

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

10 Voting Days to the Finish Line = March



by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

March 8, 2017

Overview

Monday, March 6th, marked the 29th day of the session. The House and Senate spent Friday, March 3rd, fervently getting their bills out of each chamber to crossover to be viable for passage this year. There are now very few new bills being introduced unless they want them to be considered over the summer or fall in committee.

FY 2018 Budget

While the Senate Appropriations subcommittees did not meet on the FY 2018 Budget last week they will start up again soon. There are no budget meetings scheduled yet but you can still **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) Senate staff are aware. 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! **PLEASE CONTACT THE SENATORS BELOW.** 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.**

In This Issue

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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 Day

The four Goodwill's from across Georgia had a successful day at the Capitol on February 28th. You can view the [SR 316](#) sponsored by Senator Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) and others recognizing Goodwill.

Legislation

Most of the bills we are following made it to the next chamber on Crossover Day. Those that did not could still have key elements amended into another bill. We will continue to track these bills during the final month of the session.

[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 so the bill is not viable to pass this session.**

[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 passed the bill by 168-0 and it has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.**

[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. **This bill passed the House 162-3 and has been assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities 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

Atlanta, GA

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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February 7, 2017 by a vote of 44-0. ***It awaits consideration by the House Health and Human Services Committee.***

[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. ***No change so the bill is not viable to pass this session.***

[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 so the bill is not viable to pass this session.***

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 but as a House only Study Committee it is still viable for consideration.***

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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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