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**Weekly Legislative Report #5**

**Week Ending February 10, 2023**

Budget discussions eased out of the public arena last week, making room for policy issues to move front and center, including a marathon truck-weight hearing and various healthcare-related bills.

**Truck Loads Become A Weighty Issue**

It was the case of a two-hour hearing block being stretched into more than five and a half hours of passionate testimony. But, 29 House Transportation Committee members stuck it out until 6:35 p.m. Thursday and eventually voted to approve [HB 189](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63881). The legislation would raise from 80,000 to 90,000 pounds the limit trucks can weigh while traveling state and local highways. Numerous witnesses representing timber, poultry, logging and turf grass businesses testified how the increased weight limit would significantly improve the efficiency of their respective industries, especially considering the lack of qualified truck drivers available and the increasing cost of fuel. Advocates of the legislation, including sponsor Steven Meeks (R-Screven) who presented the bill, explained that the ability to haul more in each load would reduce the number of total trips required to deliver the same amount of product. Fewer trucks on the road would make travel less congested for everyone.

On the opposition side of the ledger, GDoT Commissioner Russell McMurry joined by Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle argued the increased weight limit would pose an immediate danger to the structural integrity of the state's roads and bridges, especially in rural areas where infrastructure is not engineered to withstand heavy truck weights. Pirkle predicted that 1,408 additional Georgia bridges would need to be posted at weights beneath the bill’s new 90,000 pound limit. Several local government officials and the Association of County Commissioners reasoned that small cities and counties could not keep up with the maintenance the weight change would require on local roads. Short Line Railroad representatives testified that changing the weight limits would take business away from them and that the legislature should not be picking winners and losers. Officers of the Department of Public Safety expressed their concerns about the safety of motorists on the state's roads when trucks weigh more than they do today.

In addition to the testimony, Chairman Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper) reported at the end of the meeting that committee members had asked 84 questions over the course of the afternoon. In response to the more than thorough vetting process, the committee split 18-11 in favor of HB 189, passing the bill onto the House Rules Committee.

**Numerous Health Care Issues**

Many bills introduced or debated last week landed somewhere on the healthcare/insurance/hospital spectrum. Among them: [HB 295](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64132) (Lee Hawkins-R) would apply “surprise billing” consumer protections that now exist for providers to healthcare facilities as well. [HB 286](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64092) (Michelle Au-D) is a different song from the same book, extending “surprise billing” regulations to ambulance services. Mark Newton’s (R-Augusta) [HB 308](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64154) would revise a tax credit for medical preceptor rotations to add dentistry. It would also raise the amount of credit for training the first three students from $375 to $750. [SB 85](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63669) (Sharon Cooper-R) would require insurance coverage for biomarker testing. It was slightly amended and passed out of the Health Committee and onto the Rules Committee. Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (Marietta-R) introduced [SB 20](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63655) designed to create network adequacy standards for commercial health plans regulated by the state.

**And, A Few More Health-Related Bills**

A major priority for the new Republican leadership, [SB 1](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63490) (Greg Dolezal-R), cleared the full Senate on Wednesday. The bill does away with a sunset provision on a bill passed last term prohibiting state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination. Thus, the prohibition will stand if SB 1 finishes the drill. Sen. Larry Walker (R-Perry) dropped [SB 106](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64089) that provides for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for remote maternal health clinical services under Medicaid. [SB 109](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64098) (Shelly Echols-R) would require Medicaid to cover continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit. Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) successfully moved [HB 155](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63822) through committee on Wednesday. Although various caveats are included, it would essentially require healthcare licensing boards to issue a license by endorsement to the spouse of a firefighter, law enforcement or healthcare provider who moves from another state to work in Georgia. The intent is to accelerate the time it takes to get a professional healthcare license, thus making it easier for those in hard-to-fill positions to relocate here. And finally, Sen. Tonya Anderson (D-Lithonia) introduced [SB 81](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63959), a bill providing for the licensure and regulation of the activities of community midwives.

