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Weekly Legislative Report #5

Week Ending February 10, 2017

The General Assembly has now worked through Legislative Day 16 and bills are percolating through both the House and Senate legislative machinery. The FY 17 Amended budget has cleared both houses with so few differences that no conference committee will be necessary. The two bodies will agree with each other's amendments in order to perfect the bill. Here's what else happened last week.

Legislature Provides for Medicaid

The Medicaid Provider Fee, [SB 70](#), which passed the Senate earlier, sailed through the House 152-14 on Friday. This is the bill that extends the sunset date on an existing hospital tax for another three years. The tax on hospital revenues will bring in an estimated \$311 million annually and that money in turn will be able to draw down another \$600 million in federal funds.

Rep. Butch Parrish, who chairs the House Appropriations Health Subcommittee, spoke in favor of the legislation and issued an invitation to his colleagues who might have been considering a "no" vote. "If you want to vote against this bill," Parrish said, "please bring to me your suggestions on where we can find another \$900 million to fill the hole that would be left in our budget."

Governor Nathan Deal, whose Senate floor leader, Butch Miller (R-Gainesville), introduced the bill, said he will sign it on Tuesday.

Dental Hygienists Smiling on Friday

Dental hygienists had a double-barrel victory Friday morning as they passed similar bills in both the House and Senate on the same day. The legislation would allow hygienists to provide teeth cleaning services in venues such as schools and nursing homes under the supervision of a dentist, but without the dentist being in the same building.

The House voted 163-0 to pass [HB 154](#) (Sharon Cooper-R), while the Senate passed [SB 12](#) (Renee Unterman-R) by a margin of 48-1. The only difference in the bills is that the Senate

version requires reports to reveal how many dentists are supervising how many hygienists in out-of-office settings.

Each bill now moves across the Capitol rotunda to be considered by the other body.

CON Legislation Introduced

Sen. Ben Watson (R-Savannah) has placed in the hopper two pieces of legislation that would alter Certificate of Need (CON) regulations in Georgia. The first bill, SB 157, would permit multi-specialty physician practices to open two ambulatory surgery operating rooms without going through the CON process. The second bill, SB 158, would allow a free-standing emergency department to operate in any county without a hospital. (Neither bill is yet available on the General Assembly's web site.)

On the House side, Rep. Wendell Willard has introduced [HB 299](#), which removes many of the existing CON requirements from law.

Destination Hospital Issues

In 2008, the General Assembly passed a law creating a new healthcare facility designation known as a "Destination Hospital" to allow Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) to bypass numerous regulatory requirements before opening a cancer hospital in Newnan. Among the requirements to become a destination hospital is that 65% of patients must be from out-of-state, a business model that CTCA advocated for and committed to at that time.

This week, Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Sandy Springs), introduced [SB 123](#), a bill that removes any requirement for a destination hospital to care for out-of-state patients and increases the number of beds allowed for in-state patients. Critics charge that CTCA, which offers no emergency room services, also treats very few Medicaid or uninsured patients, leaving them to be treated by hospitals that are required to follow standard hospital rules and regulations.

Hearing on Destination Resort

The Georgia Senate Regulated Industries Committee held a hearing (no vote) Thursday afternoon on a substitute to SB 79 (not yet posted), the Destination Resort enabling legislation by Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta).

The main points made by the bill's author:

- It will permit two destination resorts.
 - One will be in the Atlanta area (Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb or Gwinnett Counties). It will require a \$2 billion investment, hotel, restaurants, convention center, 3,500 seat auditorium, and other tourist-drawing attractions.
 - The second will be in a county with a population of at least 180,000 which make

Savannah, Columbus and Augusta eligible, but not Macon. The second resort cannot be in the same market as the first resort. It will require a \$450 million investment.

- The resorts must derive 60% of their income from non-gaming sources.
- Gambling revenues will be taxed at 20%
- The tax will be distributed as follows:
 - 50% to the HOPE Scholarship
 - 30% to a needs-based scholastic scholarship
 - 20% to a Rural Hospital Assistance Grant program at the Department of Community Health

- Applicants must be able to give evidence of operating a similar resort elsewhere.
- There will be a \$1 million application fee that is non-refundable.
- There will be a \$50 million application fee that is refundable if the applicant is not chosen.
- There will be a \$5 million annual fee in addition to the 20% gaming tax.

