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Weekly Legislative Report #4

Week Ending February 3, 2017

Senate Approves the Hospital Providers' Fee

The bill that extends for three years the sunset feature on a hospital tax, [SB 70](#), passed the Georgia Senate easily on Thursday, 50-3. The \$311 million derived from the so-called “providers’ fee” is used to draw down federal Medicaid funds at approximately a two-to-one rate and generates more than \$900 million total for state coffers. A floor amendment to have the fee sunset after only one year failed, garnering a mere five affirmative votes. As a \$900 million hole in the budget would be hard to fill any other way, the measure is also expected to get expedited action at its next stop, the House of Representatives.

Cardiac Care Tiers

In an effort to improve the state’s poor ranking (38th nationally) in cardiac arrest deaths, Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) has introduced [SB 102](#). It would among other things, provide for the establishment of the Office of Cardiac Care within the Department of Public Health, establish a three-level designation system for cardiac care among hospitals and require data reporting. States such as Arizona and Washington have improved their death-by-heart-attack rate by installing such tiers. Georgia has similar regimes for trauma and stroke centers. The bill was first read this week and referred to the Senate HHS Committee.

Craft Brewers Toast a Win

Perhaps the Senate was in a good mood Thursday as it also passed [SB 85](#) by a margin of 49-2. This bill would allow craft breweries to sell the beer they manufacture at retail. Georgia is one of the last remaining states that still prohibits brewers from selling their own product at retail, requiring them to sell it wholesale to a separate retail establishment such as a bar, restaurant or store. The issue has been a battleground between the big beer wholesalers and smaller craft brewers for years. However, this legislation may be enough of a compromise to move the issue forward. The bill now heads over to the House.

Transporting Behavioral Health Patients

A Senate HHS subcommittee this week heard an introduction of [SB 40](#) (Renee Unterman-R), a bill that would enable EMTs responding to an emergency to transport patients to a receiving facility if they have cause to believe the patient is mentally ill. Testimony was provided by both the EMS Services and Police from Gwinnett County. Currently, EMS services are not allowed to transport patients who refuse the entreaty. The example of a person on a highway bridge threatening to jump, holding up traffic, was used by the first responders testifying. That person clearly needs to be transported for professional help, but is not likely to give permission. An EMT would have to consult with a physician and describe the patient's situation before making an involuntary transport. The Subcommittee members asked numerous questions and more work on the bill is expected as the bill transitions to full committee. A substitute bill was referenced during the debate, but it has not yet been posted, so the bill on the General Assembly web site at this moment is not the exact working document.

Harder to Sue Negligent Bank Officers

Second term representative Beth Beskin (R-Atlanta) introduced [HB 192](#) Wednesday, a bill that would make it more difficult to successfully hold bank officers and directors liable for negligence. If approved, the bill would make the threshold for liability "gross negligence," which is defined as "a reckless indifference to or absolute disregard for the best interest of the corporation and its shareholders." It would negate a unanimous 2014 Georgia Supreme Court decision (*FDIC v. Loudermilk*) that allowed suits to be filed based on mere negligence. The Loudermilk in that case is R. Charles Loudermilk, the founder of Aaron Rents and an officer of the Buckhead Community Bank, which was closed by the FDIC in December 2009.

During the recent Great Recession more than 80 banks failed in the state, making Georgia the national leader in that dubious category. According to the *Georgia Report*, Beskin explained that the bill would make Georgia consistent with other states. "It's hard to get people to serve on bank boards if they're open to legal liabilities," she said.

Destination Resorts

In our last report we predicted that Resolutions to place a Constitutional Amendment (CA) on the November 2018 ballot to permit casino-style gambling would be dropped soon. They haven't been introduced, yet. There remains a great deal of behind-the-scenes lobbying and negotiating over just how those CAs will be worded. We now anticipate the House Resolution, when introduced, will permit up to six casinos in the state, rather than two – an idea that appears to be gaining acceptance among some in House leadership positions.

And, of course, there is plenty of debate in store for the enacting legislation, which has been introduced already. Even those inclined to support the concept are divided over whether the 20% tax on casino profits is high enough and whether more than 30% of those taxes should go to needs-based scholarships.