**New Language Better Corrals Vaping**

Action by the Senate HHS Committee on Monday rearranged the language of [SB 47](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63778) to avoid having to add the word “vaping” to numerous sections of Georgia legal code. In short, the bill changes the definition of the word “smoking” to include the act of vaping and “any oral smoking device used for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in the chapter.” Thus, under the substitute bill, vaping would in fact be included in the legal definition of smoking and consequently prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited. This “fix” makes for a much simpler one-page bill that passed the committee unanimously.

**Aging Bills**

Bills of interest to the aging community include: [HB 291](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64122) by Mitchell Scoggins (R-Cartersville) that greatly expands the list of medical professionals who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a conservator for an adult; [HR 141](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63778) (Lee Hawkins-R) creating the House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options; [SB 61](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63803) (Brian Strickland-R) removes the sunset provision relating to sick leave requirements for the use of sick leave for care of immediate family members; and [SB 84](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63962) (Chuck Hufstetler-R) provides financial protections for elder and disabled adults who may be victims of financial exploitation.

**Workforce Development Via DACA Students**

Rep. Kasey Carpenter, a Republican from the immigrant-rich area of Dalton/Whitfield County, has introduced the Workforce Development Act, [HB 131](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63761). This bill would allow for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to access tuition rates of no more than 110% of standard in-state tuition at schools within the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. Such students would have to be high school graduates who had lived (or their parents lived) in the state since 2013 and who meet various other requirements. The bill is supported by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

**Statistic of the Week – January Revenues**

Gov. Brian Kemp announced Friday that Georgia’s net tax collections for January 2023 grew 1.1% over the same month a year ago, an increase of $32.9 million. Year-to-date net tax collections total $18.8 billion for an increase of nearly $1 billion or 5.6% over the same period the previous year. Individual income tax receipts dropped by 4%, while sales and use tax receipts were up 10.8%. Corporate income tax jumped 234.9%, while motor fuel taxes dropped by 98.7% due to the Governor’s emergency suspension through January 10.

**Next Week**

We’re expecting the Senate to be reporting out Subcommittee work on the FYA 2023 budget as soon as next week. House Appropriations Subcommittees will be considering FY 2024. The House will convene Monday at 10:00 a.m., but the Senate won’t bang its first gavel until 1:00 p.m. They both meet through Thursday.

**Tracking List**

Here are the bills we are tracking. New activity is noted in green. Click on the Bill Number to access the current version of the bill.

The 2023 Legislative Session is the first session of the 2023-2024 Term of the Georgia General Assembly. Therefore, bills not passed or defeated during this session will be carried over to the 2024 session. Bills pending in the House or Senate Rules Committees at adjournment sine die of the 2023 session will be recommitted to the committee from whence they came.

**Sections:**

[Aging](#bookmark=id.8i1s0pmxnvjd)

[Business](#bookmark=id.swvtz5pqolsq)

[City & County Governments & Regional Commissions](#bookmark=id.kl6x038chjym)

[Economic Development](#bookmark=id.6682jiae5rqy)

[Elections](#bookmark=id.8o9lsim9596h)

[Environmental & Natural Resources](#bookmark=id.8rq7ayowjagm)

[Government – General](#bookmark=id.gxdrj5yfu96w)

[Health – General](#bookmark=id.mjmtmuui81bd)

[Hospitals – CON (Certificate of Need)](#bookmark=id.sqplu5rnperi)

[Hospitals](#bookmark=id.6ay57uko887)

[Insurance](#bookmark=id.arsuw5wyi17k)

[Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities](#bookmark=id.oponukcdqgwf)

[Pharmaceuticals](#bookmark=id.kwve3q1wsdz7)

[Public Health](#bookmark=id.7ii0upoju9cg)

[Taxes](#bookmark=id.6jobf35iu0wh)

[Transportation](#bookmark=id.su2f624ly7n)

**Aging**

[HB 91](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63678), Notices to Estate Beneficiaries regarding issuance of letters testamentary (Rep. Will Wade - R)

