



# Georgia HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday  
June 20,  
2020

## DAILY REPORT

35th  
Legislative  
Day

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 36th Legislative Day on Monday, June 22 at 11:00 a.m.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- 18 bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

### Today on the Floor

#### Motions to Insist

##### **HB 793 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

Bill Summary: HB 793 is the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Act. The bill, tracking sheet, and highlights may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website: <http://www.house.ga.gov/budget>.

**Authored By:** Rep. David Ralston (7th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Motions to Insist:** *(A motion to insist sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

#### Rules Calendar

##### **SB 306 "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact"; enter into compact; licensing provisions; revise**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 306 establishes the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. The compact allows Georgia to facilitate interstate practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

**Authored By:** Sen. Valencia Seay (34th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 06-16-2020 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 138 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

##### **SB 310 Professions; regulations; provide; certain boxing, wrestling, and martial arts associations and federations; provisions**

Bill Summary: SB 310 provides for the profession and licensure of professional structural engineers governed by the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The bill outlaws any persons other than professional structural engineers to practice or offer structural engineering in the state. To be eligible for a certificate of registration as a professional structural engineer, an applicant must meet the following requirements: obtain a certification by the board as an engineer-in-training; have no less than four years of experience in structural engineering that is satisfactory to the board; and pass a board-approved written exam. Any applicant who seeks a certificate of registration as a professional structural engineer prior to January 1, 2021 and already: holds a valid board certificate as a professional engineer; has a record of primary practice of structural engineering; and is currently engaged in the practice of structural engineering, may submit a signed affidavit to the board to determine if their qualifications meet the requirements for this certificate.

**Authored By:** Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Committee Action:** 06-17-2020 Do Pass

**Committee:**

**Action:**

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 127 Nays: 10

**Amendments:**

**SB 395 County and Municipal Hospital Authorities; standard of indigency; proceeds from the sale or lease of a hospital by a hospital authority; revise**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 395 allows hospital authorities that have paid off all bonded indebtedness and outstanding short-term and long-term debt obligations, and hold an irrevocable trust wherein the corpus of the trust is \$75 million or more, to invest a maximum of 30 percent of their funds into the following: shares of mutual funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the United States; and commingled funds and collective investment funds maintained by state chartered banks or trust companies.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ben Watson (1st)  
**House Committee:** Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 138 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 06-17-2020 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 408 Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members; sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements; repeal**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 408 removes the sunset provision on allowing an employee to use sick leave to care for an immediate family member. The bill allows the Department of Labor commissioner to set the amount for deductible earnings at an amount not less than \$50 nor more than \$300. The bill provides authority and guidelines for the commissioner to adopt emergency rules when the governor declares a statewide emergency. The bill adjusts the maximum benefit amount for claims filed after June 14, 2020, dependent on the state's average unemployment rate. The bill gives the commissioner the authority to establish a work-sharing program.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)  
**House Committee:** Industry and Labor  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 129 Nays: 12

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 06-17-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 430 "Quality Basic Education Act"; home study students and private school students to take courses at a college and career academy; authorize**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 430 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-319.5, which allows home school or private school students to enroll in a college and career academy in the student's resident school system if space is available. The State Board of Education shall create rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of the Code section. The local board of education will earn FTE funds for each student participating in one or more courses at a college and career academy under the Code section that has a charter with the local board of education.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 140 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 06-17-2020 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 443 Garnishment Proceedings; revise; uniform procedures for garnishment actions; provide**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 443 amends Chapter 4 of Title 18 of the Code, relating to garnishment proceedings, to revise and provide uniform procedures for garnishment actions. The bill states that the 'Civil Practice Act' only applies automatically to garnishment proceedings in state and superior courts and that a person or entity not originally named as a garnishee in an action may not be added as a garnishee by any amended pleading absent a showing that such amended pleading was done to correct or clarify the identity of an intended garnishee.

The bill clarifies what costs may be added to subsequent garnishment balances and that a secured creditor holding collateral, including funds, while any balance is still owed need not deliver the collateral to a garnishment, even if the entire balance is not then due.

Notably, the length of continuing garnishments is extended from six months to three years.

