

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

It's all about passing bills



Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
March 20, 2018

Key Events This Week

Week 11 of the session will be voting in Chambers Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Wednesday, March 21st - Senate Appropriations to announce FY 19 recommendations at 8am meeting.

Last week we experienced long days as the House and Senate each had lots of committee meetings and long voting calendars. On Thursday, March 15th we saw several bills we have been tracking receive final votes in each Chamber. The State Workforce Development Board (SB 377), Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf persons (HB 844) and Georgia's Employment First Act (HB 831) all received final passage and are awaiting the Governor's signature. Below are the details of each bill.

Budget Process

Last week there were no meetings or public discussions on the budget. At the end of the day Monday, March 19th it was announced that the Senate Appropriations Committee would meet at 8am Wednesday morning to announce their recommendations. We only have four voting

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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

days left so the Senate must get the budget out this week and likely conduct closed door negotiations with the House Budget Committee over the weekend to pass the budget either March 27th or the last day March 29th.

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.**

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 passed March 19th. Goes to the Governor for his signature.**

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 the Governor and General Assembly; and
5. Other functions as assigned by the Governor. **House passed the bill 174-1 on Feb 28th. Senate passed 51-1 on March 15th. The bill goes to the Governor for his signature.**

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

1816-B,
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

THE PORTAL is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization

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 passed 49-0 on March 15th. Goes to the Governor for his signature.**

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 passed the substitute 163-4 on March 15th. Because there are changes the Senate must agree or go through a conference committee if the bill is to pass this session.**

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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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



that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to:

*Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net*

GATES

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