

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Session 2012: Half-way Point



by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

We begin this week in the middle of a short break that will bring us to Day 19th on Wednesday, Feb 15th.

There are no committee meetings scheduled for Monday or Tuesday. The current calendar is [HR 1238](#) showing the session through March 12th, scheduled to be the 31st day. At this pace, faster than we have seen in nearly a decade, the session could be finished before April. Just a reminder, there are 40 days in the session. These are not business days, but days when legislators are present and voting on the floor.

Both chambers began working on the full FY 2013 Budget last week. The focus in the House was on the Health budget in terms of Medicaid and Public Health. The Senate reviewed all human services and health budgets for both fiscal years. There were no appropriations meeting on the Labor budget. Budget documents can be found at the [House Budget and Research Office](#) and the [Senate Budget and Evaluation Office](#). Just look for link to the Budget Documents.

The House version of the drug testing bill for public benefits is [HB 668](#) sponsored by Rep. Jason Spencer (R-Woodbine). This bill is scheduled for the House Judiciary Civil Subcommittee One on Wednesday, at 10am in Room 133 of the Capitol. This bill only covers those seeking TANF benefits. Many are concerned about children and families who need assistance to maintain their families through TANF benefits, especially those already in treatment or have co-occurring mental health issues and who may relapse and need benefits.

[HB 831](#) sponsored by Rep. Tom McCall (R-Elberton) to move the Division of Rehabilitation Services from the Department of Labor (DOL)

In This Issue

[2012: Half-way Point](#)

Special
Announcements



**VRLT/GATES
Meeting**
April 18, 2012
Location: Macon
VR Leadership
Team and GATES
members meet to
discuss programs,
activities and
cooperative
projects. More
detail to be
announced later.

ARMS Meeting
April 20, 2012

to the Department of Human Services (DHS) was passed out of the House Human Relations & Aging Committee on Monday, February 6th along party lines, with the Republicans voting for the bill and the Democrats against. The committee moved the bill forward for consideration by the full House. It is awaiting placement on the full House calendar by the House Rules Committee. Over the weekend the Atlanta Journal Constitution posted an [article](#) on the issue. GATES will provide information to members after the weekly transition call to update everyone on the Transition Team progress.

Additional pieces of legislation moving through the process include the following:

A bill sponsored by Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth) would require legislative approval of all provider rates and funding formulas for services under the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities ([HB 787](#)). The bill has been assigned to the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Rusty Kidd (R-Milledgeville) has introduced a [House Resolution 1176](#) to create a House Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Oversight Committee. This would create a House only five-person committee that would review operations of BHDD and report back to the House.

[back to top](#)

Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



**Location: Tommy
Nobis Center
1480 Bells Ferry
Rd
Marietta, GA**

*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*

GATES

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

44 Broad Street
Suite 503
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-523-6674

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to by callen@asqinfo.net |
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
GATES | 404-523-6674 | 44 Broad Street | Suite 503 | Atlanta | GA | 30303