

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

CROSSOVER DAY



March 3, 2014
By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

Today is the day all legislation must pass out of its chamber of origination to the next; otherwise bills are dead in their original form but elements of a bill can be amended to another bill that has crossed over if it is relevant to the issue. The budget bills have already passed over from the House to the Senate. In keeping with the expeditious nature of this session the final version of the FY 2014 Amended budget was passed by both chambers last week and awaits the Governor's review and signature. Since there were so few differences between the House and Senate there was no conference committee. The Senate agreed to the Governor's recommendation for Warm Springs Hospital additional funds of \$5,416,250. In the Amended budget these additional funds are not able to match 110 federal funds and only able to fund medical services at Warm Springs. You can view the Amended budget final report [here](#).

Election Season Begins

Today is also the beginning of qualifying week for elected officials at the federal, state and county levels. Three Senators have already announced their exit, Senator Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone), Senator Cecil Stanton (R-Macon) and today Senator Tim Golden (R-Valdosta). There are certain to be many surprises to come.

GVRA in the news

The Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) published an extensive article ([Disabled Georgians wait months for state services](#)) in Sunday's paper on the challenges GVRA has faced since it became an independent agency attached to the Georgia Department of Human

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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

Resources. Please note the article was published in the printed version of the AJC but was only available through paid online subscription Sunday.

Autism Mandated Coverage

[SB 397](#) passed the Senate by a vote of 51-0 and its sponsor Senator Tim Golden (R-Valdosta) announced his retirement from the Senate today after 24 years in the legislature.

FY 2015 Budget Progress

As legislators rushed to move bills out of committee and onto a full vote by each chamber the FY 15 budget did not receive much attention last week. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittees did meet behind closed doors on Friday to review requests and make their recommendations. We may know by the end of this week what the Senate is recommending for the full FY 2015 budget.

It is possible that we have a small window of opportunity because of the AJC article at the beginning of this week to make one last effort in a united voice to obtain an increase in state funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. Focus should be on Senators Unterman, Golden, Jack Hill and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle.

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, eliminate the waiting list, and serve 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 1,400 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

[Chairman Renee Unterman](#) R-Buford Capitol Ofc 404-463-1368
renee.Unterman@senate.ga.gov

[Sen. Don Balfour](#)
R-Snellville Capitol Ofc 404-656-0094, District 770-729-5764
don.Balfour@senate.ga.gov

[Sen. Tim Golden](#)
R-Valdosta Capitol Ofc 404-656-7580, District 229-241-1284
tim.golden@senate.ga.gov

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)**

*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*

[Sen. Butch Miller](#) *R-Gainesville* Capitol Ofc 404-656-6578
butch.Miller@senate.ga.gov

[Sen. Horacena Tate](#) *D-Atlanta* Capitol Ofc 404-463-8053
horacena.tate@senate.ga.gov

In addition we need to call the following members of the Senate Leadership.

Senate [Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill](#) *R-Reidsville* Capitol Ofc 404-656-5038, District 912-557-3811
jack.hill@senate.ga.gov

[Majority Leader Ronnie Chance](#) *R-Tyrone*
Capitol Ofc 404-463-1366, District 770-969-9155
ronnie.chance@senate.ga.gov

[Speaker Pro Tem David Shafer](#) *R-Duluth*
Capitol Ofc 404-656-5038, District 912-557-3811
david.shafer@senate.ga.gov

[Lt. Gov Casey Cagle](#)
Capitol Ofc 404-656-5030

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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



GATES

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