Governor Creates "Older Adults Cabinet"

It didn't require legislation, but Governor Nathan Deal has created an Older Adults Cabinet that will advise him on issues affecting elderly Georgians. Deal noted that the state has one of the fastest growing populations of older adults in the nation -- a situation that will be exasperated as baby boomers reach retirement age. The Governor expects his cabinet to be instrumental in ensuring that "we have the infrastructure to meet their needs and the needs of their caregivers." The cabinet will include Wanda Taft, President of the Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging, among others. It will be co-chaired by the First Lady, Sandra Deal, and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, Robyn Crittenden.

Meeting Calendar Set

One of the major accomplishments of any General Assembly is to develop a meeting calendar that works for both the House and Senate. Some years it may take three or four "adjournment resolutions" before adjournment sine die is scheduled. To their credit, the leaders of the House and Senate this week planned out the entire rest of the legislative session, which is now scheduled to end on March 30. In case you're planning a visit to the gold dome, be sure to check the meeting schedule below. Recess days toward the end of session are needed to allow committees to "perfect" bills and finish last-minute business.

The General Assembly will be in session (subject to change):

February 7, 8, 9, 10

February 14, 15, 16, 17

February 21, 22, 23, 24

February 27, 28, March 1

March 3 (Crossover Day)

March 6

March 9, 10

March 13, 14, 15, 16

March 20

March 22

March 24

March 28

March 30 (Adjournment Sine Die)

Next Week

The General Assembly is in session Tuesday through Friday next week. However, the Appropriations Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing Monday afternoon for advocates who wish to testify on behalf of items in (or not yet in) the FY 18 budget.

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 2017 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2017-2018 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2018 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2017 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

Aging and Adult Services

[HB 154, Dental hygienists practice](#), (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Regulates the practice of dental hygienists when the supervising dentist is not in same building. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[SB 12, Dental hygienists practice](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Regulates the practice of dental hygienists when the supervising dentist is not in same building. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

City & County Governments and Regional Commissions

[HB 1, To provide for the facilitation of space flight activities](#), (Rep. Jason Spencer-R)

To provide for the facilitation of space flight activities in this state; to provide for exceptions; to limit the liability of space flight entities related to injuries sustained by participants who have agreed in writing to such activities. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[HB 33, Individuals appointed to authorities and boards be U.S. citizens](#), (Rep. Brad Raffensperger-R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities; general provisions regarding eligibility and qualifications for public office; and general provisions relating to state government, respectively, so as to require that individuals appointed to authorities, boards, councils, and commissions be United States citizens or nationals, lawful permanent residents, or aliens having lawful status to be present in the United States. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 42, Correct mistakes and omissions on ballots for a primary or election](#), (Rep. Eddie Lumsden-R)

Relating to elections and primaries generally, so as to authorize election superintendents to correct mistakes and omissions on ballots for a primary or election. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 61, Retailers to collect and remit or notify purchaser and state of sales/use tax](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to imposition of tax, rates, and collection, so as to require certain retailers to either collect and remit sales and use taxes or provide certain notifications to each purchaser and the state. **Status:** House Hopper, Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 62, Revise sales and use tax on personal property delivered into state](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state sales and use tax on tangible personal property delivered into this state. **Status:** House Hopper, Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Withdrawn and recommitted to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 66, Certain fees for money transmission transactions by financial institutions](#), (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to sale of payment instruments, so as to provide for the imposition of certain fees upon money transmission transactions completed by financial institutions for individuals; to provide for compensation to financial institutions for reporting and paying fees; to amend Article 3 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., relating to income tax returns and furnishing of information, so as to provide for a tax credit for residents in the amount of certain assessed money transmission transaction fees paid by such residents; to provide for a reimbursement for certain residents in the amount of certain assessed money transmission transaction fees paid by such residents. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 69, Reporting of statistics related to the classification of counties into tiers for economic development](#), (Rep. Paulette Rakestraw-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to provide for the reporting of statistics related to the classification of counties into tiers for economic development purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 70, Reclassify counties with certain percentage who commute outside county for work](#), (Rep. Paulette Rakestraw-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to provide that a county with a certain percentage of workers who commute outside such county for work shall be reclassified one tier lower in the county tier system for economic development purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 73, Income tax credit incentives to promote rural downtown revitalization](#), (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxation, so as to provide tax credit incentives to promote the revitalization of vacant rural Georgia downtowns by encouraging investment, job creation, and economic growth in long-established business districts. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 95, Change certain property tax definitions](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to ad valorem taxation of property, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxation. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 141, Expand list of permitted expenditures for revenues from excise tax on lodging](#), (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to county and municipal levies on public accommodations charges for promotion of tourism, conventions, and trade shows, so as to expand the list of permitted expenditures for revenues from excise taxes on lodging. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 146, Fire departments to maintain certain insurance coverage for firefighters](#), (Rep. Micah Gravley-R)

