



Governmental Affairs

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Weekly Legislative Report #5

Week Ending February 15th, 2019

Broadband Tsunami

Perhaps the most active subject considered under the gold dome last week was the issue of expanding high speed broadband service into rural areas. The issue is complicated and numerous bills attack it from different angles. The two fastest moving bills on the topic were [HB 23](#) by Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville) that cleared the full House Monday, followed by [HB 184](#) by Brett Harrell (R-Snellville) that won House approval on Thursday. [SB 17](#) and [SB 66](#), both by Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), passed out of the Regulated Industries Cmte. and await Rules Cmte. action to be considered by the full Senate. [HB 22](#) has passed out of the House Economic Development Cmte., while [HB 100](#) and [SB 2](#) are still waiting for a committee vote. The issue is multi-faceted, but perhaps the most contentious question is how to regulate EMC pole attachment fees for competitors who might be willing to provide service in rural areas.

You Can't Spell Contentious without CON

And "contentious" is a good word to also describe the beginning of arguments in the CON arena. Last week saw a lengthy debate, but no vote, on [HB 198](#) by Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin) in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Care. His bill is a product of the House Rural Development Council which met over the interim period between sessions. After years of debate over the issue, expectations are that something will get done this year. As always, however, the devil is in the details, and those details are being fought over vigorously. We expect at least one more bill to drop next week, this one by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), a physician and hospital Medical Director.

"GeorgiaBest" Program to Emphasize Soft Skills

Labor Commissioner Mark Butler testified last week that at large gatherings of Human Resources Directors, the question is often asked, "How many of you have fired an employee for a reason other than 'soft skills' issues?" Rarely does a hand go up, he said. The bottom line seems to be that people most often lose their jobs for lack of punctuality, failure to dress suitably for the situation, inability to work as a team member, or other inappropriate behavior problems. [HB 126](#) by Randy

Nix (R-LaGrange) would authorize the Department of Labor to establish the 'GeorgiaBest' program, "a business employability skills training program intended to assist the state's existing and emerging workforce in developing employer-identified skills needed to be successful in the workplace." The bill goes on to instruct, "Such program shall provide an employability skills training curriculum that may include, but shall not be limited to, skills relating to punctuality, critical thinking, and the ability to work in a team."

Strategic Integrated Data System

Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) has introduced a bill to establish the Strategic Integrated Data System to help the state make better use of the disparate data it collects through various agencies. [HB 197](#) directs the Office of Planning and Budget to procure a system (hardware, software, management services), to share data between state agencies, while maintaining the privacy requirements contained in federal HIPPA regulations. The bill was placed in the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Cmte.

A Horse by Any Other Name is Still . . .

If you see the title "Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act" on a bill, naturally, the first thing you would think of is . . . pari-mutuel betting on horse racing. Well, that's what you would think if you noticed long-time horse racing advocate Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) is the author. Beach, who represents an area with horse farms and believes the number would expand exponentially should his legislation pass, has introduced [SB 45](#) to create the Georgia Horse Racing Commission and invigorate horse farming in rural Georgia. There's a companion Constitutional Amendment, [SR 84](#), that would allow voters to determine if the state wants to allow pari-mutuel betting on horses. Beach has also recently announced he is running for Congress in 2020 for the seat currently held by freshman Democrat Lucy McBath.

Needle Exchange Program Rules

Freshman Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens) has introduced a bill, [HB 217](#) that would authorize the Department of Public Health to promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of supervising the activities of syringe services programs. Such programs would "provide substance abuse and harm reduction counseling, education, and referral services for substance abuse disorder treatment; training and provision of naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses; screening for HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis; referrals and linkage to HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis prevention, treatment, and care services; safer injection supplies; and evidence-based interventions to reduce negative consequences of drug related behaviors."

