



Governmental Affairs

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Weekly Legislative Report #4

Week Ending February 8th, 2019

New Sheriff in Town

Clearly, there's a new Sheriff in town as Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan and Gov. Brian Kemp have coordinated to undo some of former Gov. Nathan Deal's key board appointments. As we reported last week, Duncan's staff found a glitch in the way Deal's appointments were submitted to the Senate for approval. This week Kemp submitted his own list of board appointments that didn't include three of Deal's reappointments to the Georgia Board of Regents. Stay tuned.

CON Making Larger Than Usual Splash

Certificate of Need (CON) is one of the more complicated issues on the legislature's plate this year . . . and has been over dozens of years. WABE-Public Radio in Atlanta had a feature last week solely on the topic of the issue's complexity. In brief, CON regulations protect hospitals from competition by requiring healthcare providers to apply for a Certificate of Need whenever they want to initiate or expand a service or facility.

A tip-of-the-iceberg explanation for CON is that hospitals provide numerous necessary, but unprofitable, services to a community and also serve all-comers, whether or not they can pay. If another entity, like an ambulatory surgical center or another hospital in the same market, focuses on only on profit centers such as routine surgeries, it becomes increasingly difficult for hospitals providing across-the-board services to cross-subsidize their money losers like emergency rooms and neo-natal care. Thus, a provider must currently apply to the Department of Community Health when wishing to offer a new service, upgrade new equipment such as top-flight imaging machines, or build a physical expansion. Opponents argue that a good idea has become mired in expensive, unproductive regulatory restraint and that except for very rural areas, more competition would increase access and actually lower overall healthcare costs. Safety-net hospitals counter that no one competes with them to serve the indigent and uninsured, just the profitable patients. Legislative battles have been waged over the issue for literally decades.

Two major bills with leadership support (and a couple of others) were introduced Friday seeking to virtually eliminate the entire CON program, with a few caveats. The Speaker of the House created

a special committee just to deal with CON legislation. The Senate assigned its bill to the Regulated Industries Committee, rather than to the traditional Health and Human Services Cmte. Two bills supported by the Georgia Hospital Association are expected to land in the respective House and Senate hoppers early next week. And, we've created a specific CON Section on our tracking document to make it easier to follow each bill's progress.

Amended FY 2019 Budget Passed by House

The House on Friday passed out the FYA 2019 budget with only minimal changes to recommendations made by the Governor. Among additions to the bill that was originally passed during the 2018 session, is a \$5 million bump for the Georgia Trauma Commission. Funding for the Commission comes from Super Speeder fines and a tax on fireworks which combined typically raise in the neighborhood of \$21 million. In the past couple of sessions, the original budget has included about \$16 million for trauma to be sure an adequate amount of fines and taxes are collected, then another \$5 million is added in the amended budget to close out the fiscal year.

Another item in the amended budget is \$500,000 for Augusta University, a one-time increase to help the state's medical college become a cancer national center of excellence. The Department of Public Health got a one-time appropriation of \$350,000 to help educate Georgians about early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Other adjustments to the budget are intended to "true-up" spending for Medicaid and other programs. The bill now travels to the Senate where subcommittee hearings are already scheduled for next week.

Professional Licenses Subject to Student Loan Debt

"This is a really terrible way to collect debt," Rep. Scot Turner (R-Holly Springs) told his colleagues during a Higher Education Committee hearing last week. He was talking about Georgia's current law that allows for the suspension of professional licenses when student loans get into arrears. Turner has introduced [HB 42](#) to prevent the practice, although it is unclear just how many professionals have actually lost a state license. Turner's undergirding argument is that school loan debts will never be repaid if professionals lose their licenses to earn a salary.

Behavioral Health Outpatient Treatment

Rep. Don Hogan (R-St. Simon's Island) introduced [HB 178](#), a bill that creates a unit within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide for assisted outpatient treatment programs and creates an advisory council.

