

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Dash to Crossover Day



by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

February 28, 2017

Overview

Monday, February 27th, marked the 25th day of the session. The Senate and House are spending time in committee so that bills can be eligible for a floor vote this week. Friday, March 3rd will be Crossover Day, the day all bills must be voted out of the chamber of origination and on to the next chamber. Every day there will be lots of bills up for vote.

Big Budget FY 2018

Last week the Senate Human Development and Public Health Subcommittee of Appropriations heard from Commissioners and Agency officials on the FY 2018 Budget with recommendations from the Governor and changes made by the House. **This week take a moment to contact one of the Senators on the Committee to support the \$500,000 in new funding for VR with match to total \$2.5 million for training, employment and supports.** While it is currently in the wrong line item (BEP) I am working with the Senate to get it moved to the VR program. The same amount of money (\$500,000) has also been appropriated to support the Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) initiative. Together these new funds will bring down \$5 million in 110 match. This is a huge win for us. **We need your help in contacting Senators this week!!** You can link on their names to get their email or phone number. **Please ask them to support both the \$500,000 training, employment and supports as well as \$500,000 for IPSE.**

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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

Human Development and Public Health Subcommittee

Senators

[Burke, Dean](#)

[Hufstetler, Chuck](#)

[Miller, Butch](#)

[Tate, Horacena](#)

[Unterman, Renee S](#) - Chair

Capitol Visits

All four Goodwill's will be visiting the Capitol today, Tuesday, February 28th. A resolution ([SR 316](#)) by Senator Butch Miller has been offered to recognize February 28th as Goodwill at the Gold Dome Day.

Legislation

[HB 288](#) by Rep. Tom Kirby (R-Loganville) clarifies a person with a disability, whether physically or mentally impaired, has the ability to be guided or accompanied by a service animal, replacing dog throughout the code section. It also provides penalties to anyone misrepresenting themselves as a service animal trainer, handler or breeder. It also adjusts the code to ensure no one harass a service animal while holding the person liable for any property damage by a service animal. The bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil committee. Rep. Kirby has also introduced [HB 473](#) which has similar provisions but also includes oversight by the Georgia Department of Human Services. HB 473 was introduced on February 22nd and has been assigned the House Health & Human Services Committee. **No change for either bill.**

[HB 343](#) by Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners) is a update to the criminal code to replace "mental retardation and mentally retarded" with the term "intellectual disability". **The House Judiciary Non-Civil committee passed out the bill on February 22nd by substitute with only minor changes.**

[HB 475](#) by Rep. Buddy Harden (R-Cordele) addresses the placement, permission and appearance of collection receptacle on property not owned or leased by the owner of the collection receptacle. **The bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.**

[SB 4](#) by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) creates the Georgia Mental Health Treatment Task Force. This creates a committee to include legislators, state agency officials and advocates to examine mental health and substance abuse services. The bill passed the Senate February 7, 2017 by a vote of 44-0. **It awaits consideration by the House Health and Human Services Committee.**

Atlanta, GA

Working Wonders Recognition Luncheon

Mar. 23, 2017

Noon

Sloppy Floyd Building, West Tower, Empire Room

200 Piedmont Ave.

Capitol Square
Atlanta, 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@asqinfo.net*

[SB 118](#) by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) extends the age of benefits for children with autism from 6 to 21 years. Last year Senator Unterman successful moved her bill to cover children with autism in private insurance plans but limited that to children up to age 6. This bill moves that to age 21. The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee quickly reviewed and approved the bill for due passage. ***It awaits a vote by the Senate.***

[SB 144](#) by Sen. Ed Harrison (R-Columbus) has introduced a bill to designate lottery funds for veterans services. The bill would direct funds to services and programs to aid with post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, health insurance support, disability benefits, veterans service organizations, centers and commissions, long-term care, and employment or employment training. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Higher Education Committee. ***No change.***

Study Committee Resolutions

[HR 318](#) by Rep. Tom Kirby (R-Loganville) creates the House Study Committee on Inclusive Postsecondary Education to evaluate and make recommendations on the opportunities for students beyond high school in higher education. The resolution has been assigned to the House Special Rules Committee. ***No change.***

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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



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