Relating to general requirements for legally organized fire departments, so as to require such fire departments to purchase and maintain certain insurance coverage for firefighters. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[HB 152, Occupational disease; firefighter show certain evidence](#), (Rep. Micah Gravley-R)

Relating to compensation for occupational disease, so as to allow a firefighter to show certain evidence as to the ordinary disease of life of cancer. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported

[HB 178, Quality Basic Education Act](#), (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to program weights and funding requirements under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for local school systems to earn funding for school counselors for military students. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 181, Change provisions regarding furnishing of certain tax information in all municipalities with a population of 350,000+](#), (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

Relating to confidential information secured in the administration of taxes, so as to change certain provisions regarding the furnishing of certain tax information in all municipalities in this state having a population of 350,000 or more and make such provisions applicable state wide. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 183, Recreate the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council](#), (Rep. Robert Dickey-R)

Recreate the Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council under the Department of Community Affairs; to provide for definitions; to provide that all documents and data of the current Georgia Geospatial Advisory

Council that is under the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources shall be transferred to the new council. **Status:** Referred to State Planning & Community Affairs Cmte

[HB 189, Contract Cancellation Act](#), (Rep. Shelia Nelson-D)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, so as to provide that any service contract such entities enter into shall contain a termination clause; to provide that poor performance or cost overrun shall constitute cause for termination of the contract. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 194, Require counties and municipalities to consider the effect of proposed zoning on local schools](#),

(Rep. Todd Jones-R) relating to adoption of hearing policies and procedures and standards for exercise of zoning power, so as to require counties and municipalities to consider the effect of a proposed zoning action on local school systems and the potential overcrowding of schools within such local school systems. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HR 39, House Study Committee on Enhancing Economic Development Through the County Tier System](#),

(Rep. Paulette Rakestraw-R)

A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Enhancing Economic Development Through the County Tier System. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte

[SB 2, "The FAST Act - Empowering Our Small Businesses to Succeed"](#), (Sen. Mike Dugan-R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, general provisions regarding professions and businesses, and state government, respectively, so as to enhance accountability and notice requirements for agency rule making so as to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[SB 46, Provide for the facilitation of space flight activities](#), (Sen. William Ligon-R)

To provide for the facilitation of space flight activities in this state; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to limit the liability of space flight entities related to injuries sustained by participants who have agreed in writing to such a limitation after being provided with certain warnings. **Status:** Referred to Science and Technology Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[SB 85, Provide for limited sale of malt beverages at retail by manufacturers](#), (Sen. Rick Jeffares-R)

Relating to malt beverages, so as to provide for the limited sale of malt beverages at retail by manufacturers of malt beverages; to provide for a definition; to clarify that sales of malt beverages by brewpubs for consumption off the premises are governed by the local jurisdiction. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported By Substitute

Disabilities and Mental Health

[SB 4, Georgia Mental Health Treatment Task Force](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to establish the Georgia Mental Health Treatment Task Force; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for the membership, duties, compensation, and expense allowances; to develop applications for a Medicaid waiver and block grant funding; to prohibit the submission of a mental health Medicaid waiver application without legislative approval. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported By Substitute

[SB 40, Authorize EMS personnel to transport certain mentally ill patients](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Relating to examination, hospitalization, and treatment of involuntary patients, so as to provide for authorization of emergency medical services personnel to transport certain mentally ill patients under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 52, Repeal sunset provision authorizing licensed professional counselor](#), (Sen. P. K. Martin IV-R)

Relating to mental health and authorizing a licensed professional counselor to perform certain acts. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported

Economic Development

[HB 158, Creation of Georgia Gaming Commission and Destination Resorts](#), (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to the creation, membership, appointments, and duties of the Georgia Gaming Commission; to authorize the licensing of up to two destination resorts. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper, **Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte**

[HB 205, Regulate the exploration and extraction of gas and oil](#), (Rep. John Meadows-R)

Relating to mining and drilling, so as to regulate the exploration and extraction of gas and oil in this state; to provide for a definition; to provide for authority to create an Oil and Gas Board under certain circumstances; to require the promulgation of rules and regulations related to drilling and extraction. **Status:** **Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte**

