

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Last Week with Three Days Only



By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

This week the session was in Monday (3/25) and will be in again today, Tuesday (3/26) and then Thursday, March 28th for sine die and the 40th day. The Governor then has 40 calendar days to sign/veto bills. The Governor can also line item veto

any specific spending amount in the budget; however, he cannot add anything to the budget.

Budget update

The Senate passed the FY 2014 Budget [HB106](#) on Friday, March 22nd by a vote of 51-0. The Conference Committee met early Monday morning to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions. While they aren't very far apart there are some big-ticket items still to be resolved. On the top of the discussion this morning was Medicaid, the impact of the Affordable Care Act on private and public health care, school systems, provider rates for Medicaid NOW & COMP waivers, Governor's Office of Children and Families and University System.

The conference committee on the budget only meets in public two or three times and they talk in general about what they are working to resolve. The final bill will be on the floor of both chambers Thursday.

Legislative update

The Ethics bills ([HB 142](#)) passed the House by a vote of 164-4. The Senate voted out a substitute on Friday, March 22nd by a vote of 52-0 that eliminated any loopholes in the House version and set a cap on lobbyist gifts at \$100 per gift. This issue will now be in a conference committee and politics is the major factor in deciding the outcome of whether ethics reform will move to the Governor this session.

In This Issue

[Three Days](#)

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

[HR 107](#) - Creates a Joint Study Committee on Medicaid Reform. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Donna Sheldon (R-Dacula) and seeks to 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 crossover day by a vote of 167-5. Senate Rules Committee favorably reported out with no changes March 21st and it now moves to the full Senate.

[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. It passed the Senate 45-5 on crossover day. The House Human Relations & Aging Committee voted due pass Monday morning, March 25th.

[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 11th 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 14th 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. The House postponed a vote on the floor Friday, March 22nd and can be taken up for a vote anytime this week.

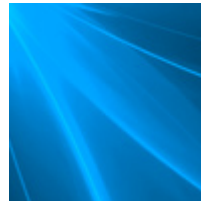
[SB 128](#) - Sponsor Sen. Fran Millar (R-Atlanta) Allows marriage and family therapists to diagnose behavioral health issues. Passed the Senate 44-8 on February 28th and the House Regulated Industries Committee on March 14th. It awaits a full vote by the House.

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

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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: 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

GATES

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