Committee member David Lucas (D-Macon) suggested the proceeds should be divided differently. He wants the 20% for Rural Hospital Grants to be raised with a combination of 15% for rural hospitals, 15% for trauma care and 2% for local law enforcement, thus diminishing the scholarship proceeds. Additional hearings and discussions on the bill were promised. The Constitutional Amendment resolution that must be passed to allow casino gambling still has not been introduced.

January Revenue Bounce

After several slow-growth months, Georgia's revenues rebounded in January showing a 7.5% increase over the same period a year ago. Individual Income Taxes grew by 11%, while corporate collections dropped down by 10.5%. The growth in actual dollars was \$154 million, which puts the state at \$160.7 million ahead of budget, a 4.6% increase since the fiscal year began July 1, 2016. (If you deduct the new fuel taxes, there is still a year-to-date increase of 3.67%.) Total revenues over the past 12 months are up by 6.7%.

Price Confirmed as HHS Secretary – Special Election Slated

The U.S. Senate confirmed Georgia Congressman Tom Price as the Trump administration's new Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in the wee hours of Friday morning. Georgia will certainly have close contacts in this federal department that governs the rules and regulations affecting Medicaid and many other programs. The Georgia House will have a very direct conduit to its former member through a current member, Rep. Betty Price, MD, the new Secretary's spouse.

Governor Nathan Deal has set a special election to replace Price for April 18. Qualifying for the 6th Congressional seat will be held Monday through Wednesday next week. At least one current member of the legislature, Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta), has said he is running. Sometimes

referred to as a “jungle primary,” the candidates in this special election will all be on one ballot, regardless of party, with the top two finishers advancing to a June 20 runoff – that is, if no one reaches the 50-percentile-plus-one margin to win outright.

Former Legislator Bobby Parham

Former State Rep. Bobby Parham, 75, a Milledgeville pharmacist who served in the state house for nearly 35 years, died on Monday. Parham began his political career by serving four years as a Baldwin County Commissioner and ended it as a member of the State Board of Transportation.

Next Week

The General Assembly is in recess on Monday, but there are five different committee meetings scheduled. Legislators will be in session Tuesday through Friday.

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, **Passed House, Sent to Senate**

[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, **Passed Senate, Sent to House**

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, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[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, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, **Public Finance Subcmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte**

[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 by substitute

[HB 168, Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority](#), (Rep. Regina Quick-R)
An Act to amend an Act creating the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, Ga. L. 1994, p. 5123, so as to abolish the Upper Oconee Resource Management Commission; to remove all references to same; to modify the composition of the Authority's Board. **Status:** **Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte**

[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, **Cmte Favorably Reported, Pending Rules 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

[HB 204, Property tax bills shall not include nontax related fees](#), (Rep. Brett Harrell-R)
Relating to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to provide that property tax bills shall not include any nontax related fees or assessments. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte**

[HB 216, Georgia Jobs Matter Act](#), (Rep. Debbie Buckner-D)

Relating to contracts and purchases by public schools, local government, and general authority, duties, and procedure relative to government purchasing, respectively, so as to modify provisions relating to contractual and purchasing preferences for Georgia service providers and certain supplies, materials, equipment, and agricultural products grown, manufactured, or produced in this state. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 224, "Quality Basic Education Act" military students](#), (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to organization of schools and school systems under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that a military student may attend any school in the local school system. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 227, Provide for the value of interest to be paid on refunds](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Provide for the value of interest to be paid on refunds of certain overpayments made pursuant to a direct payment permit; to amend Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title, relating to the imposition, rate, collection, and assessment of sales and use taxes, so as to require the Department of Revenue to establish and maintain a direct pay permit program that permits a qualified taxpayer to accrue and pay directly to the department certain state and local sales and use taxes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 336, Broadband Deployment Incentives](#), (Rep. Don Parsons-R)

To provide for broadband deployment incentives; to establish certification of certain counties and municipal corporations as broadband ready communities; to provide for duties and responsibilities of the Department of Economic Development; to provide for the Georgia Technology Authority to develop an annual "Broadband Strategy for All of Georgia." **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

