

# Legislative Update April 2, 2018

## Status Code Legend

- Beneficial for Mental Health/Support
- Detrimental for Mental Health/Against
- Watching Details for Impact
- Unlikely to move/Off the table

## Senate Bills

<p>SB 318: Physicians emergency examination based on EMT observation Senators Rhett (D), Unterman (R ), Burke (R ) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, so as to provide for the execution of a physician's certificate for emergency examination of a person for involuntary evaluation and treatment for mental illness or alcohol or drug abuse based on consultation with an emergency medical technician or paramedic who has personally observed the person; to provide for immunity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Passed Senate. Referred to the House Health and Human Services Committee. Second Hearing on 3/15. Legislation now reflects Pilot program. Concerns include the lack of infrastructure to support this bill, the lack of training to EMT personnel. Committee tabled.</li> </ul>
<p>SB352: Create Director of Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Related Disorders Sen. Unterman (R ) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions relative to health, so as to prohibit patient brokering; to create a director of Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Related Disorders; to provide for appointment; to provide for qualifications; to establish the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery; to provide for membership; to provide for duties; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions relative to insurance, so as to provide for a fraudulent insurance act for the excessive, high- tech, or fraudulent drug testing of certain individuals; to provide for investigation by the Commissioner; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Passed Senate. Referred to House Health and Human Services Committee. Hearing Only 3/19.</li> </ul>
<p>SB357: Create the Health Coordination and Innovation Council Sen. Burke (R ) <b>Awaiting Transmittal to Gov Desk</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to health, so as to create the Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia; to amend other provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed the Senate.</b> <b>Referred to House Health and Human Services Committee. Hearing 3/5 and 3/6/18. Language clarified FT Director Position and Council member to include. Reported Favorable by Substitute. Rolled into HB 769 voted on Senate floor 3/15/18. Senate Agreed to House Sub.</b></li> </ul>
<p>SB 359: Consumer Coverage and Protection for Out-of-Network Medical Care Act Senators Hufstetler (R) Burke (R) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., 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 related matters to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Passed Senate. Referred to House Insurance Committee. Rolled HB 678 voted on 3/14/18 in the Senate and send back to the House.</li> </ul>

<p>SB407: Relating to Criminal Justice Procedures Senators Strickland (R ), Walker (R ), Stone (R ) <b>AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for comprehensive reform for offenders; to amend Title 15 and Chapter 6 of Title 35 of the O.C.G.A., relating to courts and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; to amend Title 17, Code Section 24-4-609, Chapter 5 of Title 40, Title 42, and Code Section 43-1-19 of the O.C.G.A., relating to criminal procedure, impeachment by evidence of conviction of a crime, drivers' licenses, penal institutions, and grounds for refusing to grant or revoking professional licenses; to amend Chapter 2 of Title 31 and Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the Department of Community Health and public assistance; to amend Title 16 of the O.C.G.A., relating to crimes and offenses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed Senate. Referred to House Judicial Non-Civil Committee. Hearing 3/5. Passed with amend/substitute: allows judges to consider mental illness when sentencing certain crimes to include suspension of fines and/or delegation of other alternatives.</b></li> </ul>
<p>SB 184: Integrated Population Health Data Health Project Senators Hufstetler (R ), Unterman (R ), Beach (R ) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Office of Planning and Budget, so as to establish the Integrated Population Health Data Project; to create a governing board and provide for its membership and terms; to provide for oversight of the project; to provide for board responsibilities; to provide for reporting; to provide for funding; to provide for data sharing; to provide for immunity; to provide for open records and meetings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Passed by Senate. Referred to House Judiciary Committee.</li> </ul>

## House Bills

<p>HB 519: Step Therapy Rep. Sharon Cooper (R) Rep. Bruce Broadrick (R) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance generally, so as to require health benefit plans to utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols; to provide for a step therapy override determination process; to provide for definitions; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House.</b> Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The House HHS has added the Step Therapy Language to SB325.</li> </ul>
<p>HB 678: Insurance Disclosure Rep. Richard Smith (R) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requires healthcare providers to tell patients which health insurance plans they accept before non-emergency treatment. If they do not have an agreement with a patient's health insurance provider, they must disclose the estimated amount the health care provider, group practice, diagnostic and treatment center, or health center will bill the patient or prospective patient for health care services when the patient asks. Information about who ancillary providers will be in the process of treatment must also be provided when asked. Likewise, insurance providers must make accessible information which could help clients assess out-of-network costs. <b>Status: Passed House.</b> Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Substituted by House Insurance Committee</li> </ul>
<p>HB 740: Education; local school system to conduct certain screenings, assessments, and reviews prior to expelling a student; require Representatives Nix, Howard <b>AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Subpart 1A of Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to improved student learning environment and discipline in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to conduct certain screenings, assessments, and reviews prior to expelling or assigning a student in kindergarten through third grade to out-of-school suspension for five or more consecutive or cumulative days during a school year; to provide exceptions; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House. Referred to Senate Education and Youth Committee. Language change to reflect multi-tiered system support and Response to Intervention (RIT). Senate Floor Vote on 3/21</b></li> </ul>
<p>HB 769: Recommendations from the House Rural Development Council Rep. Jasperse, England, Powell et al <b>AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 4 of Title 26 and Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to pharmacists and pharmacies and health, respectively, so as to implement recommendations from the House Rural Development Council relating to health care issues; to revise provisions relative to pharmacy practices; to provide for and revise definitions; to revise provisions relative to credentialing and billing; to provide for the establishment of the Rural Center for Health Care Innovation and Sustainability; to revise provisions relative to certificate of need; to provide for the establishment of micro-hospitals; to provide for a grant program for insurance premium assistance for physicians practicing in medically underserved rural areas of the state; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House. Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Senate favorable by substitute. Rolled into SB 357. House agreed to Senate Sub.</b></li> </ul>
<p>HB 844: Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons; revise provisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 30 of the O.C.G.A., relating to handicapped persons generally, so as to revise provisions relating to the Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons; to provide for definitions; to expand the membership of the commission; to establish a task force; to require use of existing assessments; to monitor individual children's language and literacy progress; to develop a state-wide coordinated longitudinal data management system for all</li> </ul>