The definition of "private student loan" is established to differentiate these loans from federal student loans. The maximum amount to be deducted from disposable earnings when the garnishment is based on a judgment originating from a private student loan is reduced.

The bill provides when a garnishee may answer a summons without liability for lack of knowledge of a defendant's disposable earnings. If the summons of garnishment states that it is a garnishment based on a private student loan, the garnishee will be deemed to have knowledge of this and is responsible to adjust garnishment accordingly. A new form is created for a plaintiff and defendant to voluntarily lower the garnishment.

Regarding notice, the earliest time for service of notice of a garnishment is identified, return receipt requirements are removed, and statutory service of notice on a defendant is conditioned on a proper attempt to serve, as opposed to proof of completed service. A defendant's actual timely notice of a garnishment satisfies notice requirements. The bill clarifies that before being permitted to satisfy the notice requirement by regular mail, a plaintiff must state under oath that a defendant resides outside the state, has departed the state, cannot be found within the state, or has concealed his or her place of residence. Finally, the filing of a certificate of compliance with service methods now satisfies prerequisites for the disbursement of funds or possible judgment.

Exceptions to current time limits for an additional or renewed summons in a single garnishment are added to accommodate for the extended length of continuing garnishments. Procedures for the treatment of certain funds remaining in the registry of the court, and the subsequent distribution to a plaintiff, are provided.

The bill clarifies that an answer, which may be e-filed, may be sent to the court separately but concurrently with the sending of any funds disclosed in such answer to be owed. When a garnishee is a financial institution (i.e. when a defendant is a bank employee) and is served with a continuing garnishment, the accounts of the defendant are only subject to the length of a financial institution garnishment.

The bill provides that the amount a garnishee pays concurrently when filing an answer shall be, under certain circumstances, paid directly to the plaintiff.

An exception is created to any mandatory e-filing requirements to allow garnishees to file, and courts to accept, paper answers of garnishment. Payroll providers are authorized to file an answer of garnishment on behalf of an entity garnishee. The bill specifies that statutory expenses/fees do not interfere with any contractual arrangement for a garnishee to reimburse itself for the costs of legal processing due to a garnishment.

Orders disbursing funds are included, along with judgments, as a bar to subsequent claims to funds by a defendant. Courts may decline to hear any defendant's claim that is filed after the dismissal of a garnishment action against such defendant. Except in a continuing garnishment, a court may decline to hear any claim by a defendant which comes after a judgment is entered an order to disburse funds is issued, or money or other property is distributed by the court. No claim by a defendant can succeed if it was capable of being raised and adjudicated in any claim previously made in the same garnishment action by the defendant.

Plaintiffs may file a traverse in response to a garnishee's motion to modify a default judgment, stating that the motion is untrue or legally insufficient. When doing so, the plaintiff bears the burden of proving that the motion was not timely, that the costs to accompany such motion were not paid or incorrect, or that the total of money or property identified within the garnishee's motion as belonging to the defendant was incorrect. If the court finds that a plaintiff's traverse lacked reasonable justification, the court shall award the garnishee a judgment against the plaintiff for the costs incurred in connection with the traverse.

Discretion is removed so a court may not disallow a summons of garnishment to be amended when amount show to be due on a plaintiff's affidavit is incorrect.

When considering whether a garnishee should be relieved from liability for failure to file an answer

the court must now consider any information or circumstances. The bill distinguishes limited protections afforded to plaintiffs, who initiate garnishments, and broader protection for garnishees, who comply with garnishments. Protections for garnishees are expanded to include protection from liability when determining the validity of the form of the summons served compared to the garnishment sought.

The costs required for a garnishee to modify a default judgment in cases where garnishees were paying or repaying costs of appeal by other garnishees are clarified.

The bill expands the individuals against whom a plaintiff is entitled to the process of continuing garnishments, and continuing garnishments for support, to include any garnishee "who is under periodic obligations for payment to" a defendant (i.e. an independent contractor relationship). Answer requirements are clarified for garnishees when the employment relationship with a defendant is terminated or when obligations to the defendant are no longer anticipated.

