

Legislative Update February 28, 2020

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 281: Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; possession of automatic and semi-automatic guns James, Donzella</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16, Code Section 15-11-2, and Code Section 20-2-1184 of the O.C.G.A., relating to dangerous instrumentalities and practices, definitions regarding the Juvenile Code, and reporting of students committing prohibited acts, respectively, so as to prohibit the possession of automatic and semi-automatic guns; to subject all transfers or purchases of firearms at gun shows to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to provide for facilitation by licensed dealers; to provide for requirements for the securing or storage of inventory firearms when a dealer is not open for business; to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: Judiciary</p>
<p>SB 288: Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction Anderson-43rd</p>	<p>Restricts access to criminal records where arrests did not result in a conviction, or where certain conditions have since been met (e.g., ten years have elapsed since the conviction, or drug court treatment program or mental health treatment program have been completed).</p> <p>STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee.</p>
<p>SB 291: "Georgia Death with Dignity Act"; physician-assisted end-of-life options for terminally ill individuals Henson, Steve; Orrock, Nan</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to create provisions for physician-assisted end-of-life options for terminally ill individuals; to provide for definitions; to provide a criminal penalty; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: Senate Health and Human Services</p>
<p>SB 293: 'Balance Billing Consumer Protection Act'; certain consumer protections against balance billing</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., relating to insurance, so as to provide for certain consumer protections against balance billing; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the O.C.G.A., relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to provide the Attorney General with new enforcement authority against providers; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p> <p>STATUS: Insurance and Labor</p>
<p>SB 303: 'Georgia Right to Shop Act'; greater transparency of prices for</p>	<p>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 provide for greater transparency of prices for nonemergency health care services; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for the disclosure of</p>

<p>nonemergency healthcare services Watson, Ben Jones , Butler</p>	<p>certain pricing information through insurer websites to allow consumers to compare prices; to provide that insurers may use third parties to comply with such requirements; to provide for certain notice requirements; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Insurance and Labor</p>
<p>SB 311: Health; patient brokering; prohibit; Kirkpatrick, Kay 32nd Unterman, Renee 45th Robertson, Randy 29th Burke, Dean 11th; Rhett, Michael 'Doc' 33rd</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to prohibit patient brokering; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to provide for penalties; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to provide that excessive, fraudulent, or high-tech drug testing of certain individuals is considered a fraudulent insurance act; to provide for investigation by the Commissioner of Insurance; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Judiciary; 2/19 Withdrawn from JUDY and Recommitted to H&HS</p>
<p>SB 313: Pharmacy Benefits Managers (PBM); regulation and licensure; extensive revisions Senators Burke 11, Watson 1st, Dugan 30th, Kennedy 18th Hufstetler 52nd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 64 of Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to provide extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Insurance and Labor
<p>SB 324: Medicaid; coverage for pregnant women for a period of not less than 12 months Jordan, Jennifer; Butler, Gloria</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 Medicaid coverage for pregnant women for a period of not less than 12 months; to provide for submission of a state plan amendment if necessary; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Appropriations
<p>SB 352: Online Provider Directories; certain coverage requirements concerning providers that become out-of-network during a plan year Burke, Dean; Kirkpatrick, Kay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 33-20C-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to online provider directories, so as to provide for certain coverage requirements concerning providers that become out-of-network during a plan year; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Assigned to House Insurance. Passed by Substitute. Senate Insurance and Labor
<p>SB 359: Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act'; certain consumer protections against surprise billing; provide Hufstetler 52nd, Tillery 19th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance, so as to provide for certain consumer protections against surprise billing; to provide mechanisms to resolve payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers regarding the provision of healthcare services; to require the department to provide for the maintenance of an all-payer health claims data base; to provide for in-network cost-sharing amounts in healthcare plan contracts; to establish an arbitration process; to require the Commissioner of Insurance to contract