Relating to wills, trusts, and administration of estates, so as to require personal representatives to send notices to beneficiaries regarding the issuance of letters testamentary or letters of administration; to provide for revocation of such letters as to personal representatives who fail to comply; to provide for trust beneficiary representation. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 291,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64122) List of Providers who are Authorized to Participate in the Process for Appointments of a Guardian for an Adult (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins - R)

Relating to guardian and ward, so as to add to the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a guardian for an adult, the modification and termination of such guardianship, and the appointment of emergency guardian; to add to the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a conservator for an adult, the modification and termination of such conservatorship, and the appointment of emergency conservator; to provide for limitations on the powers and duties of certain emergency conservators. **Status:** Referred to Juvenile Justice Cmte

[HB 309,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64155) Revise Financial stability requirements for applicants and licensees of personal care homes and assisted living communities (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to revise provisions relating to financial stability requirements for applicants and licensees of personal care homes and assisted living communities. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging

[HR 141,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64145) House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options (Rep. Lee Hawkins - R)

A Resolution to create a House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options, including Green House homes, financing renovations of older nursing homes, Medicaid reimbursements, and tax credits. **Status:** Referred to Human Relations and Aging Cmte

[SB 61,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63803) Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members (Sen. Brian Strickland - R)

Relating to the use of sick leave for care of immediate family members, so as to repeal the sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 84,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63962) “Georgia Uniform Securities Act of 2008” (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler – R)

To provide for financial protections for elder and disabled adults who may be victims of financial exploitation; to provide for reporting and notice requirements; to provide for the delay of disbursements or transactions that may result in such financial exploitation; to provide for civil and administrative liability protections; to provide for certain disclosures and access to records. **Status:** Referred to Banking and Financial Institutions Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

**Business**

[HB 275,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64077) limit liability relating to employers and insurance providers of commercial vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

Relating to general provisions relative to torts, so as to limit liability relating to employers and insurance providers of commercial motor vehicle operators based upon history of driving incidents. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

**City & County Governments and Regional Commissions**

[HB 42,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63545) Ad Valorem Tax; County Tax Commissioner Duties (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to ad valorem taxation, so as to revise provisions concerning the duties of county tax commissioners with respect to the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and fees. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 72,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63633) Revise provisions relating to compensation and benefits for employees and members of governing bodies (Rep. Debra Bazemore - D)

Relating to home rule powers, so as to revise provisions relating to the compensation and benefits for employees and members of governing authorities; to provide for elections and other related matters. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 77,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63641) Provide for a fourth judge in Dougherty Judicial Circuit (Rep. Gerald Greene - R)

Relating to the number of judges of superior courts, so as to provide for a fourth judge of the superior courts of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Referred to Senate Judiciary Cmte

[HB 132,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63762) Authorize certain uses of ungraded lumber in GA state standard codes (Rep. David Jenkins - R)

Relating to an amendment of the GA Codes, so as to authorize certain uses of ungraded lumber. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 160,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63827) City of Albany Community Improvement District Act (Rep. Gerald Greene)

To provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in the City of Albany; to provide for related matters. **Status:** Referred to House Intragovernmental Operations, Passed Cmte, Passed House, Sent to Senate

[HB 193,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63898) Increase value of certain public works construction contracts (Rep. Victor Anderson - R)

Relating to public works contracting and bidding requirements, so as to increase the dollar values of certain public works construction contracts exempt from bidding requirements. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 204,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63938) Georgia Municipal Court Clerks’ Council (Rep. Bill Yearta - R)

Relating to municipal courts, so as to create the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council; to provide for definitions; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the council; to provide for funding of the council; to provide for the status of the council and its members. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 254,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64037) Alternative procedure for designation of official legal organ (Rep. David Jenkins - R)

Relating to the requirements of an official legal organ, so as to provide an alternative procedure for the designation of the official legal organ; to amend Chapter 80 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to provisions applicable to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, so as to provide an additional manner of publishing certain legal notices by counties and municipalities. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 269,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64071) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Rep. Shaw Blackmon - R)

