

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## AMENDED FY14 BUDGET CLEARS HOUSE



By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

### **Legislative Activities - The Week of January 20-24**

The House held subcommittee meetings last Wednesday morning and then the full House Appropriations Committee met to adopt very minor changes to the FY 2014 Amended Budget ([HB 743](#)) that afternoon. Chairman Terry England explained that this is truly a mid-year adjustment to make sure they have a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year and cover increased enrollment in education. By Friday the Full House voted 163-1 to pass the budget onto the Senate. There were only two comments from the floor asking for clarification on minor items.

A very slight growth in revenue, around 1.5% or \$320 million to bring the FY 2014 budget to \$20.2 billion, made it easy to handle necessary mid-year expenditures without further cuts to all state agencies. More than half of the \$320 million went toward K-12 education to account for increased enrollment. The rest went into health care and transportation. The Senate will take up the FY 2014 this week and it could be on the Governor's desk by Friday or early next week.

### **State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)**

The Department of Community Health (DCH) made large changes to the type of benefits and coverage teachers and state employees could expect in their health insurance. These changes are not sitting well with teachers and state employees. They are very upset about the increased

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Special  
Announcements



**GATES Board  
of Directors  
Winter Meeting  
Thursday  
January 30, 2014  
9:30 AM  
Goodwill of the  
Southern Rivers,  
Columbus, GA**

**State Use  
Council  
Meeting  
March 27, 2014**

cost while there are limits on the network of physicians and hospitals. Governor Deal is hearing them and asked the DCH Board to hold a special meeting Monday to suggest adjustments to the plan. In addition Governor Deal said it may cost another \$100 million to make changes but he would take the cost from the SHBP reserve, which has over \$300 million currently. There are over 600,000 teachers and state employees covered by SHBP.

### **ACTION NOW for the FY15 BUDGET**

#### **Vocational Rehabilitation Advocacy - FOCUS ON THE HOUSE**

This is a great week to urge your State House Member to support the \$8.2 million needed to fully fund GVRA. Stick to the fact sheet and talking points and share your story of how fully funding GVRA will help you serve people with disabilities and why GVRA is Good for Business in your area (if you don't have these flyers please contact Charles - [chall@asginfo.net](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)). Here is a [link to all](#) the State Representatives. Unique stories about successful job placements and job retention are very important. Legislators need to understand that this is about economic development and what you are doing to make a difference for your local businesses in finding and keeping skilled workers.

Please focus on the House and the following members of House Human Resources Subcommittee of Appropriations. You can click on their name and it will take you to their information online.

#### **Human Resources**

[Dempsey, Katie M. - Chairman of Subcommittee](#)

[Epps, Bubber - Vice Chairman](#)

[Brockway, Buzz](#)

[Henson, Michele](#)

[Howard, Henry "Wayne"](#)

[Morris, Greg](#)

[Oliver, Mary Margaret](#)

[Setzler, Ed](#)

[Taylor, Tom](#)

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## Call for Information

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**10:00 AM**  
**Location: Sloppy**  
**Floyd Bldg - West**  
**Tower**

**Working**  
**Wonders Day**  
**March 27, 2014**  
**Noon**  
**Location: Sloppy**  
**Floyd Bldg**

**GATES Board**  
**of Directors**  
**Spring Meeting**  
**April 25, 2014**  
**Location: -TBD**

**Galaxy of Stars**  
**and Tommy**  
**Awards**  
**Luncheon**  
**April 30, 2014**  
**Cobb Galleria**  
**Centre**  
**(sponsored by**  
**Nobis Works)**

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*THE PORTAL* is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive *THE PORTAL*, please send their email address to:  
Charles Hall,  
[chall@asginfo.net](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)

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# GATES

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