

# Legislative Update March 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>SB 15: Schools Safe Act</p> <p>Senators Albers, Mullis, Dugan, Miller, Gooch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> 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. This proposes to require schools to go through new safety measures, including yearly threat assessments and trainings, create safety plans, and report a wider definition of possible threats.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to House Education Committee <b>NO HEARING YET</b></p>
<p>SB 16: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act</p> <p>Senators Kirkpatrick, Hufstetler, Watson, Burke, Ginn and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> 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. This proposes the creation of an Interstate Compact between physicians in Georgia and the surrounding states, allowing them to work within the larger area.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to Health and Human Services Committee - <b>PASSED SENATE AND HOUSE – GOV DESK</b></p>
<p>SB 18: Direct Primary Care Act</p> <p>Senators Kirkpatrick, Jones, Watson, Burke, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> 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. This proposes amendments to specification in Georgia's current code that clarify the difference between insurance and a direct primary care agreement.</li> </ul> <p>Referred to: Rules Committee; Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute <b>PASSED SENATE AND HOUSE – GOV DESK</b></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"> <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 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. This proposes establishing standards for insurance and health care providers in regards to disclosures of payment in emergency medical situations.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Passed Senate, referred to House Insurance Committee <b>HEARING ONLY THUS FAR</b></p>
<p>SB 106: Patients First Act</p> <p>Senators Tillery, Strickland, Miller, Dugan, Kennedy, Kirkpatrick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> 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. This proposes allowing the state of Georgia to authorize the Governor to submit a Section 1115 waiver and Section 1332 waiver in regards to insurance and Medicaid services.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Passed Senate; Referred to House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></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, Walker III, Burke, Beach, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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. This proposes allowing physicians in other states to practice telemedicine in the state of Georgia with the issuance of a proper license.</li> </ul> <p>Status: House Health and Human Services Committee; <b>NO HEARING YET</b></p>
<p>SB 118: Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act; rename</p> <p>Senators Unterman, Hufstetler, Burke, Walker, Kirk, Sims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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. This proposes updating telemedicine in relation to insurance by revising the definition and certain parameters insurers or health care providers must follow when implementing telemedicine.</li> </ul> <p>Status: House Insurance Committee; <b>COMMITTEE REPORTED FAVORABLE BY SUBSTITUTE</b></p>
<p>SB 121: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase</p> <p>Senators Walker III, Stone, Hufstetler, Burke, Unterman, Kirk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the prescription drug monitoring program data base, so as to increase the length of time that prescription information is retained in the data base from two years to five years; to authorize the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to access the data base for enforcement purposes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes increasing the length of time that prescription drug information stays within the database from two years to five years.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Senate Passed and adopted by substitute; <b>PASSED SENATE AND HOUSE- GOV DESK</b></p>
<p>SB 195: "Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act"</p> <p>Senators Hufstetler, Burke, Kirkpatrick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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 consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits; to provide for intent and applicability; to provide for definitions; to provide for requirements; to provide for an advisory committee; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes providing consumer protections via freedom of information regarding prescription drugs.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Senate passed by substitute; <b>NO HEARING YET</b></p>
<p>SR 193: Senate Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; create</p> <p>Senators Kirk), Dugan, Walker III, Unterman, Beach, Hufstetler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; and for other purposes. This proposes creating a new Senate study committee on transferring oversight of developmental disabilities to the Department of Community Health.</li> </ul> <p>Referred to: Rules Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></p>
<p>SR 194: Joint Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; create</p> <p>Senators Kirk, Dugan, Walker III, Unterman, Beach, Hufstetler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Transferring Oversight of Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health; and for other purposes. This proposes creating a new joint study committee on transferring oversight of developmental disabilities to the Department of Community Health.</li> </ul> <p>Referred to: Rules Committee</p>

SR 202: Senate Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; create

Senators Hufstetler, Watson, Orrock, Burke

- A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; and for other purposes. This proposes creating new Senate study committee on evaluating and simplifying physician oversight of midlevel providers (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, etc.).

Status: Referred to Rules Committee; **COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED BY SUBSTITUTE**

SR 217: Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications; create

Senators Ligon, Unterman

- A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Prescribing Patterns for Antidepressants and Other Psychotropic Medications; and for other purposes. This proposes creating a new Senate study committee on prescribing patterns for antidepressants and other psychotropic medications.

