

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Budget Progresses



by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

February 15, 2017

Overview

The House and Senate set the rest of the schedule for the session. Adjournment Resolution ([SR 132](#)) establishes the schedule until the end of March. Crossover day, when bills must make it out of their originating chamber, is set for March 3rd (Day 28) and sine die (last day of the session) will be March 30th.

State Budget Amended FY 2017

The House and Senate agreed on the very few changes each side made to the Governor's Amended budget for this fiscal year on Valentine's Day. There certainly was a lot of love going around as the vote was 52-0 in the Senate and 171-1 in the House. You can see the few changes [here](#).

State Budget FY 2018

Last week the House began work on the big budget. The House Human Resources Subcommittee of Appropriations heard from nearly 30 organizations last Tuesday, February 6th, on a variety of needs. Executive Director Sean Casey again covered the very small increases for merit-based pay for employees and health insurance. Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (BHDD) focused on the DOJ settlement impacting crisis and forensic services for people with mental

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Special
Announcements



**Georgia State
Use Council
Mar. 23, 2017**

10 AM

Sloppy Floyd
Building, West
Tower, Conference
Room 1816-A
200 Piedmont Ave.
Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA

illness and moving people with developmental disabilities out of institutions. I was the last person to testify asking for continued investment for vocational rehabilitation services for community programs across the state serving people in their districts. I received several questions about community providers working with local businesses and providing competitive employment. I shared GATES economic impact fact sheet and told about the success stories you have shown me.

Legislation

At the moment there are a lot of bills being introduced but very few impacting disability issues. Even broad controversial issues are slow to be considered.

Medicaid Provider Fee

Several years ago the Hospital Association was able to find a way to establish a tax on hospitals that raises a little over \$300 million annually to bring down \$600 million in Medicaid for a total of \$900 million. Senator Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) sponsored [SB 70](#) as one of the Governor's floor leaders. He was able to move the bill quickly through both chambers and it was signed by Governor Nathan Deal on February 13th. This tax was critical to the budget and necessary to support hospitals across the state.

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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



Working Wonders Recognition Luncheon

Mar. 23, 2017

Noon

Sloppy Floyd Building, West Tower, Empire Room

200 Piedmont Ave.

Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA

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