

Legislative Update February 25, 2019

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 & Resolutions

<p>SB15 Schools Safe Act:</p> <p>Senators Albers (R), Mullis, Dugan, Miller, Gooch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To amend Article 27 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to loitering at or disrupting schools, so as to require public and private schools to have performed certain threat assessments; to provide for definitions; to require every public and private school to prepare a school safety plan; to revise requirements for the contents of school safety plans <p>Referred to: Public Safety; Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
<p>SB 16: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act:</p> <p>Senators Kirkpatrick (R), Hufstetler, Watson, Burke, Ginn and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To amend Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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 <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services; House Second Readers</p>
<p>SB 18: Direct Primary Care Act</p> <p>Senators Kirkpatrick (R), Jones, Watson, Burke, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 7 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Rules; Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute</p>
<p>SB 34: Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; persons who are ineligible for weapons carry licenses</p> <p>Senators Jones, Butler, Harrell, Orrock, Seay and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the O.C.G.A., relating to dangerous instrumentalities and practices, so as change provisions relating to persons who are ineligible for weapons carry licenses; 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 issuing center, and providing certain information to the FBI in conjunction with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, so as to change provisions relating to the retention of certain information; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Judiciary</p>
<p>SB 36: Medical Assistance; authorization of appropriations for purposes of obtaining federal financial participation; Medicaid expansion</p> <p>Senators Henson, Jones II, Butler, Harrell, Seay and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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 certain restrictions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services</p>
<p>SB 56: "Consumer Coverage and Protection for Out-of Network Medical Care Act"</p> <p>Senators Hufstetler, Watson, Burke, Parent, Jackson and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 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; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Insurance and Labor</p>

<p>SB 74: Health; certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term facilities and services; eliminate</p> <p>Senators Brass, Watson, Albers, Kirkpatrick and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., 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; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Regulated Industries and Utilities</p>
<p>SB 106: Patients First Act</p> <p>Senators Tillery (R), Strickland, Miller, Dugan, Kennedy, Kirkpatrick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 and Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., 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; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
<p>SB 115: Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia; telemedicine licenses for physicians in other states; engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine; provide</p> <p>Senators Unterman (R), Walker III, Burke, Beach, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia," so as to provide for telemedicine licenses for physicians licensed in other states to engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine; to provide for requirements for issuance of a telemedicine license; to provide for restrictions; to provide for notice of restrictions placed on a license by another state; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for revocation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Committee Favorably Reported</p>
<p>SB 118: Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act; rename</p> <p>Senators Unterman (R), Hufstetler, Burke, Walker, Kirk, Sims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance generally, so as to modernize the Georgia Telemedicine Act; to rename the Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act; to revise the definition of telemedicine; to provide a definition of telehealth; to prohibit insurers from requiring insureds to use telemedicine; to provide for pay equity for health care providers using telemedicine; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Committee Favorably Reported</p>
<p>SB 125: Handicapped Persons; installation and maintenance of adult changing stations in certain commercial public facilities for persons with disabilities; provide</p> <p>Senator Seay (D)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to handicapped persons, so as to provide for the installation and maintenance of adult changing stations in certain commercial public facilities for persons with disabilities; to provide for definitions; to provide for the powers and duties of the Safety Fire Commissioner; to provide for limitations; to provide for enforcement; to provide for exemptions; to provide for penalties; to provide for federal law compliance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>First Read</p>
<p>SB 151: The Health Act</p> <p>Senators Burke (R), Watson, Kirkpatrick, Hufstetler, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to health, so as to provide for improvements in the state's health care system and coordination of state health related entities; to provide for legislative findings and declarations; to provide for definitions; to provide for duties and responsibilities; to provide for the creation of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; to provide for a director of health strategy and coordination; to provide for the creation of the Board of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; to amend other provisions of the O.C.G.A., so as to provide for conforming changes; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>First Read</p>

<p>SR 193: Senate Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; create</p> <p>Senators Kirk (R), Dugan, Walker III, Unterman, Beach, Hufstetler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Rules</p>
<p>SR 194: Joint Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; create</p> <p>Senators Kirk (R), Dugan, Walker III, Unterman, Beach, Hufstetler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Rules</p>
<p>SR 202: Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; create</p> <p>Senators Hufstetler (R), Watson, Orrock, Burke</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Rules</p>
<p>SR 217: Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications; create</p> <p>Senators Ligon, Unterman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services</p>