Hospital Authority Funds

Rep. Ron Stephens and Sen. Ben Watson, both Republicans of Savannah, introduced similar bills that allow for funds from the sale or lease of a hospital authority to be used for health care for the indigent residents. A year ago Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah was sold to HCA,

a leading hospital chain with a national footprint. [HB 186](#) was assigned to the House Committee on Governmental Affairs, while [SB 71](#) was placed in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services (chaired by Watson).

Obesity Pilot Project

[HB 187](#) by Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) was dropped in the hopper and assigned to the HHS Committee. It would create a pilot program to provide coverage for the treatment and management of obesity for members of the State Health Benefit Plan.

New Member of the House

Matt Barton (R-Calhoun) won a special election runoff contest Tuesday to fill the seat of former Rules Committee Chairman John Meadows (R-Calhoun). A former Calhoun city councilman and school board member, Barton defeated Jesse Vaughn, who had come in first in the original six-person race and enjoyed the support of Meadows' family. House District 5 in Northwest Georgia covers most of Gordon County and one precinct in Murray County. Barton owns a courier business.

Session Calendar

The General Assembly has settled on its meeting schedule for the remainder of the session. Thanks to the late start and Super Bowl recess days, the rest of the session will be fairly condensed with few days off.

Monday, February 11 – Leg. Day 12
Tuesday, February 12 – LD 13
Wednesday, February 13 – LD 14
Thursday, February 14 – LD 15
Friday, February 15 – LD 16

Monday, February 18 – **RECESS DAY**
Tuesday, February 19 – LD 17
Wednesday, February 20 – LD 18
Thursday, February 21 – LD 19
Friday, February 22 – LD 20

Monday, February 25 – LD 21
Tuesday, February 26 – LD 22
Wednesday, February 27 – LD 23
Thursday, February 28 – LD 24
Friday, March 1 – LD 25

Monday, March 4 – LD 26
Tuesday, March 5 – LD 27
Wednesday, March 6 – **RECESS DAY**
Thursday, March 7 – LD 28 (**Crossover**)
Friday, March 8 – LD 29

Monday, March 11 – LD 30
Tuesday, March 12 – **CMTE WORK DAY**
Wednesday, March 13 – LD 31
Thursday, March 14 – LD 32
Friday, March 15 – **RECESS DAY**

Monday, March 18 – LD 33
Tuesday, March 19 – **CMTE WORK DAY**
Wednesday, March 20 – **CMTE WORK DAY**
Thursday, March 21 – LD 34
Friday, March 22 – LD 35

Next Week

The General Assembly will be in session Monday through Friday next week. The House will begin hearings on the FY 2020 budget, and the Senate will hear testimony regarding the FYA 2019 appropriations bill.

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 2019 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2019-2020 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2020 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2019 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

Aging

[HB 70, guardian and conservators of minors and adults; Revise Provisions](#) (Rep. Chuck Efstoration-R)
Relating to guardian and ward, so as to revise provisions relating to guardians and conservators of minors and adults; to amend various provisions of the O.C.G.A., so as to make conforming revisions. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte

[HB 77, Food Stamp Fraud](#) (Rep. David Clark-R)
Relating to fraud and related offenses and general provisions relative to public assistance, respectively, so as to redesignate Code Section 49-4-15, relating to fraud in obtaining public assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid, penalties, and recovery of overpayments. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[HB 91, Allowing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain fingerprints when an agency or entity is participating in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's program](#) (Rep. Andy Welch-R)
Relating to regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to allow the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and, as authorized, the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain fingerprints when an agency or entity is participating in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's program. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary (Civil) Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 135, "Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-term Care Facilities Act"](#) (Rep. Douglas Demetrius-D)
Relating to health care facilities, so as to provide for authorized electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities; to provide consent requirements; to provide for notice to the facility; to provide for cost and installation; to provide for an assistance program for Medicaid recipients; to provide for notice to visitors; to prohibit obstruction of electronic monitoring devices; to limit the dissemination of recordings; to provide for admissibility into evidence; to provide for limited liability. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte

Business

[SB 20, Counties and Municipal Corporations; Establishment of banking improvement zones in underserved areas](#) (Sen. Michael Rhett-D)
Relating to general provisions relative to provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to provide for the establishment of banking improvement zones to encourage opening of banks in areas underserved by banks; **Status:** Referred Banking and Financial Institutions Cmte

[HB 197, Establishment of the Strategic Integrated Data System](#) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to the Office of Planning and Budget, so as to provide for the establishment of the Strategic Integrated Data System; to establish a governing board and provide for its membership and terms; to provide for oversight of the operation of the project by the governing board; to provide for data submission from state agencies and departments; to provide for reporting; and to provide for funding.

City & County Governments and Regional Commissions

[HB 15, Develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless](#) (Rep. Sandra Scott)

Relating to powers of housing authorities generally, so as to require housing authorities to develop and implement policies granting housing preferences to veterans who are homeless individuals. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 34, Taxpaying business owners to be appointed to development authorities](#) (Rep. Rhonda Burnough-D)

Relating to development authorities directors, officers, compensation, adoption of bylaws, delegation of powers and duties, conflicts of interest, and audits, so as to provide for taxpaying business owners to be appointed to development authorities; to provide for removal of directors from development authorities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 49, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District; certain interbasin transfers shall be included in water supply and water conservation management studies and plans](#) (Rep. Marc Morris-R)

Relating to water supply and water conservation management plan and interbasin transfers relative to the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, so as to provide that certain interbasin transfers shall be included in water supply and water conservation management studies and plans. **Status:** Referred Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 57, Eligible electors mailed an absentee ballot for each primary, election and runoff in which they are eligible to vote](#) (Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick-D)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that all eligible electors shall be mailed an absentee ballot for each primary, election, and runoff in which they are eligible to vote; to provide for procedures; to provide for cancellation of such ballots under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 65, Add that certain payments to cloud based software services may be funded via County special purpose local option sales tax](#) (Rep. Eddie Lumsden-R)

Relating to county special purpose local option sales tax, so as to add that certain payments to cloud based software services may be funded. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 76, Counties and municipalities may regulate alcohol licenses as to certain distances in a manner that is less but not more restrictive than those distances specified by the state](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to alcoholic beverages, so as to specify that counties and municipalities may regulate alcohol licenses as to certain distances in a manner that is less but not more restrictive than those distances specified by the state. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte

[HB 93, Control of Water Pollution and Surface-Water Use](#) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to control of water pollution and surface-water use, so as to provide notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 94, Relating to Solid Waste Management](#) (Rep. Jeff Jones-R)

Relating to solid waste management, so as to provide for safe disposal of coal ash in municipal solid waste and commercial industrial solid waste landfills. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources & Environment Cmte

[HB 123, Department of Labor; Designate as the administrator of all programs pursuant to Public Law 105-220 and the policies and methods by the State Workforce Development Board](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R)

Relating to the creation of the State Workforce Development Board, federal composition requirements, meetings, authorization for the promulgation of rules and regulations, and administration of programs, so as to provide for the Department of Labor to be designated as the administrator of all programs. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte

[HB 126, Establishment of the GeorgiaBest program and an employability skills training curriculum](#) (Rep. Randy Nix-R)

Relating to the Department of Labor, so as to provide for the establishment of the "GeorgiaBest" program and an employability skills training curriculum. **Status:** Referred to Industry and Labor Cmte

[HB 219, General provision regarding ad valorem taxation of property](#) (Rep. Lynn Smith-R)

Relating to general provisions regarding ad valorem taxation of property, so as to further define the fair market value of certain property and require the tax assessor to include certain information with the assessment. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper - Will be assigned to Cmte Monday

