

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## Budget ACTION ALERT - Contact the Senate



### No New Money for GVRA from House - on to the Senate

February 13, 2014

By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

As projected the House and Senate met Tuesday morning to vote on a few bills then adjourned before lunch and cancelled all afternoon committee meetings as well as the session for the rest of the week. The House and Senate adopted a new schedule to account for the winter weather this week. They have created an adjournment resolution ([HR 1333](#)) that has the session ending on March 20th. Only a few committee meetings have been scheduled for early next week at this time but the Lt. Governor remarked the Senate would begin working on the FY 2015 budget as soon as they returned; all bills must pass from their Chamber of origination to the next by Day 30, now scheduled for March 3rd. The House set the rules calendar for floor votes on Monday, Feb 17th before they left the Capitol, while the Senate will hold a Rules Committee meeting Monday morning to set their agenda.

### Budget Progress & status of GVRA funding

The House moved quickly this week on the full FY 2015 Amended Budget. Subcommittees made their recommendations late on Monday and the full House Appropriations Committee passed out the budget very early Tuesday morning. **Unfortunately there was no extra money recommended to fund GVRA.** In speaking with Chairman Katie Dempsey and other House Human Relations Subcommittee members they heard our plea but were not allowed to put in a million dollars or more request into their budget recommendations. They did allocate

## In This Issue

### [ACTION ALERT](#)

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### Special Announcements



### **State Use Council Meeting**

**March 27, 2014**

**10:00 AM**

**Location: Sloppy  
Floyd Bldg - West  
Tower**

### **Working Wonders Day**

**March 27, 2014**

**Noon**

**Location: Sloppy**

more money for Meals on Wheels (\$750,000), a 1/2% increase to the DD waiver (\$874,000), and 64 slots for supported employment through the DD Council (\$250,000), yet could add no more money to GVRA. The House has placed the FY 2015 Appropriations Bill on the rules calendar for a floor vote Monday, Feb 17th.

**On to the Senate.** The Lt. Governor announced the Senate Subcommittees would begin working on the FY 2015 Budget early next week. During the Amended budget process the Senate Subcommittees did not meet. It is now time to place all attention on the Senate. **Our tactic this time will be to ask for \$900,000 for a 1:4 match to total around \$4.5 million.** Since there will be no staff this week the office emails are included and District phone numbers were available. Please reach out to everyone by Friday if possible, you still can make calls on Monday but it is preferred to make calls no later than over the weekend.

**Message:**

Your name/Your Org/Your phone number

*"We are very disappointed the House did not allocate additional funds to fully fund Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation to take advantage of all funds available to Georgia, eliminating the waiting list by serving more Georgians with disabilities that want to work and just need training and supports to make it possible. With only \$900,000 in state funds we can match federal dollars 1:4 and serve over 1,000 more Georgians, several hundred in our community. While we need \$8.2 million to fully fund GVRA we hope the Senate can move toward this goal in the FY 2015 Budget. Please appropriate an additional \$900,000 in state dollars to put more Georgians with disabilities to work"*

(Please include your community/organization specific message)

**Senate Approp Subcomm Human Dev. & Public Health**

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[Sen. Horacena Tate](#) D-Atlanta Capitol Ofc 404-463-8053  
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**In addition we need to call the following members of the Senate**

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@asqinfo.net](mailto:chall@asqinfo.net)

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## Leadership NOW.

Senate [Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill](#) *R-Reidsville* Capitol Ofc 404-656-5038, District 912-557-3811  
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[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](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)



## GATES

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