News from GATES...

Setting an End Date

by Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
February 6th, 2018

Key Events This Week

Tuesday Feb 6th the Senate Budget Subcommittees begin hearing from State Agency Officials

Week 5 of the session they are meeting Monday - Thursday with Feb 8th as the 18th day of the session.

Adjournment Resolution Establish March 29th as Sine Die

We always hold our breath to see what the House and Senate leadership will set as the working calendar for the session. Early last week the Senate took the lead with SR 631 to establish the calendar for the remainder of the session. This is what we call the adjournment resolution and it sets up February 28th as cross over day when all bills must leave one Chamber for consideration to the next before the final day of March 29th, or sine die. The schedule has them working most weeks as 4-day weeks with Friday off for most of February and then taking off all Tuesday's in March and some Friday's. The desire to be done to raise money for this big election year will move the schedule along. It also helps that Easter arrives early, April 1st, and the Master' Tournament in Augusta is the following Sunday, April 8th.

Budget Process

The House Budget Subcommittees worked quickly last week to pass out the amended FY 18 budget from the House Appropriations Committee on January 31st. We expected a floor vote within a day or...
two but it has not been placed on the House Rules Calendar yet for a full floor vote. There were only very, very minor changes to the amended budget so it is a mystery what is taking them so long to pass it along to the Senate. Still no new money for GVRA.

**Legislation**

We are finally seeing some bills of interest being introduced. Last week HB 794 and a companion resolution HR 991 were introduced 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 has been assigned to 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 bill has been referred to 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 has been assigned to the Senate Higher Education Committee on February 1, 2018.*

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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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**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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