

## News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



### Half-way Mark

**Dawn A. Randolph, MPA**

February 25, 2019



#### Key Events This Week

*House Appropriation Subcommittees meeting on FY 2020 Tuesday, Feb 26 at 7:00am to report out their recommendations then full House Appropriations Committee meetings on Wednesday, Feb 27 at 7:30am*

*House and Senate are in Monday through Friday this week.*

#### Flow of the Session

We are at the half-way mark as Monday, Feb 25th is Day 21 of the 40 day session. You can view the schedule in [HR152](#). While there are not a lot of committee meetings scheduled yet this week it is expected that any bill the House or Senate really wants to move must happen in the next 10 days because all bills must pass out of one chamber by March 7th - Crossover Day. Reminder that the session is scheduled to end on April 2nd - Sine Die.

#### The Budget

The House Appropriations Subcommittees met Tuesday morning at 7am to announce their changes and additions to the FY 2020 Budget. The full House Appropriations Committee will meet on Wednesday morning at 7:30am to give their official due pass to the Big Budget. The House Human Resources Subcommittee made no additions to the BHDD budget for those on waiting lists and made no

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#### Special Announcements



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additions to the GVRA budget. They did remove money from a staff position in GVRA. It appears they will be giving the new Executive Director some time before they make budgetary recommendations. Staff said the budget documents will be online tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb 27th.

### Legislation

Last week legislators from both Chambers got into the groove of filing bills with the House having 127 more filed to reach 451 bills assigned to committee while the Senate processed 49 more bills to reach 159. Here is a update on bills we are currently tracking. Only a few have moved over the past week.

[HB 1](#) Rep. Petria is proposing to change the name of the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act to the Senator Eric Johnson Scholarship Act. Senator Johnson is a former Senator from Savannah. *The bill has been assigned to the House Education Committee who has not acted on the bill yet.*

[HB 5](#) Rep. Park Cannon and other Democratic members are sponsoring the Georgia Prospective Employer Act. The bill would prohibit employers from using salary history during the hiring process. This could be helpful to employment opportunities for people with disabilities and veterans. *The bill has been assigned to the House Industry and Labor Committee. No action has been taken yet.*

[HB 40](#) Rep. Sandra Scott has sponsored a bill to require schools to screen for dyslexia. *The bill has been assigned to the House Education Committee. No action yet.*

[HB 69](#) Rep. Scot Turner wants to amend the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program to allow students of active duty military parents to access the program if they lived in Georgia the previous year or qualify for the scholarship the previous year through an IEP. ***The bill was favorable voted out of the House Education Meeting on 2/15/2019.***

[HB 70](#) Rep. Chuck Efstration is proposing changes to the guardian and ward statute for youth and adults. This may effect those that work with guardians in dealing with court orders. ***The House Juvenile Justice Committee favorable reported the bill out by substitute on 2/20/19 with the full House passing it by substitute 170-0. This bill can now go over to the Senate.***

[HB 79](#) Rep. Carl Gillard is sponsoring this bill to change definitions and provisions pertaining to blind persons in child custody issues. *The bill will be considered by the House Juvenile Justice Committee but no action as been taken yet.*

[HB 102](#) Rep. Chuck Martin is sponsoring a bill to tweak the property tax code for buildings owned by charitable organizations. Truly there are three word changes in this bill but it may impact a non-profit's tax liability in a positive manner. I recommend you have your CPA review the implications for your organization and the positive or negative

*of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to:*

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impact. *The bill has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee but no action has been taken yet.*

[HB 114](#) Rep. Heath Clark has introduced this bill to remove the sunset date of sales and use tax by qualified job training organizations. I am not sure if this applies to any CRPs but wanted to make everyone interested or impacted aware of this bill. *The bill is before the House Ways & Means Committee but no action on it yet.*

[HB 123](#) Rep. Bill Werkheiser has proposed moving the State Workforce Development Board from The Technical College System to the Department of Labor. Some may recall that Governor Nathan Deal during his eight years in office removed all of the administrative agencies from DOL and put them into other agencies throughout state Government. This may signal a move to put more programs back under DOL. ***This bill received a favorable due pass from the House Industry and Labor Committee on 2/13/2019 and awaits a vote on the House floor.***

[HB 126](#) Rep. Randy Nix proposed establishing a GeorgiaBest program within the Georgia Department of Labor. The GeorgiaBest program would be an "employability skills program" with a defined curriculum. When I see a bill like this I typically believe there is someone out there promoting their curriculum. If any CRPs are familiar with this program please let me know so I can share with others. ***The House Committee on Industry and Labor favorable passed the bill on 2/13/2019 and it awaits a vote by the full House.***

[HR 52](#) Rep. John Corbett has sponsored a resolution to bring attention to dyslexia and the impact it has on their educational experience. This type of resolution is really urging educational systems to take this diagnosis more seriously and see the potential of those with dyslexia. *The House Education Committee will consider the bill but no action has been taken yet.*

[SB 100](#) Sen. P.K. Martin wants to bring the state relay service and audible reading program managed by the Georgia Public Service Commission into the 21st Century. I received a lot of input about this program when I ran for the GA Public Service Commission. By adding wireless devices and applications to the law and striking telephone relay the PSC will be able to upgrade to new technology, a long overdue update. ***The bill was assigned to the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee on 2/14/2019 and awaits consideration.***

[SR 193 & SR 194](#) Sen. Greg Kirk has introduced two resolutions to create a study committee to transfer the Division of Developmental Disabilities from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to the Department of Community Health (DCH). The Study Committee would have this year to make their recommendations and then a bill could be introduced in the 2020 Legislative Session to move the Division effective July 2020. There are two bills because SR 193 is a Senate Study Committee and SR 194 is a Joint Study Committee. The rationale for this bill is because the

majority of funding for DD services come from Medicaid, which DCH manages and contracts with BHDD to administer. There has been a thought for many years that DD would be better administered through DCH because of the Medicaid dollars. ***Both resolutions have been assigned to Senate Rules.***

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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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