[SB 17, Local authorities to authorize Sunday times to sell alcoholic beverages](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Relating to alcoholic beverages, so as to provide that governing authorities of counties and municipalities in which the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises is lawful may authorize sales of such alcoholic beverages during a certain time on Sundays. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 79, Creation of Georgia Gaming Commission and Destination Resorts](#), (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to the creation, membership, appointments, and duties of the Georgia Gaming Commission; to authorize the licensing of up to two destination resorts. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper, **Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte**

Environment & Natural Resources

[HB 205, Oil and Gas Deep Drilling Act](#), (Rep. John Meadows-R)

Relating to mining and drilling, so as to regulate the exploration and extraction of gas and oil and to create an Oil and Gas Board and impose a severance tax on the extraction of oil and gas. **Status:** **Referred to the Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Cmte**

General Government

[SB 75, Create the Division of Supplier Diversity](#), (Sen. Vincent For-D)

Relating to the Department of Administrative Services, so as to define certain terms; to create the Division of Supplier Diversity; to provide for appointment of a director; to provide for powers and duties of the director; to create the position of minority and women owned business enterprises state-wide advocate. **Status:** **Referred to Government Oversight Cmte**

Health – General

[HB 65, Change conditions and eligibility for Low THC Registry](#), (Rep. Allen Peake-R)

Change provisions relating to conditions and eligibility; to provide a definition; to remove certain reporting requirements for the Low THC Registry. **Status:** House Hopper, Referred to Judiciary Non-civil Cmte

[HR 14, Create a Joint Study Committee on the Creation of High-Tech Health Incubators for Job Growth](#), (Rep. Brad Raffensperger- R)

Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Creation of High-Tech Health Incubators for Job Growth for Georgia; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Special Rules Cmte

[HR 36, Production and sale of medical cannabis to individuals for medical use](#), (Rep. Allen Peake-R)

A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for the regulation of the production of cannabis and sale of medical cannabis to certain individuals for medical usage as provided by law; to provide that the fees paid from the production of

cannabis and state tax proceeds from the sale of medical cannabis be dedicated. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[SB 16, Change conditions and eligibility for use of low THC Oil](#), (Sen. Ben Watson-R)

Relating to the regulation of low THC oil and the establishment of the Low THC Oil Patient Registry, definitions, purpose, registration cards, quarterly reports, and waiver forms, respectively, so as to change the definition of low THC oil; to change provisions relating to conditions eligible for use of low THC oil. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 25, Create Georgia Health Care Transparency Initiative](#), (Sen. Joshua McKoon-R)

Relating to general provisions of insurance, so as to create the Georgia Health Care Transparency Initiative; to provide for definitions; to provide for a purpose; to provide for a Georgia Health Care Initiative Board; to provide for the board's membership and duties; to provide for the Commissioner's duties; to provide for subcommittees. **Status:** Senate Hopper, Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

Health – Public Health

[HB 28, Test for lead contamination in drinking water, public and private schools](#), (Rep. Billy Mitchell-D)

To require testing of drinking water in public and private schools for lead contamination; to provide for remediation plans or alternate sources of drinking water. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 38, Issuance of license for three-wheeled motor vehicle](#), (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Provide for the issuance of a noncommercial Class C driver's license for the operation of three-wheeled motor vehicles equipped with a steering wheel for directional control; to provide for the issuance of a noncommercial Class M driver's license for the operation of motorcycles equipped with handlebars for directional control. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte, **Cmte Favorably Reported, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Public Safety Cmte**

[HB 198, Requires schools to provide info about the influenza vaccine to parents of 6-12 students](#), (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to provide certain information to parents and guardians of students in grades six through 12 on influenza and its vaccine whenever other health information is provided. **Status:** **Referred to Education Cmte**

[HB 200, Adopt policies authorizing students to carry and self-administer sunscreen](#), (Rep. Mark Newton-R)

Require local boards of education to adopt policies authorizing students to carry and self-administer sunscreen. **Status:** **Referred to Education Cmte**

[SB 81, Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr., Act.](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

Provide that the state health officer may issue a standing order permitting certain persons and entities to obtain opioid antagonists under the conditions the state health officer may impose. **Status:** **Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte**

[SB 88, 'Narcotic Treatment Programs Enforcement Act'](#), (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to drug abuse treatment and education programs, so as to provide for regulation of narcotic treatment programs. **Status:** **Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte**

Hospitals

[HB 54, Change certain amounts eligible for tax credit for rural hospitals](#), (Rep. Geoff Duncan-R)