[HB 243, Additional pay to employees based on schedule changes](#), (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)

Relating to minimum wage law, so as to preempt local government mandates requiring additional pay to employees based on schedule changes. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte

[HB 245, Process by which military spouses may qualify for temporary certificates](#), (Rep. Al Williams-D)

Relating to certificated professional personnel, so as to provide for the establishment of a process by the Professional Standards Commission by which military spouses may qualify for temporary certificates, certificates by endorsement, or expedited certificates upon moving to Georgia with their service member or transitioning service member spouse. **Status:** Referred to Defense & Veterans Affairs Cmte

[HB 257, Requires local government authorities to register with the DCA for funds](#), (Jan Tankersley-R)

Relating to local government, so as to require local government authorities to register with the Department of Community Affairs in order to be eligible for state funds; to change the deadline for local government authorities to register with said department. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 270, Repeal the Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax Act](#), (Rep. Tom Taylor-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to repeal a certain exemption to the ceiling on local sales and use taxes which may be levied by a political subdivision; to repeal the Equalized Homestead Option Sales Tax Act of 2015. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 342, Enterprise Zones](#), (Rep. Chuck Efstation-R)

Relating to enterprise zones, so as to provide that certain urban redevelopment zones may be designated as enterprise zones; to provide for a sales tax exemption in such enterprise zones. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper.

[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

[HR 158, Dedicate the revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which they were imposed](#), (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

Provide by general law for the dedication of revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were imposed; to provide for procedures. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HR 169, Adopt interstate health licensing for military service members & families](#), (Rep. Sandra Scott-D) A RESOLUTION urging the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners, the Georgia Board of Dentistry, and the various professional licensing boards under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State's office to adopt existing interstate licensing compacts to permit military service members and their families who have a license to practice in a health service field for which a license is required to practice in such field in this state, without requiring such individuals to earn a Georgia license in addition to their home state license. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services 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, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[SB 116, Storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties](#), (Sen. Frank Ginn-R) Relating to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit the assessment of storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

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, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[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, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Passed Senate, Sent to House

[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, Passed Senate

[SB 118, Change the age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)
Relating to coverage for autism, so as to change the age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders for an individual covered under a policy or contract. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

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 265, Tax credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs](#), (Rep. Chuck Efrstration-R)
Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to revise the provisions relating to the credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs; to amend Code Section 48-8-3 of the O.C.G.A., relating to exemptions from state sales and use taxes, so as to provide a state sales tax exemption for sales of tickets, fees, or charges of admission to certain facilities that provide certain arts and education programming; to provide a state and local sales tax exemption for sales of tangible personal property used for or in the renovation or expansion of certain theaters. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means 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, **Hearing Only in 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, **Hearing Only in Energy Subcmte**

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, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[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

[HB 210, Certain specimen collection stations and blood banks aren't considered clinical labs](#), (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

Relating to definitions relative to clinical laboratories, so as to provide that certain specimen collection stations and blood banks are not considered clinical laboratories for the purpose of regulation under Chapter 22. **Status:** **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 241, Cove's Law](#), (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to control of hazardous conditions, so as to add Krabbe disease to the list of metabolic and genetic conditions for which newborn screening may be conducted pursuant to the Department of Public

Health; to provide for the screening at the option of the parent or parents. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[HB 263, Provide dental services for Medicaid recipients and PeachCare for Kids](#), (Rep. Darlene Taylor-R) Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for administrators for dental services for Medicaid recipients and PeachCare for Kids participants; to require the Department of Community Health to competitively bid out and contract with such administrators. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services

[HB 274, Makes smoking inside of any motor vehicle when a person under 13 is present an offense](#), (Rep. Sandra Scott-D)

Relating to general provisions regarding offenses against public health and morals, so as to provide for the offense of smoking inside any motor vehicle when a person who is under 13 years of age is present; to provide for a criminal penalty. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil

[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, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute

[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, Cmte Favorably Reported

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, Public Finance Subcmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte

[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

[HB 252, Medicaid financing program sunset](#), (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to the hospital Medicaid financing program, so as to extend the sunset provision. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte

[HB 299, Certificate of Need Modification](#), (Rep. Wendell Willard-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, to eliminate the requirement that certain expenditures by a health care facility are required to obtain a certificate of need; to eliminate the requirement for certificate of need for medical equipment; to exempt freestanding emergency departments from certificate of need requirements; to eliminate exemptions for certain capital expenditures and cost overruns. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HR 182, Waiver creating per capita block grant funding for indigent healthcare](#), (Rep. Brad Raffensperger-R)

A RESOLUTION urging the Governor to negotiate with federal authorities to receive a waiver creating per capita block grant funding to be used for indigent health care and providing legislative notification pursuant to Code Section 49-4-142.1 for the submission of a waiver request pursuant to Section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations 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, Cmte hearing only

[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, Passed Senate, Sent to House, Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[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, Cmte Favorably Reported

[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, Referred to Appropriations Cmte, Appropriations Health Subcmte Favorably Reported, Cmte Favorably Reported, Passed 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, **Cmte Favorably Reported**

[SB 109, "Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact" \("REPLICA"\)](#), (Sen. Michael Williams-R)

Provide for the enactment of "REPLICA"; to establish the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice; to provide for a coordinated database; to provide for rulemaking. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety Cmte

[SB 123, Eliminate the 65% out-of-state patient base requirement for a destination cancer hospital](#), (Sen. Hunter Hill-R)

Eliminates the 65% out-of-state patient base requirement for a destination cancer hospital for purposes of certificate of need; to eliminate the 50 bed limitation on destination cancer hospitals; to provide that destination cancer hospitals can increase bed capacity under certain conditions; to eliminate the limitation on the number of destination cancer hospitals that can be issued a certificate of need. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

[SB 125, Authorizes a physician to allow a physician assistant to prescribe hydrocodone products](#), (Sen. Rick Jeffares-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 hydrocodone compound products. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 138, "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 provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings and intent; to provide for definitions; to establish the Patient Compensation System and the Patient Compensation Board. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services

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, **Passed House, Sent to Senate, Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte**

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 206, The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights](#), (Rep. Trey Kelley-R)

Remove an exception relating to certain audits conducted by the Department of Community Health; amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49, relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide that clerical or other errors do not constitute a basis to recoup payments made by providers of medical assistance. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services 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

[HB 276, The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act](#), (Rep. David Knight-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 under certain conditions. **Status:** Referred to Insurance 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

Study Committees

[SR 152, Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia](#), (Sen. Frank Ginn-R)

A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Stream Buffers in Georgia; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Cmte

[SR 188, Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare](#), (Sen. Renee Unterman-R)

A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services 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, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[HB 217, Aggregate cap on contributions to certain scholarship organizations](#), (Rep. John Carson-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to increase the amount of the aggregate cap on contributions to certain scholarship organizations in order to receive income tax credits. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte**

[HB 236, Increase education tax credit](#), (Rep. Sam Teasley-R)

Relating to the qualified education tax credit, so as to increase the aggregate amount of tax credits allowed; to provide for two separate application dates; to provide for an automatic annual increase; to provide for rollover of tax credits. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte**

[HB 247, Tax Exemption for Concrete Mixer Transports](#), (Rep. Dominic LaRiccia-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, **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Only Sales Tax Subcmte**

[HB 277, Tax credit for recording industries created in less developed areas](#), (Rep. Spencer Frye-D)

Relating to tax credits for business enterprises in less developed areas, so as to provide that sound recording is an industry eligible for a tax credit in less developed areas. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte**

[HB 314, Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act](#), (Rep. Jason Shaw-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to establish qualified low-income community investment; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide that certain entities may earn credit against the entity's state tax liability; to disallow refundability and sale on the open market of claimed credits. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte**

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, **Sent to Senate, Referred to Public Safety Cmte**

[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, **Cmte Favorably Reported by Substitute, Pending Rules 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

[HB 215, Special district mass transportation sales and use tax](#), (Rep. Meagan Hanson-R)

Relating to the special district mass transportation sales and use tax, so as to clarify the ability of counties and qualified municipalities to issue general obligation bonds as necessary. **Status:** **Referred to Ways & Means Cmte, Hearing Only in Sales Tax Subcmte**

[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 by Substitute

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