<p>Strickland 17th, Albers 56th Kirkpatrick 32, Watson 1st</p>	<p>with one or more resolution organizations; to require the promulgation of department rules; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Assigned to House Special Committee to Access Quality Healthcare HHS; Reported Favorably by Committee</p>
<p>Senate Bill 365 Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices (Brady Law) Karinshak 48, Jackson 2, Jones 10, Jordan 6, Davenport 44</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 and Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dangerous instrumentalities and practices and the Georgia Crime Information Center, respectively, so as to provide for the comprehensive revision of certain provisions regarding Brady Law regulations; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to appellate practice, so as to correct a cross-reference; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Judiciary</p>
<p>SB366: Senators Karinshak of the 48th, Jones of the 10th, Jordan of the 6th, Davenport of the 44th, Rahman of the 5th</p>	<p>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 5 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Brady Law regulations, so as to require universal background checks in all manner of firearm transfers and purchases; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to provide for criminal penalties; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Judiciary</p>
<p>SB 391: "Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act"; health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply; Kirkpatrick, Kay 32; Watson, Ben 1st; Albers, John 56th Burke, Dean; Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to require health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply of certain prescription medications under certain emergency situations; to amend Code Section 26-4-80 of the O.C.G.A., relating to license required for practice of pharmacy, dispensing of prescription drugs, prescription drug orders, electronically transmitted drug orders, refills, and schedule II controlled substance prescriptions, so as to allow pharmacists to dispense certain refill prescription medications under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Senate Health and Human Services</p>
<p>SR 546: Bailey, Ms. Dottie; commend; Mental Health Alert Wristband; local law enforcement agencies to purchase and freely distribute; encourage Ligon, Jr., William</p>	<p>● A RESOLUTION encouraging local law enforcement agencies, psychiatric facilities, doctors, and therapists to purchase and freely distribute Mental Health Alert Wristbands to those suffering from mental illness; commending Ms. Dottie Bailey for developing the Mental Health Alert Wristband; and for other purposes. Status: Health and Human Services Reported Favorably by Committee</p>

Continue to Next Page for House Bills

House Bills

<p>HB 544: Mental health; procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment; revise Estration Chuck 104 Oliver, Mary Margaret 82</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 7 of Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to hospitalization and treatment of alcoholics, drug dependent individuals, and drug abusers, so as to revise procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment; to require the affidavits of the persons upon which an emergency involuntary treatment order is based to be made part of the patient evaluation and among the documents that influence treatment decisions; to provide for notification of such persons; to allow such persons to be designated as patient representatives; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: Judiciary; Hearing 1/27 Chairman Kelley will establish working group to discuss impact and potential for implementation</p>
<p>HB 726: Law enforcement officers and agencies; enter report of missing persons into a certain database maintained by the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice; Taylor Darlene - 173rd</p>	<p>Requires law enforcement agencies to enter the report of missing persons into the data base of missing persons maintained by the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice. The term "missing persons" is defined as a person whose whereabouts are unknown and who is believed to be in danger because of age, physical or mental health, or physical or mental disability as well as environmental or weather conditions.</p> <p>STATUS: House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.</p>
<p>HB 748: Health; measures to improve health care access for low-income senior individuals Bruce, Roger</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 8 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to care and protection of indigent and elderly patients, so as to provide for measures to improve health care access for low-income senior individuals; to provide for eligibility requirements; to provide for application forms; to provide for effectiveness subject to appropriation of funds; to provide for related matters; to provide for legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: House pre-filed</p>
<p>HB 751: Anti-Red Flag - Second Amendment Conservation Act Pullin, Ken 131st; Cooke, Kevin 18th; Gurtler, Matt 8th; Singleton, Philip 71st; Moore, Colton 1st; Gullett, Joseph 19th</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 16-11-173 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to legislative findings, preemption of local regulation and lawsuits, and exceptions, so as to occupy and preempt the entire field of legislation in this state involving extreme risk protection orders; to provide for a definition; to prohibit the enforcement of federal and other extreme risk protection orders in this state; to provide for a criminal offense; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p> <p>Status: Assigned to House Judiciary Committee</p>
<p>HB 760: Mental health; authorization of peace officers to take a person to a physician or emergency receiving facility Cooper, Sharon 43rd; Lumsden, Eddie 12th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to provide for authorization of peace officers to take a person to a physician or emergency receiving facility for emergency examination under certain circumstances; to provide for immunity; to provide for reports; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: Assigned to Public Safety and homeland Security; This bill will likely move to BHReform & Innov Commission</p>

<p>HB 772: Green Call Act Scott, Sandra 76th Williams, Al 168th Jackson, Derrick 64th Schofield, Kim 60th Beasley-Teague, Sharon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, so as to provide for a green alert program to notify the public when a veteran or military service member known to have a physical or mental health condition related to his or her service, or who is at imminent risk of self-harm, is missing; to provide for definitions; to provide for procedures and cooperation of state agencies; to provide for certain immunities; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: Defense and Veteran's Affairs</p>
<p>HB789: Insurance; creation of a surprise bill rating system based Newton, Mark 123rd Jones, Jan 47th Hatchett, Matt 150th Gaines, Houston 117th Wiedower, Marcus 119th Burns, Jon 159th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insurance; creation of a surprise bill rating system based upon the number of certain physician specialty groups contracted with a hospital within a health insurer's network; provide. A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 20C of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to accurate provider directories, so as to provide for the creation of a surprise bill rating system based upon the number of certain physician specialty groups contracted with a hospital within a health insurer's network; to provide for definitions; to provide for a requirement that insurers include hospital surprise bill ratings online and in print provider directories; to provide for a requirement that each insurer that advertises any hospital as in-network shall disclose such hospital's surprise bill rating within such advertisement; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare; 2/4 Favorably Reported by Substitute</p>
<p>HB 792: Appropriations Supplemental FY2020 Ralston. Jones, Burns, England</p>	<p>Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020</p> <p>Status: Senate Appropriations. Passed House</p>
<p>HB 793: Appropriations FY 2021 Ralston. Jones, Burns, England</p>	<p>General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021</p>
<p>HB 842: Gracie's Law Williams, R. 145th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to prohibit providers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient; to amend Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance generally, so as to prohibit health insurers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes <p>Status: Insurance Committee reported favorable by substitute</p>
<p>HB 855: State Board of Education; determine eligibility criteria for foster care students to receive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to educational programs, so as to direct the State Board of Education to determine eligibility criteria for foster care students to receive special education and related services; to require the Department of Education to provide guidance to local school systems; to require local school systems to immediately determine whether to initiate the initial evaluation process for newly