Governor and First Lady Go Mobile Against Mental Illness

Gov. Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp were joined by a host of state officials on Valentine's Day to announce a new mobile application to support the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL). [GCAL](#), 800-715-4225, is a 24/7 hotline offering free and confidential access to services for youth and adult mental illness, substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The **My GCAL App** works on Apple and Android smartphones and was designed specifically to reach Georgia's youth in times of a behavioral health crisis. The professionals at GCAL, including licensed clinicians, are able to make referrals for treatment and even dispatch mobile response teams.

“Traveling across the state, Marty and I have heard firsthand from parents, students, teachers and administrators about the growing mental health crisis in our schools and communities,” Gov. Kemp said.

“Right now,” added First Lady Kemp, the mother of three teenage girls, Georgia’s youth face tremendous pressure to fit in with their peers, and it can take a severe emotional and physical toll on their day-to-day lives.”

Kemp Signs First Bill as Governor

On Friday Kemp signed his first bill since becoming Governor, legislation intended to correct the inadvertent results of a bill passed last year. [SB 25](#) (Bill Heath-R) changes the year-old language, found confusing by many, specifying when it is legal to pass a stopped school bus. The new language, which became effective immediately upon Kemp’s signature, clearly states that drivers can only pass a stopped school bus while moving in the opposite direction if there is a grass medium, unpaved area or physical barrier between the two lanes. Drivers are not permitted to pass a stopped school bus while moving in the opposite direction if separated only by a turn lane.

Next Week

The General Assembly is in recess for President’s Day on Monday, but will meet Tuesday through Friday. However, there are no committee meetings currently scheduled for Friday, so that leaves only three days next week for committee work. Friday will be Legislative Day 20 – the halfway point of the session. Crossover Day is LD 28 this year.

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

[HB 246, Revise manner by which depositions taken at the instance of state are paid](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox-R)

Relating to depositions to preserve testimony in criminal proceedings, so as to revise the manner by which depositions taken at the instance of the state are paid; to clarify how depositions shall be taken and filed.

Status: Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte

[HB 246, Battery against a person 65 years of age or older; repeal an enhanced penalty](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox-R)

Relating to reporting of need for protective services, manner and contents of report, immunity from civil or criminal liability, and privileged communications; to amend Code Section 31-7-12.1 of the O.C.G.A., relating to unlicensed personal care homes; to amend Code Section 45-17-8 of the O.C.G.A., relating to powers and duties of notaries public generally, so as to require notaries to report abuse of disabled adults or elder persons

Status: Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 300, Redesignate continuing care retirement communities as life plan communities](#) (Rep. Vance Smith-R)

Relating to continuing care providers and facilities and state health planning and development, so as to redesignate continuing care retirement communities as life plan communities. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations & Aging

[SB 100, Telephone System for the Physically Impaired; state-wide dual party relay service and audible universal information access service](#) (Sen. P. K. Martin-R)

Relating to telephone system for the physically impaired, so as to change certain provisions relating to the establishment, administration, and operation of the state-wide dual party relay service and audible universal information access service; to change certain legislative findings and declarations; to modify the prohibition as to the distribution of telecommunications equipment under the telecommunications equipment distribution program based on a certain income level; to provide that wireless devices and applications may be distributed as part of the telecommunications equipment distribution program. **Status:** Referred Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

Business

[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. **Status:** Referred Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Cmte

[HB 286, “Right to Repair Act”](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

Relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to require a manufacturer to provide certain items necessary for diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services on digital products. **Status:** Referred Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte

[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, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte**

[SB 110, State-wide Business Court; pursuant to the Constitution of this state](#) (Sen. Jesse Stone-R)

Relating to courts, so as to establish the State-wide Business Court pursuant to the Constitution of this state; to amend Code Section 45-7-4 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding salaries and fees, so as to designate a salary for the judge of the State-wide Business Court; to amend Title 5 of the O.C.G.A., relating to appeal and error, so as to make conforming changes regarding appeals; to amend Chapter 4 of Title 9, Title 23, and Code Section 33-39-21 of the O.C.G.A., relating to declaratory judgments, equity, and equitable relief relative to insurance, respectively, so as to make conforming changes regarding equity. **Status:** **Dropped in Hopper**

