

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Legislature takes a hiatus to focus on budget

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Key Events This Week

Last week the House and Senate agreed to take 12 days off so they could focus on the budget. Session will be back Feb 18th.



Budget Meetings this week

Thursday, Feb 13th 1:00pm, Senate Human Development Subcommittee - All agencies around Human Services & Public Health, including GVRA.

Friday, Feb 14th 9:00am House Human Resources Subcommittee in room 341 State Capitol - Focus on FY 21 budget with reports by GVRA and Public Comment.

Budget Details

Last week the House urged the Senate to take off a week and a half to focus on the budget for both amended FY 2020 and full fiscal year 2021. Budget committees on both sides will hold hearings this week to hear from agency officials to look deeper into proposed cuts. Public comment will be taken on the full year budget for FY 21. There has been a lot of coverage on the threat to public community health services and mental health. Here are few articles showing the tension between the Governor and legislature, specifically Speaker Ralston.

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Special Announcements



[AJC Opinion: A legislative session goes off-track - over cuts and transparency](#)
[How Georgia's 2020 Legislative session got off track](#)
[Despite cries of 'extreme' budget cuts, Georgians won't feel many of them](#)

Flow of the Session

The legislature only met for three days this past week and ended last Wednesday, February 5th by completing Day 12 of the 40day session. There is a new adjournment resolution that takes us through Crossover day scheduled for Day 28th on March 12th. Crossover Day is that day all bills must leave their originating chamber and move across the Capitol to the next Chamber. This includes both the Amended FY 20 and full FY 21 budgets. You can view the new legislative schedule [SR 712](#) which has pretty full weeks after they return on Feb 18th.

New Bills

Rep. Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) proposed two bills last week to address the minimum wage in Georgia. The first bill, [HB 804](#), would prohibit employers from paying less than minimum wage to people with disabilities and [HB 805](#) would change the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25/hour. There are several exceptions in [HB 804](#) in terms of employing people with disabilities; such as a person's disability offers many restrictions to employment or performance of the job. Both bills have been assigned to the House Industry and Labor Committee.

Rep. Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville) has introduced a bill to prevent healthcare providers from discriminating against recipients of organ transplant who have a physical or mental disability. The bill is [HB 842](#) and has been assigned to the House Insurance Committee. It is being called Gracie's Law and is being supported by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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