Relating to meetings open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, so as to authorize local workforce development boards, formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and their associated committees and local officials to conduct meetings via teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[HB 283,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64085) To Change manner and method of imposing and collecting taxes on newly manufactured single-family structures (Rep. Beth Camp - R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to sales and use tax, so as to change the manner and method of imposing and collecting such taxes on new manufactured single-family structures; to provide for an exemption for pre-owned manufactured single-family structures. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 290,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64121) Revise the Duties of the County Tax Commissioners (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins - R)

Relating to municipal taxation, so as to revise provisions concerning the duties of county tax commissioners with respect to the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and fees; to provide for terms and conditions. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HR 118,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63992) Amendment to the Constitution to authorize county tax commissioners to waive certain delinquent ad valorem property taxes. (Rep. Bill Yearta - R)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize county tax commissioners, subject to local governing authority approval, to waive certain delinquent ad valorem property taxes, penalties, and interest for the purpose of placing non-revenue generating and tax delinquent property back to effective utilization status. Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[SB 26,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63660) Development Authority and Community Improvement District Meetings to be held via teleconferencing (Sen. Greg Dolezal - R)

Relating to state government, so as to permit meetings and public hearings of development authorities and community improvement districts to be held by teleconference. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 113,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64116) Transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality (Sen. Randy Robertson - R)

Relating to incorporation of municipal corporations, so as to provide for the transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 114,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64118) Incorporate the City of Buckhead (Sen. Randy Robertson - R)

To incorporate the City of Buckhead City; to provide a charter; to provide for boundaries and powers of the city; to provide for effective dates. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 116,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64126) Set Maximum Term of Certain Leases or Contracts for the Municipality Owned Property (Sen. Ben Watson - R)

Relating to disposition of municipal property generally, so as to revise provisions relating to the maximum term of certain leases or contracts for the use, operation, or management of real or personal property owned by a municipality for recreational facilities. **Status:** Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Cmte

[SB 121,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64193) Prohibit Local Governments from Servicing Water Wells on Single-Family Residential and Farm Properties (Sen. Lee Anderson - R)

Relating to general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, so as to prohibit local governments from denying the drilling, servicing, or repair of new or existing water wells on single-family residential and farm properties; to prohibit local governments from precluding or denying the installation of new water wells on single-family residential and farm properties situated on one acre of property or more. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Cmte

**Economic Development**

[SB 57,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63793) “Georgia Sports Betting Integrity Act” (Sen. Billy Hickman - R)

Relating to sports betting, so as to authorize and provide for the regulation and taxation of sports betting in Georgia; to provide additional powers of the Georgia Lottery Corporation; to provide for the Georgia Lottery Corporation to engage in certain activities related to sports betting; to create a public corporation to regulate sports betting that will be governed by the Georgia Sports Betting Commission; to provide for the procedures, limitations, requirements, and qualifications of the licensing of any person offering, operating, or managing sport betting in this state; to provide for criminal background checks; to regulate wagers and provide requirements for bettors; to provide for bettors to restrict themselves from placing certain wagers; to provide certain resources for individuals with problem gambling or a betting or gambling disorder; to provide for the collection and disposition of fees; to prohibit certain conduct by commissioners, employees of the commission, licensees, and other persons; to provide for certain penalties. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

**Elections**

[HB 200](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63905) Municipalities to use instant runoff voting for their elections (Rep. Joseph Gullett - R)

Relating to primary and general elections, so as to provide the option for the use of instant runoff voting in local elections. **Status:** Referred to Governmental Affairs Cmte

[SB 122,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64148) Provide Qualifications of Members of Performance Review Boards (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick - R)

Relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the qualifications of members of performance review boards; to provide for ballots and ballot labels to be securely stored; to provide for construction; to revise provisions related to the retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents; to remove provisions for keeping such ballots and documents under seal; to provide for electronic document inspection upon certification of election results. **Status:** Referred to Ethics Cmte