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, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules 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, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules 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, **Referred to Ways and Means Cmte**

[HB 243, Public utilities and public transportation; limitations on fees that may be charged for installation of telephone facilities](#) (Rep. Lee Hawkins-R)

Relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to provide limitations on fees that may be charged for installation of telephone facilities; to provide for the due compensation to be paid to municipal authorities by telephone companies that do not have certain end user customers; to revise terminology for purposes of conformity. **Status:** **Referred to Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Cmte**

[HB 297, Abolish office of elected county surveyor; provide appointment by governing authority](#) (Rep. Robert Dickey-R)

To provide for the appointment of a county surveyor by the governing authority of the county; to provide that the person currently serving as elected county surveyor shall serve out the remainder of his or her term. **Status:** **Referred to Intragovernmental Coordination Cmte**

[HB 302, Adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings; prohibit](#) (Rep. Vance Smith-R)

Relating to buildings and housing and local government, respectively, so as to prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to revise the term "zoning" as it relates to zoning procedures. **Status:** **Referred to Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Cmte**

[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

[SB 95, Change terms for contracts for utility services](#) (Sen. Randy Robertson-R)

Relating to local government, so as to change the terms for contracts for utility services; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws. **Status:** **Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities 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 61, Exempt 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, **Passed House by Substitute, Sent to Senate, Referred to Regulated Industries & Utilities, Cmte**

[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, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House**

[HB 244, Electric membership corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R)

Relating to corporate purposes and powers of electric membership corporations, so as to require electric membership corporations to comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers. **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, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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, **Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules 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

[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

[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

[HB 42, Professional licensing boards; refuse to issue a license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan](#) (Rep. Scot Turner-R)

To prohibit professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking the license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte

[HB 168, tangible personal property to certain non-profit health centers; extend exemption for five additional years](#) (Rep. Darlene Taylor-R)

Relating to exemptions from sales and use tax, so as to extend an exemption from sales and use tax for five additional years regarding the sale or use of tangible personal property to certain nonprofit health centers; to extend an exemption for five additional years with respect to certain nonprofit volunteer health clinics. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 324, Georgia's Hope Act](#) (Rep. Micah Gravley-R)

Relating to offenses against public health and morals, so as to provide for the production, manufacturing, and dispensing of low THC oil in this state; to provide for an exception to possession of certain quantities of low THC oil; to amend Chapter 11 of Title 2 of the O.C.G.A., relating to seeds and plants generally, so as to provide for an exception. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

[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

[SB 60, "Jeremy Nelson and Nick Blakely Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act"](#) (Sen. P. K. Martin-R)

relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for guidelines and other relevant materials to inform high school students participating in interscholastic athletic activities about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest; to provide for definitions; to provide for informational meetings; to provide for removal from an athletic activity under certain circumstances and to establish return to play policies; to require annual review by coaches; to provide for limited liability. **Status:** Referred to Education and Youth Cmte

[SB 92, Refuse to issue a license; borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

To prohibit professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking the license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency. **Status:** Referred to Higher Education Cmte

[SB 106, "Patients First Act"](#) (Sen. Blake Tillery-R)

Relating to medical assistance and insurance, respectively, so as to authorize the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; to authorize the Governor to submit a Section 1332 innovation waiver proposal to the United States Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the Treasury; to provide for implementation of approved Section 1332 waivers; to provide for expiration of authority; to provide for legislative findings. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services 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, Passed Cmte by substitute, Passed House, Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Cmte

[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, Passed Cmte, Referred to Rules 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, Passed Cmte by substitute, Referred to Rules Cmte

