (Rep. Dustin Hightower-R)

Relating to uninsured motorist coverage under motor vehicle liability policies, so as to change provisions relating to the recovery when an insurer refuses to pay for a loss within 60 days after a demand has been made by the insured and a finding has been made that such refusal was made in bad faith. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary, Referred to Subcmte, Passed Subcmte by Cmte Substitute, Pending Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Hearing Only Held

[HB 306, Conversion of Life Insurance to Fund Long-Term Care Services](#) (Rep. Jesse Petrea-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the conversion of life insurance policies for funding for long-term care services to delay medical assistance; to provide that the proceeds of the conversion through a life settlement contract be used only for long-term care services. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 484, Certain Premium Increases for Life Insurance](#) (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for certain premium increases. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 519, Notice of Certain Life Insurance Premium Increases](#) (Rep. Buzz Brockway-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for notice of certain premium increases. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 591, Premium Tax on MV Liability and Casualty Insurance Policies](#) (Rep. Bill Hitchens-R)

To provide for a premium tax on motor vehicle liability and casualty insurance policies; to provide for payment of such funds to the retirement fund. **Status:** Referred to Retirement Cmte

[HB 703, Georgia Captive Insurance Act](#) (Rep. Jason Shaw-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for extensive changes to the captive insurance company provisions of this title. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[SB 136, “Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Act”](#) (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to life insurance, so as to provide for the "Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Act"; to provide for written notice to certain life insurance policyholders that request the surrender of, a loan against, or accelerated death benefit, nursing home benefit, critical illness benefit, or any other living benefit under a life insurance policy. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 137, Regarding Value of Property Covered Against Loss by Fire](#) (Sen. Marty Harbin-R)

Relating to property insurance, so as to expand the ownership restriction as it relates to the application of the value of the property covered against loss by fire. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte as Amended, Pending Rules Cmte.

[SB 196, Insurance Requirements for Transportation Network Companies](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to provide insurance requirements for transportation network companies and their drivers; to provide for definitions; to provide for minimum liability limits. **Status:** Referred to Insurance & Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Insurance & Labor Cmte.

[SB 204, Reorganization of Mutual Insurers](#) (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide a short title; to define certain terms; to provide for reorganization of mutual insurers and formation of mutual insurance holding companies; to provide that capital stock of the reorganized stock insurer shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company or to an intermediate stock holding company; to provide for the requirements of any reorganization plan; to provide for mergers of mutual insurers or other entities with mutual insurance holding companies; to provide that capital stock of the merged insurer shall be issued to the mutual insurance holding company or to an intermediate stock holding company; to provide for approval of the reorganization plan or merger plan by the Commissioner of Insurance. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte.

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 34, Georgia Right to Try Act](#) (Rep. Mike Dudgeon-R)

Relating to health so as to provide for investigational drugs, biological products, and devices for patients with advanced illnesses; to allow manufacturers to make such drugs available; to provide that health benefit coverage is not mandatory; to prohibit sanctions against a physician's license. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 47, Dispensing of Topical Ophthalmic Products](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to dispensing prescription drugs, so as to authorize certain refills of topical ophthalmic products under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Cmte Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 195, Interchangeable Biological Products](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to pharmacists and pharmacies, so as to provide for substitutions of interchangeable biological products. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte by Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House by Substitute, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

Note: SB 51, Senate companion bill was passed in the 2015 session and signed by Governor Deal.

[HB 407, Opioid Education by Pain Management Clinics](#) (Rep. Ronnie Mabra-D)

Relating to pain management clinics, so as to require Opioid Education and Pro-Active Addiction Counseling for patients who are prescribed Schedule II or III controlled substances for chronic pain for extended periods; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 473, Regulation and Licensure of Pharmacy Benefits Managers](#) (Rep. David Knight-R)

Relating to the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to provide that a pharmacy benefits manager owes a fiduciary duty to a covered entity; to require certain notices and disclosures by pharmacy benefits managers to covered entities. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[HB 491, Emergency Public Access Stations and Auto-Injectable Epinephrine](#) (Rep. Wes Cantrell-R)

To provide for emergency public access stations to allow a lay rescuer to consult with a medical professional to administer or make available auto-injectable epinephrine under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 564, Continuing Ed. Training on Prescribing](#) (Rep. Rick Jasperse-R)

Relating to medical practice, so as to require physicians to complete continuing education training on prescribing controlled substances and development of addiction. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Health & Human Services Cmte.

[HB 588, Regulation of Ephedrine Products](#) (Valerie Clark-R)

Relating to regulation of controlled substances, so as to change provisions relating to possession of substances containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine and restrictions on sales of products containing pseudoephedrine; to provide for real-time tracking of sales of products containing ephedrine, norpseudoephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Withdrawn, Recommitted to Health & Human Service Cmte.

[SB 245, Regarding Opioid Analgesics](#) (Sen. Rick Jeffares-R)

Relating to general provisions of insurance, so as to provide for access to opioid analgesics with abuse-deterrent properties; to provide for coverage as a preferred drug; to provide for utilization management. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte.