[SB 30, State Election Board shall provide by rule or regulation for the electronic return of absentee ballots of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act by fax or email](#) (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide that the State Election Board shall provide by rule or regulation for the electronic return of absentee ballots of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act electors by fax or by email, in addition to regular mail; to update a cross-reference; to provide for requirements and procedures; to provide for the counting of such ballots. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

CON (Certificate of Need)

[HB 89, Integrated ambulatory surgery centers; provide exemption from certificate of need requirements](#) (Rep. Chuck Martin-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to provide for an exemption for integrated ambulatory surgery centers from certificate of need requirements. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care

[HB 198, Eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services](#) (Rep. Matt Hatchett-R)

Relating to health, so as to eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services; to amend Code Section 50-18-70 of the O.C.G.A., relating to legislative intent and definitions relative to open records laws, so as to revise definitions; to amend Code Section 48-7-29.20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations, so as to revise provisions relating to the rural hospital tax credit program; to amend other provisions in various titles of the O.C.G.A., for purposes of conformity. **Status:** Referred to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care

[SB 61, Health Planning and Development; integrated surgery centers from certificate of need requirements](#) (Sen. John Albers-R)

Relating to state health planning and development, so as to exempt integrated surgery centers from certificate of need requirements. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 74, Eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term facilities and services](#) (Sen. Matt Brass-R)

Relating to health, so as to eliminate certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services; to amend Code Section 50-18-70 of the O.C.G.A., relating to legislative intent and definitions relative to open records laws, so as to revise definitions; to amend Code Section 48-7-29.20 of the O.C.G.A., relating to tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations, so as to revise provisions relating to the rural hospital tax credit program; to amend other provisions in various titles of the O.C.G.A., for purposes of conformity. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

Economic Development

[HB 22, Public Utilities and Public Transportation; telephone cooperatives and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services. **Status:** Referred Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 23, Public utilities and public transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Penny Houston-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services; to prohibit cross-subsidization between the provision of broadband services and an electric membership corporation's natural gas activities or electricity services activities. **Status:** Referred Economic Development & Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, **House Withdrawn and Recommitted to Cmte, and Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On Rules Calendar for Monday**

[HB 100, Public utilities and public transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services](#) (Rep. Don Parsons-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services; to provide for definitions; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services; to prohibit cross-subsidization between the provision of broadband services and an electric membership corporation's natural gas activities or electricity services activities **Status:** **Referred to Economic Development & Tourism Cmte**

[HB 184, Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act](#) (Rep. Brett Harrell-R)

Relating to local government, so as to enact the "Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act"; to streamline the deployment of wireless broadband in the public rights of way; to address any perceived conflicts between this Act and Chapter 66B of Title 36. **Status:** **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte**

[SB 2, Public Utilities and Public Transportation; electric membership corporations and their affiliates; authorize; broadband services](#) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize electric membership corporations and their affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services; to prohibit cross-subsidization between the provision of broadband services and an electric membership corporation's natural gas activities or electricity services activities. **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 17, Public Utilities and Public Transportation; authorize telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates; provide broadband services](#) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to specifically authorize telephone cooperatives and their broadband affiliates to provide broadband services; to authorize certain financing and partnerships for the provision of broadband services **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SB 45, "Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act"](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to state government, so as to provide for pari-mutuel horse racing in this state at a limited number of licensed equestrian centers; to create the Georgia Horse Racing Commission; to provide for the comprehensive regulation of pari-mutuel and related activities; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to enter into the Interstate Compact on Licensure of Participants in Live Racing with Pari-mutuel Wagering. **Status:** **Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte**

[SB 66, "Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act"](#) (Sen. Steve Gooch-R)

Relating to local government, so as to enact the "Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act"; to streamline the deployment of wireless broadband in the public rights of way; to address any perceived conflicts between this Act and Chapter 66B of Title 36; to provide that nothing in this Act relieves any

person of any duties provided for in Chapter 9 of Title 25. **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