<p><b>AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK</b></p>	<p>children who are deaf or hard of hearing; to require information sharing and collaboration among state agencies; to provide integrated and seamless services from birth through literacy; to require public reporting mechanisms; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House. Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Reported favorable by Senate HHS.</b></p>
<p>HB927: Certain information be provided to caregiver upon placement of a child; require Reps Nimmer, Dempsey <b>See Status</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to dependency proceedings, so as to require certain information be provided to a caregiver, foster parent, pre-adoptive parent, or relative by DFCS upon placement of a child; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Did not pass, however language from HB927 was included in HB906 which DID PASS and is AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK.</b></li> </ul>
<p>HB982: Relative searches conducted by DFCS; change provisions Rep Nimmer <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dependency proceedings, so as to change provisions relating to relative searches conducted by DFCS; to change provisions relating to termination of parental rights; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House. Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.</b></li> </ul>
<p>HB 999: Weapons, carry License inpatient hospital Reps Coomer, Cox et al <b>FAILED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 16-11-129 of the O.C.G.A., relating to weapons carry license, temporary renewal permit, mandamus, and verification of license, so as to clarify the type of hospitalization as an inpatient in any mental hospital that prohibits the issuance of a weapons carry license; to amend Code Section 35-3-34 of the O.C.G.A., relating to disclosure and dissemination of criminal records to private persons and businesses, resulting responsibility and liability of the Georgia Crime Information Center; to amend Title 37 of the O.C.G.A., relating to mental health, so to require judicial notification to certain persons admitted to certain facilities of certain firearm prohibitions that attach to such admission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House.</b> Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. Reported Favorable by Senate Judiciary. Concern: criminalization of persons with mental illness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HB 65: Study Committee on Low THC Oil</b> Peake; Clark <b>AWAITING TRANSMITTAL TO GOV DESK</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 31-2A-18 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the establishment of the Low THC Oil Patient Registry, definitions, purpose, registration cards, quarterly reports, and waiver forms, so as to change provisions relating to conditions and eligibility; to provide a definition; to remove certain reporting requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Passed House and Senate. Includes the addition of PTSD as a condition for treatment.</b></li> </ul>
<p>HR354: School Based- Education Materials (Resolution) Rep. Kendrick-(D) <b>FAILED</b></p>	<p>A RESOLUTION urging the Georgia Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and mental health experts, to develop and provide to local school systems a list of training materials that would serve to increase awareness of mental health issues and behavioral and learning disabilities; and for other purposes. <i>Status: This resolution will likely require an appropriation. House Committee Favorably reported on 2/15/18.</i></p>

<p>HR888: Creation of Joint Study Committee Rep Spencer <b>FAILED</b></p>	<p>A RESOLUTION Creating the Joint Study Committee on Converting Closed Hospitals to Veterans Homes and for other purposes. Status: Defense and Veterans Affairs. Reported favorable by committee.</p>
<p>HR 913: Study Committee on Incorporating Law Enforcement in Pathway to Treatment Rep Rakestraw (R ) <b>ADOPTED</b></p>	<p>A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Incorporating Law Enforcement in the Pathway to Treatment and Social Services for Persons Having Challenges with Drug Use and Mental Health; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Assigned to Public Safety and Homeland Security. Reported Favorable by Substitute.</b></p>
<p>HR 1257: House Study Committee on the Workforce Shortage and Crisis in Home and Community Based Settings Representative Petrea (R ) <b>ADOPTED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on the Workforce Shortage and Crisis in Home and Community Based Settings; and for other purposes. <b>Status: Referred to the Special Rules Committee. Reported favorable by Special Rules committee</b></li> </ul>

### Additional Information

HB 684 = House Budget 2019  
3/29 Sine Die