**Environmental & Natural Resources**

[HB 71,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63631) Okefenokee Protection Act (Rep. Darlene Taylor - R)

Relating to surface mining, so as to prohibit the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Natural Resources Department from issuing, modifying, or renewing any permit or accepting any bond to conduct surface mining operations on Trial Ridge for future permit applications and amendments. **Status:** Referred to Natural Resources and Environment Cmte

**Government -- General**

**Health – General**

[HB 82,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63666) Limit eligibility for rural physician tax credit to physicians (Rep. Mack Jackson - D)

Relating to state income tax credits, so as to limit eligibility for the rural physician tax credit to persons who qualify; to create a new tax credit for rural physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[HB 129](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63759), Expand temporary assistance for needy families eligibility criteria to pregnant women (Rep. Soo Hong - R)

Relating to public assistance, so as to expand temporary assistance for needy families eligibility criteria to pregnant women. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 140,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63770) Three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of certain pediatric disorders (Rep. Lee Hawkins - R)

Relating to the health insurance plan of state employees, so as to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcus infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit plan. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 155,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63822) Licenses by endorsement for Spouses of Firefighters, Healthcare Providers, and Law Enforcement (Rep. Chuck Martin - R)

Relating to general provisions of professions and businesses, so as to provide for the issuance of licenses by endorsement for certain licenses to spouses of firefighters, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers who relocate to the State of Georgia; to establish qualifications for such license by endorsement

**Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 196,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63901) Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission (Rep. Alan Powell - R)

Relating to access to medical cannabis, so as to provide that the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission shall be subject to the Administrative Procedure Act and laws governing open meetings and open records. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Non-Civil Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 308,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64154) Revise Tax Credits for Certain Medical Receptor Rotations (Rep. Mark Newton - R)

Relating to income taxes, so as to revise a tax credit for certain medical preceptor rotations; to add dentistry; to increase the value of the tax credit; to revise definitions; to extend the sunset provision for such tax credit; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability. **Status:** Referred to Ways and Means Cmte

[SB 65,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63887) Establishing a Commissioner of Insurance Advisory Committee (Sen. Ben Watson - R)

Relating to general provisions, so as to authorize the Commissioner of Insurance to take certain actions, including but not limited to promulgating rules, applying for federal money, and establishing an advisory committee, to create, implement, or operate a state, federal, or partnership exchange or marketplace. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 102,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64060) Administration of Anesthesia by Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (Sen. Larry Walker - R)

Relating to nurses, so as to revise a provision relating to the administration of anesthesia by certified registered nurse anesthetists. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Hospitals -- CON (Certificate of Need)**

[SB 99,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64040) Certificate of Need Exemptions for Acute Care Hospitals in Rural Counties (Sen. Greg Dolezal - R)

Relating to exemptions from certificate of need requirements, so as to provide an exemption for acute care hospitals established in rural counties that meet certain criteria. **Status:** Referred to Regulated Industries and Utilities Cmte

**Hospitals**

HB 286, Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act (Rep. Michelle Au - D)

To require a healthcare plan to reimburse for ambulance service provided to a covered person by a nonparticipating ambulance provider; to provide for arbitration; to provide for a covered person's financial responsibilities. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

HB 295, Consumer Protections Against Surprise Billing (Rep. Lee Hawkins - R)

Relating to insurance, so as to revise certain procedures, timelines, and other matters concerning consumer protections against surprise billing; to provide grounds for new violations of unfair claims settlement practices; to provide for payments by insurers; to provide for Commissioner authority. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[SB 16,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63644) “Georgia EMS Reform Act” (Sen. John Albers - R)

Relating to emergency medical services, so as to amend provisions relative to the Emergency Medical Systems Communications Program administered by the Department of Public Health; to provide for legislative findings, determinations, and declarations; to authorize local entities to establish boundaries for the provision of emergency medical services. **Status**:Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 20,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63655) “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” (Sen. Kay Kilpatrick - R)