Study Committees

[HR 787, Diabetes Control Grant Program Advisory Board](#) (Rep. Pat Gardner-D)

A Resolution encouraging Governor Nathan Deal to establish a Diabetes Control Grant Program Advisory Board and to fund the proposed grant programs outlined in the Diabetes Health and Improvement Act of 2010. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[HR 808, Tax to Fund Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that funds derived from an additional .2 percent increase in the general state sales and use tax shall be appropriated for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HR 828, Study Cmte for Indigent and Charity Health Care Services](#) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

A Resolution creating the House Study Committee on the Provision of Indigent and Charity Health Care Services. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte.

[SR 43, Study Committee on Tax Exemptions](#) (Sen. John Albers-R)

A Senate Study Committee to examine tax exemptions and deliberately assess the value of such exemptions in order to gain a clear understanding of which tax exemptions will help stimulate our state's economy. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, **Recommitted to Finance Cmte.**

[SR 65, Study Committee on Special Tax Exemptions](#) (Sen. Harold Jones-D)

A Senate Study Committee to perform cost-benefit analysis on tax credits for companies. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte.

[SR 97, Motor Fuel Tax for Public Transportation Only](#) (Sen. Curt Thompson-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that taxes on motor fuels shall be appropriated for any or all public transportation purposes. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[SR 123, Allow Casino Gambling](#) (Sen. Horacena Tate-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for casino gambling within each county and each municipal corporation where such activities have been approved by referendum. **Status:** Referred to Government Oversight Cmte

[SR 135, Pari-mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **Recommitted to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.**

[SR 143, Pari-mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing](#) (Sen. Curt Thompson-D)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities Cmte.

[SR 451, Alternatives to Transportation Funding Study Cmte](#) (Sen. Burt Jones-R)

A Resolution creating the Senate Alternatives to Transportation Funding Study Committee. **Status:** Referred to Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, **Recommitted to Rules Cmte.**

[SR 558, Fireworks Sales Revenue Dedicated to Fire Services, Burn Treatment, Etc](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that the proceeds of excise taxes on the sale of fireworks in this state be dedicated to the funding of trauma care, fire services, burn treatment, and local public safety purposes in the State of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety Cmte.

Tax

[HB 20, Relating to State Income Taxes](#) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to clarify that certain allocations to owners of certain entities shall be governed by Georgia law. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to the Senate, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Senate Engrossed, Senate Tabled, **Taken from the Table and Recommitted to Finance Cmte.**

[HB 109, Changes Qualifications of an Investor](#) (Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick-D)

Relating to income taxes, so as to change the qualifications of an investor. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 120, Additional Purpose for SPLOST](#) (Rep. Dale Rutledge-R)

Relating to the procedure for implementing a special purpose local option sales tax, so as to provide for an additional purpose for the tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 221, Ad Valorem Taxation of Property](#) (Rep. Bruce Thompson-R)

Relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxation. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House by Substitute, Referred to Finance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Senate Engrossed, Senate Tabled, **Taken from the Table and Recommitted to Finance Cmte.**

[HB 445, Comprehensive Revision of Personal Income Taxes](#) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating, respectively, to revenue and taxation, local government, and public utilities, so as to provide for comprehensive revision of personal income taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 471, Ad Valorem Taxation of Heavy-Duty Motor Vehicles](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to ad valorem taxation of heavy-duty motor vehicles, so as to add a definition of certain vehicles. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[HB 487, Sales and Use Taxes and Data Center Industry](#) (Sen. Don Parsons-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to provide for the comprehensive revision of sales and use tax provisions for all entities participating in the data center industry. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[SB 52, Disclosure of Tax Credits and Exemptions](#) (Sen. Vincent Fort-D)

Relating to disclosure of public records, so as to clarify that certain tax credits and exemptions are subject to disclosure. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

[SB 74, Establishing Charity Care Organizations for the Uninsured](#) (Sen. Judson Hill-R)

Relating to health and revenue and taxation, respectively, so as to establish charity care organizations to provide health care services to the uninsured in this state to provide for tax credits for contributions to charity care organizations. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte.

Transportation

[HB 21, Creation of Transit Authorities](#) (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to the creation of the transit authority by special legislation and the authority's attributes and powers, so as to repeal a population provision relative to creation of a transit authority within metropolitan areas; to provide for the establishment of intergovernmental agreements prior to the operation of service by a transit authority when it is being created in a geographical area where a transit service is already provided by an authority or county government. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte **Recommitted to Transportation Cmte.**

[HB 60, Motor Fuel and Flat Rate Income Tax](#) (Rep. Ed Setzler-R)

Relating to revenue and taxation, so as to exempt motor fuels from state sales and use taxes; to provide for increases in the second motor fuel tax and excise tax on motor fuel; to provide for the reduction of personal income taxes; to provide for a flat rate income tax structure; to amend the excise tax on distributors who sell or use motor fuel within this state. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[HB 149, Regarding Weight of Vehicles and Loads](#) (Rep. Terry Rodgers-R)

Relating to dimension and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide authority to the Department of Public Safety to enter into agreements and take action regarding weight of vehicles and loads; to provide for authority of the Department of Public Safety to operate vehicle weigh stations. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte.

[HB 411, Vehicle Weights for Unfinished Wood Products](#) (Rep. Sam Watson-R)

Relating to weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide for the maximum total gross weight for vehicles hauling unfinished wood products when traveling on non-interstate highways; to provide for no

restrictions on the weight for vehicle axles hauling such products so long as certain restrictions are met; to provide for a variance for vehicles hauling such products. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Recommitted to Transportation Cmte.