Referred to: Health and Human Services

## House Bills & Resolutions

<p>HB 26: Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact</p> <p>Representatives Belton, Hitchens, Williams, Blackmon, Glanton, and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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. This proposes allowing Psychologists in Georgia to participate in an interstate compact which would allow them to practice in neighboring states also in the compact; it would also allow Psychologists from neighboring states that have entered into the compact to practice in Georgia.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Passed the House; Senate Health and Human Services Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></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"> <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 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. This proposes mandating that insurance plans generally require step therapy protocols when starting a treatment process, as well as also create an exemption plan.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Passed House; Senate Insurance and Labor Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></p>
<p>HB 83: Quality Basic Education Act; recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; provide</p> <p>Representatives Douglas, Trammell, Setzler, Frye, Wilensky, Gilliard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes mandating that all schools in Georgia provide recess for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Passed House; Senate Education and Youth Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></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"> <li>● 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. This proposes creating a unit within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability that would specifically focus on providing assisted outpatient treatment programs to those with mental illness.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Not heard in House **Health and Human Services Committee</p>
<p>HB 186: Health; sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; revise provisions</p> <p>Representatives Stephens, Gilliard, Petrea, Hitchens, Stephens, Gordon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to county and municipal hospital authorities, so as to revise provisions relating to the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; to provide for conflicting interest transactions; to provide for the investment of funds by certain hospital authorities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This bill proposes allowing the Department of Community Health to administer the certificate of need program established in the legislation as well as a state health plan adopted by the board.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to Senate Finance Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED BY SUBSTITUTE</b></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"> <li>● 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. This proposes allowing certified medication aides to administer medications to residents under hospice care under a physician's written orders</li> </ul> <p>Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee; <b>PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE – GOV DESK</b></p>
<p>HB 483: Controlled substances; Schedules I, IV, and V; change certain provisions</p> <p>Representatives Stephens, Parrish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to controlled substances, so as to change certain provisions relating to Schedules I, IV, and V controlled substances; to change certain provisions relating to the definition of dangerous drug; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes changing provisions relating to the definitions of dangerous controlled substances via their Scheduling label.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee; <b>COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED</b></p>
<p>HB 514: Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission; create</p> <p>Representatives Tanner, Ralston, Jones, Cooper, Oliver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to governing and regulation of mental health, so as to create the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a definition; to provide for members and officers; to provide for meetings, agendas, quorum, and compensation; to provide for the commission's duties and powers; to provide for subcommittees; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes creating the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission, which will provide legislative findings on the state of mental health in Georgia.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Health and Human Services Committee; <b>HOUSE AND SENATE PASSED BY SUBSTITUTE</b></p>
<p>HB 580: Professions and businesses; practice of conversion therapy; prohibit</p> <p>Representatives Wilson, Oliver, Hutchinson, Buckner, Gardner, Drenner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses, so as to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to House Regulated Industries Committee; <b>SECOND READ</b></p>
<p>HB 624: Second Chance Act; enact</p> <p>Representative Davis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 35-3-37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to review of individual's criminal history record information, definitions, privacy considerations, written application requesting review, and inspection, so as to provide for the automatic restriction of criminal history records for convictions of certain misdemeanors and felonies ten years after the completion of the sentence; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. This proposes allowing criminal records to be restricted from review after ten years for certain misdemeanors and felonies.</li> </ul> <p>Status: House Second Readers in Judiciary Non-Civil Committee</p>
<p>HR 261: House 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"> <li>● A RESOLUTION creating the House Study Committee on Evaluating and Simplifying Physician Oversight of Midlevel Providers; and for other purposes. This proposes the creation of a new House study committee on evaluating and simplifying physician oversight of midlevel providers (such as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>Status: Referred to Health and Human Services Committee; <b>HOUSE PASSED BY SUBSTITUTE</b></p>

HR 421: Joint Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Health; create

Representatives Dempsey, Jones, Cooper, Oliver, Dickey

- A RESOLUTION creating the Joint Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Health; and for other purposes. This proposes the creation of a joint study committee on infant and toddler social and emotional health.

Status: House Second Readers in Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Additional Information

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General Assembly Adjournment Resolution [HR152](#)

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](#)