[HB 287, Certain physicians serving as community based faculty physicians; delete deduction](#) (Rep. Matt Dubnik-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from income taxes, so as to delete an income tax deduction for certain physicians serving as community based faculty physicians; to create a new income tax credit for taxpayers who are licensed physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants who provide uncompensated preceptorship training to medical students, advanced practice registered nurse students, or physician assistant students for certain periods of time. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 321, Hospital Medicaid financing program; extend sunset provision](#) (Rep. Jodi Lott-R)

Relating to the hospital Medicaid financing program, so as to extend the sunset provision. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

[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, Passed Cmte, Passed Senate, Referred to House Health and Human Services Cmte

[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

[SB 109, Delegation by a physician; order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations](#) (Sen Larry Walker III-R)

Relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurse, so as to authorize the delegation by a physician to an advanced practice registered nurse to order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations; to revise definitions; to increase the number of advanced practice registered nurses with whom a delegating physician can enter into a nurse protocol agreement. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

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, Passed Cmte by substitute, Pending Rules 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, Recommitted by House, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Passed House, Referred to Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security 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

[SB 94, Personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States; exempt](#) (Sen. Ellis Black-R)

Relating to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to exempt from state income tax income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. **Status:** Referred to Finance Cmte

[SB 103, Airports owned by a county, municipality shall not assess any fee to a veteran for motor vehicle parking](#) (Sen. Gail Davenport-D)

Relating to powers of local governments as to air facilities, so as to provide that airports owned, controlled, or operated by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state shall not assess any fee to a veteran for motor vehicle parking. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte

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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 158, Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox-R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide that Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program; to prohibit utilization management tools for such regimens; to provide for submission of a state plan waiver if necessary. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 323, Administration of claims by pharmacy benefit managers; revise provisions](#) (Rep. David Knight-R)

Relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to add a definition; to revise provisions relating to administration of claims by pharmacy benefit managers; to revise provisions relating to prohibited activities of pharmacy benefits managers. **Status:** Dropped in Hopper

Public Health

[HB 17, Smoking inside vehicle when 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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules 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, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 214, Relating to vaccine protocol agreements](#) (Rep. Ron Stephens-R) Removes the geographic limitation on pharmacists who are engaged with a physician in a vaccine protocol agreement. **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 217, Provides that employees and agents of syringe services programs are not subject to certain offenses relating to hypodermic syringes and needles](#) (Rep. Houston Gaines-R) The Department of Public Health shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of supervising the activities of syringe services programs, including provisions for the registration of such programs. **Referred to Health & Human Services Cmte**

[HB 264, Persons promoting or opposing any matter regarding the EMSC Program are subject to transparency and lobbyist disclosure laws](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser-R) Relating to public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to provide that any natural persons undertaking to promote or oppose any matter before a local coordinating entity regarding the Emergency Medical Systems Communications Program (EMSC Program) are subject to transparency and lobbyist disclosure laws; to amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to emergency medical services. **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, **Referred to House Transportation Cmte**

[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

[HR 164, Dedication of revenues derived from fees or taxes to the public purpose for which such fees or taxes were imposed.](#) (Rep. Jay Powell-R)

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to 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, conditions, and limitations; to provide for the redesignation of a current subparagraph of the Constitution; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection **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

[HB 224, Credit for new purchases and acquisitions of qualified investment property shall be earnable for mining and mining facilities and allowed against a taxpayer's payroll withholding](#) (Bruce Williamson-R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to provide that credit for new purchases and acquisitions of qualified investment property shall be earnable for mining and mining facilities and allowed against a taxpayer's payroll withholding; to provide that certain previously claimed and unused tax credits earned by taxpayers may be applied against such taxpayers' payroll withholding under certain conditions; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for applications and proration; to revise definitions **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

[SB 82, Transportation Department Director; appointment of a chief innovation officer to coordinate and develop technology](#) (Sen. Brandon Beach-R)

Relating to the appointment and responsibilities of the director of planning for the Department of Transportation, so as to provide for the appointment of a chief innovation officer to coordinate and develop technology based improvements and solutions to transportation needs. **Status:** Referred to Senate Science and Technology 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, **Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte**

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