<p>special education and related services Wiedower 119, Jasperse 11, Gaines 117, McCall 33rd, Reeves of the 34</p>	<p>enrolled foster care students; to require the State Board of Education to develop rules and regulations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: House Education Committee</p>
<p>HB 888: Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; enact Hawkins, Lee 27th, Lott, Jodi 122nd, Rogers, Terry 10th, Lumsden, Eddie 12th, Smyre, Calvin 135th</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 provide for certain consumer protections against surprise billing; to provide for a short title; to provide for applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide mechanisms to resolve payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers regarding the provision of healthcare services; to require the department to provide for the maintenance of an all-payer health claims data base; to provide for in-network cost-sharing amounts in healthcare plan contracts; to establish an arbitration process; to require the Commissioner of Insurance to contract with one or more resolution organizations; to require the promulgation of department rules; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Status: Hearing on 2/27 expected vote on 2/28 at 8AM. Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, 2/19 Reported Favorably by Committee Sub
<p>HR 894 Joint Study Committee on Veterans' Suicide; Scott, Sandra 76th Williams, Al 168th Schofield, Kim 60th Jackson, Derrick 64th Beasley-Teague</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Veterans' Suicide; and for other purposes Status: Defense and Veteran Affairs
<p>HB 918: Pharmacies; various provisions relating to the practice of pharmacy Cooper, Sharon 43rd Knight, David 130th Hatchett, Matt 150th</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to pharmacies, so as to revise various provisions relating to the practice of pharmacy; to repeal provisions relating to required licensure as a pharmacy by pharmacy benefits managers engaging in the practice of pharmacy; to revise provisions relating to "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights"; to revise pharmacy anti-steering provisions; to revise various 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. STATUS: Withdrawn from Insurance and recommitted to Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care</p>
<p>HB 946: Insurance; extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers Knight, David 130th(2) Hatchett, Matt 150th(3) England, Terry 116th (4) Stephens, Ron 164th</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 64 of Title 33 of the O.C.G.A., relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to provide extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers; to revise definitions; to revise provisions relating to license requirements and filing fees; to revise a provision regarding the prohibition on the practice of medicine by a pharmacy benefits manager; to provide additional authority for the Insurance Commissioner to regulate pharmacy benefits managers; to revise provisions relating to rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers; to revise provisions relating to administration of claims; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. STATUS: Special Committee On Access to Quality Health Care</p>

<p>HB 947: Community Health, Department of; engage an actuary to conduct a study of the fiscal impact of carving out pharmacy benefits from the state's current Medicaid care management organizations Knight, David 130th(2) Hatchett, Matt 150th(3) England, Terry 116th (4) Newton, Mark 123rd</p>	<p>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 Medicaid generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to engage an actuary to conduct an actuarial study of the fiscal impact of carving out pharmacy benefits from the state's current Medicaid care management organizations; to provide for actions based on the results of the actuarial study; to provide for submission of a waiver if necessary; to provide for related matters; to provide for legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p> <p>STATUS: Special Committee On Access to Quality Health Care</p>
<p>HB 991: Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Act Hatchett, Knight,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to provide for transparency relating to state healthcare plans and its contractors; to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide for an oversight committee; to provide for its members and powers; to provide for information from state contractors and others to the oversight committee regarding state healthcare plans; to provide for confidentiality of certain records; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. <p>Status: Special Committee On Access to Quality Health Care</p>
<p>HR1282: House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers Hutchinson, Shelly 107th(2) Cooper, Sharon 43rd(3) Bonner, Josh 72nd (4) Trammell, Robert 132nd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Evaluating, Simplifying, and Eliminating Duplication of Regulatory Requirements for Mental Health and Social Services Providers; and for other purposes.

Events/Upcoming Dates