

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## Bills Moving Fast



By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

Before the session took a break from Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> the last six days of the session were announced with [HR738](#). The General Assembly will be in Wednesday through Friday this week, next Monday (3/25) and Tuesday (3/26) and then Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for Sine Die and the 40<sup>th</sup> day.

### Budget Update

The House passed the FY 2014 Budget [HB106](#) out on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 159-15. The Senate Appropriations Committee meets Thursday morning to pass their version of the budget and the full Senate is scheduled to vote on the FY14 budget on Friday, March 22. There were no budget subcommittee meetings, all discussions are planned for the full Appropriations Committee meeting today.

You can view the tracking document for the House changes [here](#). The Senate has not posted any updates to the FY 2014 Budget since January 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Legislative update

Every bill we are tracking had a status change last week.

The Ethics bills ([HB 142](#) and [HB 143](#)) passed the House by a vote of 164-4 and 167-0 respectively. The Senate Rules Committee chaired by Senator Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) held a public hearing Tuesday (3/19) morning but no vote taken yet.

[HR 107](#) - Creates a Joint Study Committee on Medicaid Reform. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Donna Sheldon (R-Dacula) and seeks to

## In This Issue

[Bills Moving Fast](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Special  
Announcements



### State Use Council Meeting

March 28, 2013

10:00 AM

Location: Sloppy  
Floyd Bldg - West  
Tower

### Working Wonders Luncheon

March 28, 2013

Noon

review the sustainability of the current program and recommend changes by the end of the year. While the federal climate and other states are embracing Medicaid Expansion Georgia is holding back. The bill passed the House on the 30th day by a vote of 167-5. Assigned to the Senate Rules Committee.

[SB 62](#) - Sponsored by Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta) Establishes a Federal and State Funded Health Care Financing Program overview committee to review the care and protection of indigent and elderly patients. Passed the Senate 45-5 on crossover day. Assigned to the House Human Relations & Aging Committee and set to be considered Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

[SB 65](#) - Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford) sponsored this bill to expand the authority of licensed professional counselors (LPCs) to certify that a person with a mental illness needs involuntary treatment. The Senate passed the legislation on February 11<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 51-2. The House Health and Human Services Committee Chaired by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) held a hearing on the bill March 14<sup>th</sup> and passed it out unanimously with a minor change to collect data on the impact to the Sheriffs and set a sunset date for March 2015. Only the Sheriff's Association was against the bill publicly. Now it awaits final vote by the House.

[SB 128](#) - Sponsor Sen. Fran Millar (R-Atlanta) Allows marriage and family therapists to diagnose behavioral health issues. Passed the Senate 44-8 on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the House Regulated Industries Committee on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Awaits a full vote by the House.

[SB 163](#) - Sponsor Sen. William Ligon (R-Brunswick) Requires the Department of Community Health (DCH) to study and identify options for Medicaid reform. Passed the Senate 39-10 and assigned to the House Health & Human Services Committee.

[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)



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

### ***GATES Board of Directors Meeting***

**April 19, 2013  
10:00 AM**

**Location: BDI-  
South Jonesboro,  
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](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)*

\*\*\*\*\*

# **GATES**

*Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports*

100 Edgewood Avenue  
Suite 975  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Phone: 404-523-6674

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to by [callen@asginfo.net](mailto:callen@asginfo.net) |  
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

GATES | 404-523-6674 | 44 Broad Street | Suite 503 | Atlanta | GA | 30303