

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE
GATES PORTAL

2018 Georgia Legislative Primer



by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
January 8, 2018

Key Events First two Weeks

Monday, Jan 8th - First day of the 2018 session

Thursday, Jan 11th - Governor Deal's final State of the State/Budget
Address 11am in the House Chambers

Tuesday & Wednesday Jan 16th & 17th - Joint Appropriations
Hearings from Agency Officials

Session Starts & Big Election Season Begins

The Session began January 8, 2018 at 10am and they are scheduled to be in until Thursday, January 11th and in recess Friday, January 12th to return in Chambers on January 18th. It is an election year. Yes, that comes up every two years and for 2018 it is an important year for all statewide elected officials. This time next year we will have a new Governor, Lt. Governor and most other statewide elected offices along with new terms for the legislature. House and Senate Leaders have indicated they want a fast pace to finish up by

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Special
Announcements



**State Use
Council
Meeting
Thursday,
January 25th
2018**

10:00 AM

Location: Sloppy
Floyd Building,
West Tower,
Conference Room
1816-B,

mid to late March. Qualifying for election is the first week of March and state elected officials cannot raise campaign funds during the session. This gives them incentive to move through the session quickly to get out on the campaign trail.

Leadership and other Changes in the Senate

Since many elected legislators have decided to exit their positions to seek higher office we have some new leaders in the Senate. Senator David Shafer (R-Duluth) stepped down as President Pro Tempore the first day of the session and the Senate elected Senator Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) as the new President Pro Tempore. Senator Miller was both entertaining and humble in his acceptance speech.

The Senate has decided it is time to enter the Tech Age. Beginning Monday, January 8, 2018 major committee meetings will be broadcast online. You will be able to view Senate Committee meetings [here](#). The House has been broadcasting their meetings for nearly a decade and it is welcome to have the Senate join the online experience.

State of the State/Budget Address

Governor Nathan Deal will be presenting his final State of the State/Budget Address on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 11am to a joint session. The budget will be released that day and we will know his final year's priority for spending.

Budget Process

The Governor will provide an overview of his recommendations and priorities for both the Amended 2018 and Full 2019 budgets. The Appropriations Committee plans two days of budget hearings during the second week of the session. The Joint Appropriations hearing will take place on Tuesday, January 18th and Wednesday, Jan 19th and the Subcommittees will hold meetings and public hearings soon after. You should be able to view the schedule for the Joint hearings and subcommittees [here](#) once it is updated for 2018. You can watch the Governor's Address and Joint Appropriations hearings by following the House Broadcast Schedule [here](#) and click on the event when it is live. All agencies, except Education and Medicaid, were required to request only flat funding for the FY 2019 fiscal year.

Legislative Issues

Big election years always make for interesting legislative initiatives. Study Committees that worked over the fall have just released their reports and many of those recommendations will take the form of bills in the coming days. Healthcare access and affordability was a major issue for the Senate Health Care Reform Task Force. On the first day of the session the task force met to review their recommendations and announce they will be moving legislation to create two entities to dive deep into healthcare; The

200 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta, GA

GATES Board of Directors Meeting Friday, February 2nd, 2018

10:00 AM

Location: TBD

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*Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net*

Health Coordination and Innovation Council to lead a strategic plan and evaluate duplicative government services and The Health System Innovation Center will collect data and provide technical expertise from academia and other industry experts.

Reports from all the House Study Committees can be viewed online under the [House Study Committee page](#) and clicking on each Committee. Senate Study Committee reports are listed under [Current Study Committees](#).

Legislation

At the moment there are no bills of interest introduced or moving. This week we expect bills to start being assigned to committees that will give committee chairs the opportunity to bring up for hearings.

Happy New Year! Here is to 2018 bringing successful policy and budget progress.

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Call for Information

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