Relating to hospital care for the indigent generally, so as to provide for an additional reporting requirement for rural hospitals; make changes relating to the imposition, computation, rate, and exemptions from income taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 71, Insurance; consumer protections regarding health insurance](#), (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance; to provide for definitions; to provide for disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers; to provide for network composition; to provide for billing and reimbursement of in-network and out-of-network services; to provide for payment of emergency services. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 81, Health facilities to receive tax refund setoffs for collection of medical debts](#), (Rep. Tom McCall-R)

Relating to income taxes, so as to allow certain health care facilities to receive income tax refund setoffs for collection of medical debts. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 127, Revise nonprofit medical and hospital service corporations provisions](#), (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to repeal certain obsolete provisions relative to nonprofit medical service corporations and nonprofit hospital service corporations; to amend Titles 31 and 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health and public officers and employees. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported

[HB 149, Comprehensive regulation of trauma scene cleanup](#), (Rep. Alan Powell-R)

Relating to law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to provide for the comprehensive regulation of trauma scene cleanup services and regulated waste transport. **Status:** House Hopper, Referred to Public Safety & Homeland Security Cmte

[HB 157, Revise medical advertising criteria](#), (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

Relating to requirements for advertising or publicizing of medical specialty certification. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 165, Maintenance of certification not required to practice medicine](#), (Rep. Betty Price-R)

Relating to medical practice, so as to provide that maintenance of certification shall not be required as a condition of licensure to practice medicine. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[SB 8, Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

To provide for disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers; to provide for billing and reimbursement of out-of-network services; to provide for procedures for dispute resolution for surprise bills for nonemergency services; to provide for payment of emergency services; to provide for an out-of-network reimbursement rate workgroup. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 14, Clarify the amount of a state income tax credit for rural hospitals](#), (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to clarify the amount of an exemption for certain entities under the contributions to rural hospitals income tax credit. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[SB 44, Exempt from public disclosure the identities of donors to rural hospitals](#), (Sen. Dean Burke-R)

Relating to when public disclosure not required, so that the identities of individual and corporate donors to rural hospital organizations are exempt from public disclosure. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 50, "Direct Primary Care Act"](#), (Sen. Hunter Hill-R)

Relating to kinds of insurance, limits of risks, and reinsurance, so as to provide definitions; to provide that direct primary care agreements are not insurance; to exempt such agreements from regulation as insurance. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[SB 70, Extend hospital Medicaid Financing Program](#), (Sen. Butch Miller-R)

Relating to the hospital Medicaid financing program, so as to extend the sunset provision. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported, Passed Senate, Transmitted to House

[SB 96, Authorize the pronouncement of death by registered professional nurses](#), (Sen. Ben Watson-R)

Relating to health, so as to authorize the pronouncement of death by registered professional nurses, nurse

practitioners, or physician assistants of patients in nursing homes and hospice care even if they are organ donors. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services

[SB 102, Designation of emergency cardiac care centers](#), (Sen. Butch Miller-R)

Relating to emergency medical services, so as to provide for the designation of emergency cardiac care centers; to provide for the establishment of the Office of Cardiac Care within the Department of Public Health. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

Insurance

[HB 74, Change life risk-based capital trend test to comply with accreditation standards](#), (Rep. Darlene Taylor-R)

Relating to company action level events, preparation and submission of risk-based capital level plan, so as to change the life risk-based capital trend test in order to comply with accreditation standards. **Status:** Referred to Insurance, Cmte Favorably Reported

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 30, Add synthetic opioid to Schedule I Controlled Substances](#), (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to Schedule I controlled substances, so as add a synthetic opioid to Schedule I. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[HB 35, Pharmacy benefits managers required to confirm receipt of prior approval request within 48 hours](#), (Rep. Bruce Broadrick-R)

Relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to require confirmation of receipt of prior approval requests for prescription drugs within 48 hours. **Status:** Referred to the Insurance Cmte

[HB 231, Annual Drug Bill](#), (Rep. Bruce Broadrick-R)

Relating to controlled substances, so as to change certain provisions relating to Schedules I, II, IV, and V controlled substances. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[SB 103, 'The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act'](#), (Sen. Jeff Mullis-R)

Relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to authorize the Commissioner of Insurance to promulgate certain rules and regulations and to examine and investigate certain matters with regard to pharmacy benefits managers; to prohibit pharmacy benefits managers from requiring the use of mail-order pharmacies. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