[SR 84, Pari-mutuel betting on horse racing](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for pari-mutuel betting on horse racing; to provide for the disposition of licensing and taxation revenues from such activities. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

Health – General

[HB 26, Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; enter into an interstate compact](#) (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to psychologists, so as to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact"; to authorize the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to administer the compact in this state; to revise provisions relating to exceptions to licensure. **Status:** Referred Interstate Cooperation Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 36, Authorization of appropriations for purposes of obtaining federal financial participation; Medicaid expansion](#) (Sen. Steve Henson-D)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[HB 37, Expand Medicaid Now Act](#) (Rep. Robert Trammell-D)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to provide for a maximum percent of the federal poverty level. **Status:** Referred to Appropriations Cmte

Hospitals

[HB 62, Require certain notice in mammogram report to patients with dense breast tissue](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper-R)

Relating to general provisions relating to health, so as to require certain notice in a mammogram report to patients with dense breast tissue. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, On House Rules Calendar for Monday

[HB 84, Provide for 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 billing, reimbursement, and arbitration of certain services. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 128, Georgia Composite Medical Board of agreements to settle medical malpractice claims](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox-R)

Relating to authorization and general requirements for transaction of insurance, so as to provide that insurers do not have to notify the Georgia Composite Medical Board of agreements to settle medical malpractice claims against physicians when the settlement resulted in the low payment under a high/low agreement; relating to the authority of the Georgia Composite Medical Board to refuse license, certificate, or permit or issue discipline. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 186, Relating to sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority](#) (Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; to provide for conflicting interest transactions; to provide for the investment of funds by certain hospital authorities. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs

[SB 16, "Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act"](#) (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-R)

Relating to physicians, assistants, and others, so as to enter into an interstate compact known as the "Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act"; to authorize the Georgia Composite Medical Board to administer the compact in this state; to require fingerprint records checks; to provide for application of an expedited license; to provide for a coordinated information system; to provide for joint investigations and discipline; to provide for a commission to administer the compact among the member states. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, On Senate Rules Calendar for Monday**

[SB 56, "Consumer Coverage and Protection for Out-of Network Medical Care Act"](#) (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to establish standards for carriers and health care providers with regard to payment under a managed care plan in the provision of emergency medical care; to provide for applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide for certain patient or prospective patient disclosures; to provide for insurer disclosures; to provide for requirements regarding the provision of emergency medical care for covered persons under a managed care plan; to provide for requirements for managed care plan contracts between carriers and covered persons. **Status:** **Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte**

[SB 71, Relating to sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority](#) (Sen. Ben Watson-R)

Relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; to provide for the investment of funds by certain hospital authorities. **Status:** **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

Insurance

[HB 99, Provide for modernization and updates](#) (Rep. Richard Smith-R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for modernization and updates; to amend various provisions for purposes of conformity. **Status:** **Referred to Insurance Cmte**

[SB 18, Direct Primary Care Act](#) (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick-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; to provide for discontinuance of services under certain circumstances. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

Mental Health

[HB 178, Examination and treatment for mental illness](#) (Rep. Don Hogan-R)

Relating to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to provide for assisted outpatient treatment programs; to create a unit within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability to provide support and coordination; to provide for an advisory council; to provide for applicability; to provide for a pilot program; to provide for procedures, standards, and criteria; to provide for due process; to provide for services and treatment plans; to provide for evaluative information and reports; to provide for training; to provide for patient's right to refuse medication; and to provide for an annual report. **Status:** **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

Military Base Support

[HB 25, Provide military service members civil relief concerning certain contractual obligations due to circumstances of active duty](#) (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to self-service storage facilities and general provisions regarding contracts, respectively, so as to provide military service members civil relief concerning certain contractual obligations due to circumstances of active duty; to update a cross-reference; to provide for definitions; to enhance service member consumer protections under the law to include certain television, video, and audio programming services, internet access services, and health spa services. **Status:** **Referred to Judiciary Cmte Non-Civil, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte**