House Bills & Resolutions

<p>HB 26: Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact:</p> <p>Representatives Belton (R), Hitchens, Williams (D), Blackmon, Glanton, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 39 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., 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; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: HC: Interstate Cooperation <p>Referred to: Interstate Cooperation</p>
<p>HB: 32 Chief Turnaround Officer; revise and clarify certain provisions</p> <p>Representatives Tanner, Dickey, Jasperse, Glanton, Nix and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 3A of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to turnaround schools, so as to revise and clarify certain provisions relating to the duties of the Chief Turnaround Officer; to revise the term "turnaround coach" to "transformation specialist"; to revise biannual reporting dates; to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Turnaround Collaborative; to provide for stipends for turnaround instructional innovation specialists; to provide for criteria; to provide for retention of stipend; to provide for conversion of stipend to permanent salary increase; to provide for contingency based on appropriations by the General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Education</p>
<p>HB 37: Expand Medicaid Now Act</p> <p>Representatives Trammell, Boddie, Beverly, Alexander, Gardner, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, 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; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Appropriations</p>
<p>HB 63: Insurance; health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols; require</p> <p>Representatives Cooper, R. Smith, Silcox, Hawkins, Wilensky</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 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; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Insurance</p>
<p>HB 178: Mental health; provide for assisted outpatient treatment programs</p> <p>Representatives Hogan, Hawkins, Shephens, Dempsey and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 37 of the O.C.G.A., 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; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services</p>

<p>HB 197: Provide for the establishment of the Strategic Integrated Data System</p> <p>Rep Dempsey, Houston, Gardner, England, Powell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 provide for the establishment of the Strategic Integrated Data System; to provide for definitions; 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; to provide for funding; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight</p>
<p>HB 198: eliminate (CON) certificate of need requirements for all health care facilities except certain long-term care facilities and services</p> <p>Representatives Hatchett, England, Powell, Brazemore and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., 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; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare</p>
<p>HB 229: Law enforcement agencies; retention of a person's involuntary hospitalization information</p> <p>Representatives Buckner, Robichaux, Hutchinson, Frye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 35-3-34 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to disclosure and dissemination of criminal records to private persons and businesses, resulting responsibility and liability of the Georgia Crime Information Center, and provision of certain information to the FBI in conjunction with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, so as to change provisions relating to the retention of a person's involuntary hospitalization information; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Motor Vehicles</p>
<p>HB 364: Crimes and offenses; authorize second chances under conditional discharge for controlled substances violations under certain circumstances</p> <p>Representatives Boddie, Trammell, Shannon,everly, Thomas, Scott</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding controlled substances, so as to authorize second chances under conditional discharge for controlled substances violations under certain circumstances; to provide for terms and conditions and procedures; to amend Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to probation for first offenders, so as to authorize second chances under first offender treatment of criminal charges under certain circumstances; to provide for terms and conditions and procedures; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Judiciary Non-Civil</p>
<p>HB 369: Education; development of an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid for a sport-related injury; require</p> <p>Representatives Wilkerson, Dickerson, Dukes, Mitchell, Howard, Clark</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, so as to require the development of an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid for a sports-related injury; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Education</p>

<p>HB 370: Professions and businesses; number of advanced practice registered nurses with which a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement for nurses practicing in an emergency medical services system; revise exception</p> <p>Representatives Cooper, Netwon, Bazemore, Silcox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 43-34-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, so as to revise the exception to the number of advanced practice registered nurses with which a delegating physician can enter into a protocol agreement for nurses practicing in an emergency medical services system; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services</p>
<p>HB 374: Health; administer medications to residents under hospice care pursuant to a physician's written orders; authorize certified medication aides</p> <p>Representatives LaHood, Cooper, Petrea</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 31-7-12.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and licensing of assisted living communities, legislative intent, definitions, procedures, and requirements for medication aides, so as to authorize certified medication aides to administer medications to residents under hospice care pursuant to a physician's written orders; to amend Code Section 43-26-12, relating to exceptions to the licensure of registered professional nurses, so as to provide that the administration of medication by certified medication aides under specific criteria does not require licensure as a registered professional nurse; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Human Relations and Aging</p>
<p>HR 261: Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; create</p> <p>Representatives Newton, Cooper, Burns, Silcox, Holcomb, Hutchinson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; and for other purposes. <p>Referred to: Health and Human Services</p>

Additional Information

General Assembly Adjournment Resolution [HR152](#)

3/7 – Crossover Day

4/2 – Sine Die

Committee Assignments for the General Assembly can be found at the following links:

[House of Representatives Committees](#)

[Senate Committees](#)

Appointees for the

[House Special Access to Quality Healthcare Committee](#)