

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## Crossover Week



**Dawn A. Randolph, MPA**  
February 26, 2018

### Key Events This Week

*Week 8 of the session will be voting in Chambers Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday is Day 28, or Crossover Day.*

### Two Days to get Bills Out

This week all bills that want to stay alive in their original format must pass the Chamber of origination (Senate Bill or House Bill) and cross over by February 28th. Legislators would like to see their bills that make a statement cross over to show that they are trying to make a difference, even if the other chamber does not take up the legislation. There will probably be 30-60 bills voted on in each Chamber over the next two days.

### Budget Process

At the moment the House has not passed the budget out yet and only has the next two days to do so unless they suspend the rules. We are waiting to see what the House has recommended in terms of GVRA funding. The Senate Budget public hearing was cancelled for Tuesday morning, Feb 27.

### Income Tax Legislation

The hold up in the FY 2019 budget may be that the House just passed a major income tax cut with [HB 918](#). States are debating what the

## In This Issue

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Special  
Announcements



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

10:00 AM

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

federal tax overhaul means to their budget. Georgia thinks it would collect between \$3.5-5 billion more in revenue over the next 5 years if they did nothing. Governor Deal said this was not acceptable and that they need to put income tax cuts and deductions into place to mirror federal tax changes. HB 918 was introduced and passed out of the House in 48 hours. The bill lowers income tax from 6% to 5.75% in 2019 and 5.5% in 2020. There have not been many independent analysis yet of the budget impact. The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute is the first analysis I have been able to review. You can read their analysis [here](#) and as you can imagine it leaves a lot more questions about the future of Georgia's income tax revenue and the final impact of the federal income and corporate tax changes.

### 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 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. NO CHANGE.***

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett (D-Marietta) is sponsoring [SB 360](#), a bi-partisan 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. NO CHANGE.***

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. ***Senate passed the bill Feb 23rd by a vote of 51-0.***

***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) and added a representative form SPADD (DD provider association) during a committee substitute. 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

200 Piedmont Ave.  
Atlanta, GA

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### Working Wonders Recognition Luncheon Mar. 23, 2018

Noon

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

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

10:00 AM

Location: TBD

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- the Governor and General Assembly; and
5. Other functions as assigned by the Governor.

***The bill passed the House Industry and Labor Committees on Feb 21st and is awaiting a floor vote.***

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 House Health and Human Services Committee favorable passed the bill out on Feb 23rd and it awaits a floor vote.***

Rep. Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) has sponsored [HB 891](#) to ensure a person who is blind is not discriminated against when being considered in child custody, guardianship, visitation, placement and adoption decisions. ***The bill was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee on February 12th. NO CHANGE.***

Sen. Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) is sponsoring [SB 406](#) to require background checks of all employees working with the senior population. The requirement will be for nursing homes, home health, hospice, and adult day care. If you provide adult day care you may want to take a look at this bill. ***It has been assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee.***

Senator Lester Jackson (D-Savannah) has introduced [SB 408](#) to require a licensed clinician to be present during a law enforcement officer's interview with a person with autism. While it is doubtful this bill will have time to make it through the session it is something that you may want to consider if you work with people with autism. ***It has been assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee.***

[HR 1296](#) was introduced to study whether there is a need for a certification process and identification card for service animals. Rep. Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta) has heard that people are passing their pets as service animals creating confusion and difficult situation in hotels, restaurants and other public businesses. This committee would meet to determine solutions and legislation around training and certification process for service animals. ***The bill has been assigned to House Special Rules.***

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Charles Hall,  
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## **GATES**

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