[HB 59, Military students enroll in public school based on official military orders prior to physically establishing residency](#) (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to eligibility for enrollment in elementary and secondary educational programs, so as to allow military students to enroll in a public school based on official military orders prior to physically establishing residency. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 60, Dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia](#) (Rep. Dave Belton-R)

Relating to postsecondary education and vocational, technical, and adult education, respectively, so as to provide that dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 231, Military Service Tax Exemption](#) (Rep. Heath Clark-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax certain income received by taxpayers as retirement benefits from military service in the armed forces of the United States or the reserve components thereof. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper –It will be assigned to Cmte Monday

[HB 232, Children of active duty military classified as in-state for purposes of tuition](#) (Rep. Heath Clark-R)

Relating to postsecondary education and vocational, technical, and adult education, respectively, so as to provide that dependent children of active duty military members shall be classified as in-state for purposes of tuition and fees by the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper –It will be assigned to Cmte Monday

Pharmaceuticals

[HB 63, Require Insurance health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols](#) (Rep. Sharon Cooper R)

Relating to insurance generally, so as to require health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols; to provide for a step therapy exception process; to provide for definitions; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for applicability. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

Public Health

[HB 17, Smoking inside vehicle when a person under 13 is present; provide for 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 Cmte Non-Civil

[HB 160, Bariatric Pilot Program](#) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Health, so as to reinstate a pilot program to provide coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions under the state health insurance plan; to provide for eligibility, requirements, and evaluation report for the four-year pilot program; to provide for automatic repeal. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[HB 187, To provide a pilot program for treatment and management of obesity](#) (Rep. Katie Dempsey-R)

Relating to the Department of Community Health, so as to provide for a pilot program to provide coverage for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions, including medications and counseling; to provide for eligibility; to provide for requirements; to provide for a review of results and outcomes; to provide for an evaluation report on such program; and to provide for termination of the pilot program. **Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte

Study Committees

[SR 19, Create Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics **Status:** Referred to Senate Transportation Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed by the Senate**

[HR 37, Create Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

A resolution creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics **Status:** Referred to House Transportation Cmte

Taxes

[HB 3, Repeal Hotel-Motel Excise Room Tax](#) (Matt Gurtler-R)

Relating to the excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to repeal a certain tax on innkeepers. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 48, Reinstate exemption on public mass transit vehicle excise tax](#) (Rep. Carl Gilliard-D)

Relating to levy of excise tax, rate, taxation of motor fuels not commonly sold or measured by gallon, rate, but rather at a bulk purchase facility, prohibition of tax on motor fuel by political subdivisions, exception, and exempted sales, so as to reinstate excise tax exemptions for public mass transit vehicles, vehicles operated by a public campus transportation system, and school buses. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 132, Permit affiliated entities to apply certain transferable tax credits against payroll withholding](#) (Rep. Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, and computation and exemptions from state income taxes, so as to permit affiliated entities to apply certain transferable tax credits against payroll withholding. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 189, Repeals Extra .04 cent on railroad diesel for locomotives](#) (Rep. Vance Smith-R)

Relating to sales and use taxes, so as to create an exemption from the state levy of sales and use tax on sales of fuel to a contract or common carrier regulated by the United States Surface Transportation Board for use exclusively in the operation of locomotives by such carrier. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 200, Repeal of hotel-motel excise tax exemption on rooms for non-profits](#) (Rep. Don Hogan-R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodging, and accommodations, so as to exempt certain persons from the tax on hotel and motel rooms. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

Transportation

[HR 37, Create Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner-R)

A resolution creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics **Status:** Referred to House Transportation Cmte

[SR 19, Create Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics **Status:** Referred to Senate Transportation Cmte, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed by the Senate**

[SR 24, Amend the allocation of funds collected through federal motor fuel taxes](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

A resolution urging the United States Congress to amend the allocation of funds collected through federal motor fuel taxes; and for other purposes. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

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