

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Half-way Mark



Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
February 12, 2018

Key Events This Week

Week 6 of the session they are meeting Monday - Thursday with Feb 13th as the 20th day of the session, marking the half-way mark of the session.

This week we cross the half-way mark

Tuesday, February 13th will mark the half-way point of the 40 day session. Remember that the Georgia Constitution requires no more than 40 voting days for the legislature to conduct it's business. These do not need to be consecutive days but days where they are in Chambers casting votes. Tuesday will be day 20 creating a dash to February 28th, or cross over day when all bills must leave one Chamber for consideration by next before the final day of March 29th, or sine die.

Budget Process

The full House passed the amended FY 18 budget by a vote 167-8 on February 6th. The next day the House Human Resources Appropriations Subcommittee met to hear from agency officials one the big budget FY 19. Executive Director Sean Casey of GVRA emphasized the agencies need to fully match the 110 dollars. The current GVRA budget is composed of \$21.5 million in state funds to draw down about \$83 million in 110 federal funds. That leaves about \$30 million of federal dollars in Washington. The state would need to

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Special
Announcements



**State Use
Council
Meeting
Thursday,
March 22nd
2018**

10:00 AM

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

invest about \$8.2 million to draw down the full federal 110 program grant amount.

On Thursday, February 8th the subcommittee held hearings to receive input and testimony from non-profits, families and consumers about their needs for increased funding in many program areas.

Special thanks to Keith Parker, President & CEO of Goodwill of North Georgia for providing testimony on behalf the CRPs and our work with Georgians with Disabilities. GATES also provided testimony and asked for \$1 million in state dollars to match \$4 million in the federal 110 funding. The subcommittee will need to make their recommendations within the next week. PLEASE call or email to offer your support; here is the contact information of each committee member.

Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) Chair 404.463.2247 or dezzie.riley@house.ga.gov

Tom Kirby (R-Loganville) Vice-chair, 404.656.0177 or tom.kirby@house.ga.gov

Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson) 404.656.5126 or tommy.benton@house.ga.gov

Buzz Brockway (R-Lawrenceville) 404.656.0188 or buzz.brockway@house.ga.gov

Bubber Epps (R-Dry Branch) 404.656.7855 or bubber.epps@house.ga.gov

Buddy Harden (R-Cordele) 404.656.7855 or bharden@planttel.net

Michele Henson (D-Stone Mountain) 404.656.7859 or michele.henson@house.ga.gov

Henry "Wayne" Howard (D-Augusta) 404.656.6372 or wayne.howard@house.ga.gov

Greg Morris (R-Vidalia) 404.656.5115 or greg.morris@house.ga.gov

Mary Margaret Oliver (D-Decatur) 404.656.0265 or mmo@mmolaw.com

Tom Taylor (R-Dunwoody) 404.656.3947 or tom.taylor@house.ga.gov

THE ASK: GATES requests an additional **\$1,000,000** in state funds for the Vocational Rehabilitation Division to match 1:4 federal 110 dollars for an estimated total of \$5 million to serve 1,400 people across Georgia to receive community training, employment and supports.

YOUR NEED: Share your agencies story as a CRP and how investments in VR need to be directed out to the community to support people with disabilities' career goals.

Legislation

[HB 794](#) and a companion resolution [HR 991](#) is sponsored by Rep. Sandra Scott (D-Rex) to create the "Georgia Lottery for Assistance of

200 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta, GA

Working Wonders Recognition Luncheon Mar. 23, 2018

Noon

Sloppy Floyd Building, West Tower, Empire Room 200
Piedmont Ave.
Capitol Square
Atlanta, GA

GATES Board of Directors Meeting Friday, April 27th, 2018

10:00 AM

Location: TBD

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Homeless Military Veterans Act" to designate lottery game(s) for the purpose of providing funding for programs to address homelessness among the veteran population in Georgia. Both the bill and resolution have the same set of Democratic Representatives. ***The bill is in the House Higher Education Committee.***

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett (D-Marietta) is sponsoring [SB 360](#), a bipartisan bill to direct the Department of Administrative Services to ensure that 10 percent of its contracts and purchases are from small business owned by veterans with disabilities. ***The is in the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee.***

Governor Deal mentioned in his State of the State Address that he would be moving The State Workforce Development Board and its programs to the Technical College System of Georgia to create a symbiotic relationship with future employees and employers. New Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) has introduced [SB 377](#) to codify the transfer into law. ***The bill is in the Senate Higher Education Committee.***

Several House members have come together to introduce ***Georgia's Employment First Act***. Rep. Terry Rogers (R-Clarkesville) is the main sponsor of [HB 831](#). The bill's primary focus is to create a 14 member Employment First Council. The list of those who will serve on the council is named in the bill and includes a representative from the association of community rehabilitation providers (GATES). The Council will be attached to GVRA and has 5 responsibilities:

1. Developing a plan for employment first training;
2. Coordinating with other state, federal and private agencies on educational and awareness activities;
3. Evaluating funding mechanisms;
4. Review and make recommendations for a biannual report to the Governor and General Assembly; and
5. Other functions as assigned by the Governor.

The bill has been assigned to the House Industry and Labor Committee. It will need to have a hearing and pass out of the House by February 28th.

Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville) has introduced [HB 844](#) to expand the Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf persons to add two members, change language from "hearing impaired" to "deaf and hard of hearing", create a multiagency task force to target children birth to third grade, and submit a report by September 1st of each year. ***The bill has been assigned to the House Health and Human Services Committee.***

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to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to:

Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net

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

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

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