To create the “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” to ensure consumer access to quality healthcare by setting adequacy standards for network plans offered by an insurer. **Status:** Referred to Insurance and Labor Cmte

[SB 81,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63959) “Georgia Community Midwife Act” (Sen. Tonya Anderson - D)

relating to professions and businesses, so as to provide for the licensure and regulation of community midwives; to amend Code Section 43-26-12 of the O.C.G.A., relating to exceptions to the operation of the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so as to provide for an exception relating to the practice of midwifery. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Insurance**

[HB 63,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63622) Require insurance policies for groups of 20 or more to furnish claims experience (Rep. Noel Williams Jr. - R)

Relating to furnishing claims experience to policyholders, so as to require insurers providing policies for groups of 20 or more to timely furnish claims experience at the request of a group policyholder; to allow such insurers that use other methods to apply to the Commissioner for approval of the use of an alternative form of claims experience reporting. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 280,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64082) Provide Additional Products or Services that are Excluded from being Unfair and Unlawful Trade Practices (Rep. Matthew Gambill - R)

Relating to insurance, so as to provide for additional value-added products or services that are excluded from being unfair trade practices and unlawful inducements in insurance; to provide for a definition; to allow an insurer or insurance producer to offer or provide a value-added product or service that enhances the health or financial wellness of a customer, incentivizes behavioral changes of a customer, or assists in the administration of employee or retiree benefit insurance coverage. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

[HB 294,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64131) Provisions Related to the Administration of Certain Rehabilitation Policies by a Ceding Insurer placed into Liquidation (Rep. Buddy Deloach - R)

Relating to procedure for rehabilitation, so as to provide for the administration of contracts reinsuring life, disability income or long-term care policies or annuities issued by a ceding insurer that has been placed into liquidation; to provide for the Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association to elect to assume the rights and obligations of a ceding insurer; to provide for duties, rights, and obligations of such association, the reinsurer, and the receiver; to provide for time restrictions for certain actions; to provide for mandatory negotiation; to provide for arbitration; to provide for construction. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte.

[SB 103](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64062), Provide Unclaimed Property in the Handling of Certain Wills (Sen. Russ Goodman - R)

Relating to disposition of unclaimed property, so as to provide for the handling of certain wills; to provide for definitions; to provide for administrative expenses of the commissioner; to provide for a claimant's designated representative; to provide for appeals; to provide for agreements for recovery; to provide for confidentiality; to provide a searchable data base for account information. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

**Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities**

[HB 4,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63472) Create and Maintain Electronic Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Registry (Rep. Sandra Scott - D)

Relating to general provisions related to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to require the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 41,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63544) Emergency Involuntary Treatment for Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Dependency (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to mental health, so as to revise procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment for mental health and alcohol and drug dependency; to require that certain documents become part of the patient’s clinical record. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 184,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63876) Include a Specific Federal Regulation for Mental Health Parity Requirements (Rep. Marvin Lim - D)

Relating to insurance, so as to include a specific federal regulation under mental health parity requirements. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte

**Pharmaceuticals**

[HB 85,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63669) Require Health Benefit Policy Coverage for Biomarker Testing (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to require health policy coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence; to provide for request exceptions or appeal adverse determinations. **Status:** Referred to Insurance Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 332,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64213) Provide Provisions Related to Controlled Substances (Rep. Butch Parrish - R)

Relating to controlled substances, so as to provide for certain provisions relating to Schedule I controlled substances, Schedule IV controlled substances, and Schedule V controlled substances; to provide for certain provisions relating to the definition of dangerous drugs. **Status:** House Hopper

**Public Health**

[HB 66,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63625) Grant Program for physicians and nurse practitioners (Rep. Mandeisha Thomas - D)

Relating to the Department of Public Health, so as to provide for the establishment of a grant program to provide funding for liability premiums for physicians and nurse practitioners under certain conditions and to provide for eligibility requirements. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HB 69,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63628) Georgia Triple Threat SNAP Act (Rep. Mandisha Thomas - D)

