

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



Half-way There...

Dawn A. Randolph, MPA

March 2, 2020



Key Events This Week

Session is in four days - March 2-5

Monday, March 2nd 8:00am

Senate Appropriations committee presented their changes to the Amended FY 21 budget. In most cases they agreed with the House to restore budget cuts.

Wednesday, March 4th

Senate will vote on the amended budget.

Mid point of session reached last week

In the immortal words of Jon Bon Jovi we are "half-way there" and for some issues "livin on a prayer" (March 2nd is his birthday). That is because we are six voting days away from crossover day and everyone is scrambling to get bills introduced and through the committee process so they can get a floor vote in the origination chamber by midnight on March 12th.

Budget Details

Senate Appropriations committee agreed with the majority of restoration to the Governor's budget cuts (see below). Now the House must complete their recommendations and changes to the full FY 2021

In This Issue

[Half-way There...](#)

Special Announcements



State Use Council Meeting

Thursday,
March 26, 2020

10:00 AM

Sloppy Floyd
Building,
West Tower,

budget by the end of this week to get it out of committee and onto the floor for a vote by March 12th. You can view the full Senate tracking document [here](#).

Funding for Intensive Family Supports provided through the Bobby Dodd Institute were restored in half to \$500,000 for the last quarter of FY 21.

Adult Addictive Diseases \$761,970 was restored to put 22 residential treatment beds in service.

For Adult Mental health, while there were no cuts to crisis or core services, \$2,553,087 was added to crisis bed infrastructure and \$2,847,268 was put into core services.

Marcus Autism Center had \$750,000 restored from the \$1,087,686 cut.

There were no changes in GVRA or supported employment cuts in mental health.

For the amended FY 20 budget these are final decisions and will not be discussed during the conference committee.

Update on Bills

Rep. Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) proposed two bills 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 and **there has been no activity on either bill.**

Rep. Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville) is sponsoring a bill to prevent healthcare providers from discriminating against recipients of organ transplant who have a physical or mental disability. The bill, [HB 842](#), was voted due pass by the House Insurance Committee on Feb 20th and just passed the full House by a vote of 160-1 on Friday, Feb 28th. It is being called Gracie's Law and is being supported by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Conference Room

Working Wonders Luncheon

Thursday,
March 26, 2020

12:00 Noon

Sloppy Floyd Building,

Empire Room

GATES Board Meeting

Friday,
April 24, 2020

10:00 AM

Location, TBD

THE PORTAL is a regular publication 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:

*Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net*

Senator Gail Davenport (D-Jonesboro) introduced [SB 383](#) on Feb 18th and Rep. Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) introduced [HB 963](#) on Feb 21st. Both bills would create a Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Both bills have been assigned to the Health & Human Services Committee in each Chamber. Both bills would create an agency with an Executive Director who would oversee and manage services, coordinate with other agencies and develop programs and plans.

In the House Rep. Hutchinson is sponsoring [HR 1282](#) to create a study committee to evaluate, simplify and eliminate duplication of regulations among mental health and social service providers. This study committee will be tasked with cost/benefit analysis to identify duplication and make recommendations. It was assigned to the House Special Rules Committee on Feb 27th.

A bill in the Senate has been introduced by Senator P.K. Martin (R-Lawrenceville) to define work based learning programs. [SB 447](#) defines cooperative education, employment skill development, internship, mentorship, school based enterprise, service-learning experience, work based learning, and youth apprentice to codify these types of learning experiences. The bill was just introduced on Feb 27th and assigned to the Senate Education and Youth Committee.

There has been a lot of discussion about the future of work globally and the path for youth. I believe any discussion will need to include young people with disabilities. Senator P.K. Martin builds on his bill (SB 447 summarized above) by creating a Joint Study Committee on Preparing Our Future Workforce with [SR 833](#). The resolution was placed in Senate Rules Committee on Feb 27th.

[Back To Top](#)

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



GATES

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

251 SL White Blvd.
LaGrange, GA 30241
Phone: 706-298-0477

GATES, 706-298-0477, 251 SL White Blvd., LaGrange, GA 30241



[Try email marketing for free today!](#)