Taxes

[HB 56 Levy a tax on persons who enter certain rental agreements](#), (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to specific, business, and occupation taxes, so as to levy and impose a tax on persons who enter certain rental agreements with certain equipment rental companies within a certain period of time; to provide for definitions; to require such equipment rental companies to collect such taxes and hold them in escrow for a period of time; to provide that such companies shall pay their ad valorem tax liability for certain rental equipment with such taxes and shall remit any excess funds to the general fund of the state treasury; to provide for the reporting of statistical data related to such tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 59, Tax credits for rehabilitation of historic structures](#), (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Changes to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, so as to revise procedures, conditions, and limitations. **Status:** House Hopper, Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 89, Type of investor eligible for certain income tax credits](#), (Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick-D)

Relating to income taxes, so as to add a type of investor eligible for certain tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 145, Change method of charging tax on jet fuel](#), (John Carson-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding the state sales and use tax, so as to change the method of charging such tax on jet fuel. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 147, Income tax credit for films that employ veterans](#), (Rep. Pam Dickerson-D)

Relating to an income tax credit for film, video, or digital production in Georgia, so as to provide for an additional credit amount for productions that employ veterans. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 155, Georgia Musical Investment Act](#), (Rep. Amy Carter-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, and computation of and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to create an income tax credit for certain expenditures by a production company related to certain state certified musical or theatrical productions or recorded musical performances. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 195, Certain for profit corporations to participate in the indirect ownership of a home for the mentally disabled](#), (Rep. Brett Harrell-R)

Relating to property tax exemptions, so as to allow certain for profit corporations to participate in the indirect ownership of a home for the mentally disabled for primarily financing purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 247, Tax Exemption for Concrete Mixer Transports](#), (Rep. Dominic LaRiccina-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding state sales and use tax, so as to exempt machinery used to mix or transport concrete from such tax. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

Transportation

[HB 58, Reference date to federal regulations regarding the safe operation of commercial vehicles](#), (Rep. Terry Rogers-R)

Relating to safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles, so as to update the reference date to federal regulations regarding the safe operation of motor carriers and commercial motor vehicles. **Status:** Referred to Motor Vehicles Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported, Passed House

[HB 68, Emergency pull off shoulders for motor vehicles in construction zones](#), (Rep. Andrew Welch-R)

Relating to general provisions relative to regulation of maintenance and use of public roads, so as to provide for emergency pull off shoulders for motor vehicles in construction zones of road expansion projects. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

[HB 96, Change definitions of rooms, lodgings, and accommodations for excise tax](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 103, Change certain definitions for motor fuel and road taxes](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to motor fuel and road taxes, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxes; to provide an effective date. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 107, Change definitions for rooms, lodgings, and accommodations for excise tax](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to change certain definitions regarding such taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 134, Change provisions of special district mass transportation sales tax](#), (Rep. Bubber Epps-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding the special district mass transportation sales and use tax, so as to

change the definition of transportation purposes regarding such tax; to change certain provisions relating to special districts and the imposition of such tax. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 160, Georgia Commission on Transit Governance](#), (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

Relating to mass transportation, so as to create the Georgia Commission on Transit Governance and Funding; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the commission; to provide for a report and proposal by the commission. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper, **Referred to Transportation Cmte**

[HB 201, Exempt public mass transit vehicles from taxes on the sale of motor vehicle fuel](#), (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to an excise tax on motor fuels, so as to provide for an exemption from taxes on the sale of motor vehicle fuel for use by public mass transit vehicles, certain vehicles operated by public campus transportation systems. **Status:** **Referred Ways & Means Cmte**

[SB 6, Georgia Regional Transit Council](#), (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia Regional Transit Council; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the council; to provide for a report and proposal by the council; to provide for assignment of the council to the Department of Transportation for administrative purposes; to provide for compensation and expenses. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[SB 58, Repeal the excise tax on hotel and motel room rentals](#), (Sen. Joshua McKoon-R) Relating to an excise tax on hotel and motel room rentals, so as to repeal such provision; to provide for an effective date. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte

[SB 89, Provide for state investment in railways, railroad facilities, and equipment](#), (Sen. David Shafer-R)

Relating to officers in the Department of Transportation, so as to provide for state investment in railways and railroad facilities and equipment; to provide that the commissioner of transportation may administer a Georgia Freight Railroad Program. **Status:** **Referred to Transportation Cmte, Cmte Favorably Reported**

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