Relating to general provisions for public assistance, so as to provide for a pilot program to provide a monthly supplemental benefit of $75 to certain federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients who have been diagnosed with high glucose, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 143,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63776) Include Continuous Glucose Monitors as a Pharmacy Benefit for Medicaid Recipients (Rep. Danny Mathis - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[HB 191](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63896), Increase tax rate on pack of cigarettes (Rep. Ron Stephens - R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **Status:** Referred to Judiciary Cmte

[HB 192,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63897) Increase tax rate on Consumable Vapor Products (Rep. Ron Stephens - R)

Relating to taxes on tobacco and vaping products, so as to increase the rate of the tax on consumable vapor products; to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte

[HB 201,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63906) Authorize Dept. of Public Health to Increase Valvular Heart Disease Awareness (Rep. Kim Schofield – D)

Relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to authorize the Department of Public Health to carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis of valvular heart disease and to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by valvular heart disease; to provide for priority of projects for target populations; to provide for coordination with other state agencies; to provide for the collection and publishing of data regarding best practices for healthcare providers. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 213,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63950) Require Information to Parents to Students about Meningitis and Flu Vaccines (Rep. Katie Dempsey - R)

Relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provisions relating to required information to parents of students regarding meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their respective vaccines. **Status:** Referred to Education Cmte

[HB 225,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63979) Delivery Services Provide Information to Customers and Food Service Establishments (Rep. Kasey Carpenter - R)

Relating to food service establishments, so as to require a third-party food delivery platform to provide certain information to customers and food service establishments participating in an online order. **Status:** Referred to Regulated IndustriesCmte

[HB 226,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63980) Medicaid to Cover Treatment for Person living with HIV (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to persons in this state living with HIV. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 235,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63989) To Provide Breast Milk Storage and Breast Feeding for a Delivered Child (Rep. Sandra Scott - D)

Relating to inmate policies, so as to provide for policies for breast milk storage and the breastfeeding of a delivered child; to require the provision of breast pumps by the Department of Public Health; to provide for requirements for prenatal and postpartum care. **Status:** Referred to Public Safety and Homeland Security Cmte

[HB 266,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64068) Medical Freedom Act (Rep. Charlice Byrd - R)

Relating to control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to repeal the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or infectious diseases. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Cmte

[HB 287,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64096) Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations Act (Rep. Mandisha Thomas - D)

Relating to standards, labeling, and adulteration of food, so as to provide for the operation of microenterprise food kitchens; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for the issuance of permits; to provide for qualifications for permits; to provide for rules and regulations regarding sanitation, equipment, and maintenance; to provide for inspections; to provide for operating requirements; to provide for fees; to provide for limitations on permits; to provide for statutory construction. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[HR 10,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63511) House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities (Rep. Mandisha Thomas - D)

Resolution to create the “House Study Committee on Public Water Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities” to study the drinking water systems in areas serving disadvantaged communities and recommend any action or legislation that the committee deems necessary. **Status:** Referred to Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Cmte.

[HR 43](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63643), Costs and Effects of Smoking Joint Study Committee (Rep. Michelle Au - D)

Resolution to create the “Costs and Effects of Smoking Joint Study Committee” to study the impact of smoking on the health of adults and children; to study the effect that smoking has on the state economy; to recommend any action or legislation it deems necessary. **Status:** Referred to Health Cmte

[HR 95,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63871) Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day (Rep. Sharon Cooper - R)

Resolution to designate the fourth Wednesday in February as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day. **Status:** Referred to Public Health Committee, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 9,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63567) Kathleen Cominski Act (Sen. Michael Rhett - R)

Relating to emergency response within public offices, so as to require that there is at least one functional automated external defibrillator on site at all times for use during emergencies within these spaces. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 22,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63654) Prohibit the sale of, purchase of, and the offering of samples of hemp products to minors (Sen. Kay Kilpatrick - R)

