

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



# THE GATES PORTAL

## House passes Budget FY 2019



**Dawn A. Randolph, MPA**  
**March 12, 2018**

### Key Events This Week

*Week 10 of the session will be voting in Chambers Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.*

### Budget Process

The week started with the Senate holding public comment on the FY 2019 budget without knowing what the House changes might be. Dawn Randolph was the second person to testify before the Senate budget committee to recommend they invest \$1 million into Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Then early Wednesday morning the House budget subcommittees meet one after the other to offer their recommendations and the full House Appropriations voted on the budget that afternoon. No new money for GVRA. This set the House up for a full vote on Friday, March 9th, when they passed the budget by a vote of 155-14. This now gives the Senate a week to make their recommendations - a week to negotiate the differences between the two chambers and - the final week to vote out the budget.

Earlier on Friday, March 9th, the Governor quietly signed the FY 2018 Amended budget. Since the House and Senate easily agreed on mid-year adjustments the Governor did not need much time to renew.

### In This Issue

[House passes Budget FY 2019](#)

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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

## Politics

Last week current and former elected officials along with nearly 100 newcomers filed into the Capitol to qualify for office. While more than two dozen legislators are leaving office, either by retiring or running for other offices, there are many incumbents that will face challengers, some for the first time since they were elected. As anticipated the greatest number of those qualifying were Democratic women candidates. If you would like to see who has qualified in your community go to this [link](#) and search for statewide, senate and house candidates for office.

## 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. **House Higher Education Committee. NO CHANGE - likely dead.**

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. **House Economic Development and Tourism Committee. NO CHANGE - likely dead.**

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. Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) introduced [SB 377](#) to codify the transfer into law. Senate passed 51-0. **House Industry and Labor Committee voted due pass on the bill March 7th. Awaits a House floor vote.**

**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 from 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

1816-B,  
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.

**House passed the bill 174-1 on Feb 28th. Senate Economic Development and Tourism voted due pass on March 6th. Awaits Senate 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 passed Feb 28th by 171-1. Senate Health and Human Services Committee favorable reported out on March 8th. Awaits Senate 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 - likely dead.**

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. **The Senate passed 52-1 on Feb 26th. House Human Relations & Aging Committee voted due pass by substitute on March 8th. Awaits House floor vote.**

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. NO CHANGE - likely dead.**

[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. Since it is only a House Resolution it can still be passed this session.**

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Charles Hall,  
[chall@asginfo.net](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)

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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](mailto:chall@asginfo.net)



## GATES

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