Relating to offenses against public health and morals concerning hemp farming to prohibit the purchase of, sale of, and the offering of samples of hemp products by or to any individual under the age of 18 years old. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[SB 34,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63692) Prohibit food delivery services from committing unfair, unsafe, and unhealthy practices (Sen. Elena Parent - D)

Relating to food service establishments, so as to prohibit a third-party food delivery service from committing unfair, unsafe, and unhealthy practices in this state. **Status:** Referred to Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Cmte

[SB 46,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63780) Require physicians to test all pregnant women for HIV and syphilis (Sen. Chuck Hufstletler - R)

Relating to control of sexually transmitted diseases, so as to require physicians and healthcare providers to test all pregnant women for HIV and syphilis at the first prenatal visit, at 28–32 weeks’ gestation, and at delivery. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 47,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63778) Vaping in restricted areas is a misdemeanor punishable by fine (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler - R)

Relating to offenses against public health and morals, so as to provide that vaping in restricted areas is a misdemeanor punishable by fine. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte, Passed Cmte by Substitute, Pending Rules Cmte

[SB 50,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63783) Schools with grades nine through twelve may provide lifeguarding and aquatic safety instruction (Sen. Max Burns - R)

Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; to provide for Carnegie unit curriculum credits. **Status:** Referred to Education and Youth Cmte

[SB 55,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63787) Regulation of Business of Persons under the age of 18 (Sen. Elena Parent - D)

Relating to general provisions relative to counties, municipal corporations, and other governmental entities, so as to prohibit the regulation of businesses of persons under 18 years of age. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

[SB 106,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64089) “Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Act” (Sen. Larry Walker - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for remote maternal health clinical services under the Medicaid program; to provide for eligibility; to provide for a final report; to provide for termination of the pilot project and automatic repeal of the statute. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

[SB 107,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64094) Izzy’s Law (Sen. Max Burns - R)

To provide that the Department of Public Health shall develop and make available for download from its internet website a model aquatic safety plan based on national standards for private swim instructors. **Status:** Referred to Children and Families Cmte

[SB 109,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64098) To Include Glucose Monitors as a Pharmacy Benefit for Medicaid Recipients (Sen. Shelly Echols - R)

Relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients; to provide for coverage criteria; to provide for certain consultations by treating practitioners. **Status:** Referred to Health and Human Services Cmte

**Taxes**

[HB 239,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64003) Tax Credits to Include Aggregate or Mineral Mining Facilities (Rep. Bruce Williamson - R)

Relating to imposition, rate, computation, exemptions, and credits relative to state income tax, so as to expand the credits allowable for purchases and acquisitions of qualified investment property for manufacturing and telecommunications facilities to include aggregate or mineral mining facilities. **Status:** Referred to Ways & Means Cmte.

[SB 127,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64198) Local Governments to Change Designated Private Sector Nonprofit Organization Excise Tax (Sen. Billy Hickman - R)

Relating to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, so as to provide procedures for certain local governments to change the designated private sector nonprofit organization engaged to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows for such jurisdiction. **Status:** Referred to Economic Development and Tourism Cmte

**Transportation**

[HB 52,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63560) GDoT board election provisions and related transportation matters (Rep. Brad Thomas – R)

To amend provisions relating to GDoT board elections notices; relating to provisions regarding to alternative procurement procedures; relating to the permitting of an off-scene medical examiner to authorize on-the-scene personnel to remove bodies in a fatal automobile accident to clear blocked lanes; and relating to the towing of modular housing. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte, Passed House, Referred to Senate Transportation Cmte

[HB 189,](https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63881) Provide for allowable Variances for Weight Limitations upon a Vehicle or Load (Rep. Steven Meeks - R)

Relating to dimensions and weight of vehicles and loads, so as to provide for an allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; to repeal certain exceptions which allow for excess weight for vehicles and loads. **Status:** Referred to Transportation Cmte, Passed Cmte, Pending Rules Cmte

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