Finally, the bill provides updated forms conforming to the amendments and changes provided throughout the bill.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Judiciary	<b>Committee</b>	06-17-2020 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 142 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

#### **SR 19 Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics; create**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Resolution 19 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide for alternative meeting locations and means in certain emergency situations for the General Assembly. In the event of an emergency affecting the state due to an enemy attack or a natural or manmade disaster or pandemic that makes it difficult or impossible for the General Assembly to physically meet in the state capitol, the General Assembly will be allowed to meet at another location or may meet through electronic means.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Rules	<b>Committee</b>	06-19-2020 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: Nays:	<b>Amendments:</b>	
<b>Floor Action:</b>	Recommit to Rules		

### **Postponed Until Next Legislative Day**

#### **HB 1148 Berrien County; Magistrate Court; provide for election of future chief magistrates**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1148 provides for the non-partisan elections of future chief magistrates of the Berrien County Magistrate Court.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Penny Houston (170th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
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#### **HB 1195 Berrien County; office of probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 1195 provides for future elections for the office of probate judge of Berrien County to be non-partisan.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Penny Houston (170th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
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#### **SB 249 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; amount of monthly dues paid; increase; amounts collected from fines; revise**

**Bill Summary:** SB 249 allows jail officers who are certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to become members of the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund. The monthly member contribution increases from \$20 to \$25 per month. The benefit increases from \$17.50 to \$25.15 for each full year of creditable service on July 1, 2020, and automatically increases

to \$30 per month for each year of creditable service on July 1, 2021. SB 249 revises the fee structure for forfeited and collected bonds in any quasi-criminal case from a graduated fine to the greater of \$10 or 10 percent. The bill also revises fees collected before pretrial diversion in any quasi-criminal case to \$5 or five percent, whichever is greater. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines the first-year cost is \$13,798,000, with an estimated total cost to the fund of \$27,838,000; however, the new fee structure generates \$29,772,000 in revenue, and the fund will continue to meet minimum funding standards.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 294 Teachers Retirement System of Georgia; invest in alternative investments; permit**

Bill Summary: SB 294 includes the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia under the definition of an "eligible large retirement system" for the purpose of participating in alternative investments. The Department of Audits and Accounts has certified SB 294 as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ellis Black (8th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 318 Education; public forums at public institutions of higher education; provide**

Bill Summary: SB 318 is the 'Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act'. The bill provides that the unrestricted outdoor areas of the campuses of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia's institutions are public forums for their campus communities. The institutions will not prohibit expressive activities in those areas or designate any campus areas as a "free speech zone". Institutions may maintain and enforce restrictions for expression so long as the restrictions are narrowly tailored to serve a significant institutional interest and employ criteria that is clear, published, neutral, and provides ample alternative means for expression. Restrictions must also allow the community to assemble spontaneously and to distribute literature.

Individuals may engage in expressive activities that do not materially and substantially disrupt the functions of the institution. Disruptions do not include conduct protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The bill does not prevent an institution from prohibiting student-on-student harassment or unlawful activities.

Institutions may not discriminate against, deny any benefits or privileges available to, or deny recognition to any active or proposed student organization based on actual or anticipated activities. Policies, regulations, and expectations of student expression on campus will be made public by the institution. The institutions will also develop materials, programs, and procedures regarding student expression for all individuals responsible for the education or discipline of students.

The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia will publish an annual report related to its actions on free expression. The report will be shared with the governor and General Assembly on July 1 of each year.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 337 Invasion of Privacy; prohibition against the transmission of photography depicting nudity; include falsely created videographic or still images**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 337 amends Code Section 16-11-90, relating to invasion of privacy, to include falsely created videographic still images of other persons within the prohibition against the transmission of photography or videos depicting nudity or sexually explicit conduct of another person under certain circumstances.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 340 Childhood Cancer Awareness Day; September 1 of each year; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 340 establishes September 1st as the annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**SB 394 Attorney General; authority to investigate and prosecute certain crimes and offenses; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 394 provides that the attorney general shall have the authority to employ peace officers during the investigation of human-trafficking cases and other investigations authorized by the attorney general's general powers under the Code. The bill allows the attorney general to investigate medical assistance fraud (Medicaid and Medicare).

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 442 Property; amendments to property owners' association instruments and covenants that restrict rental of residential lots and plots; prohibit**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 442 provides that an instrument of a property owners' association may not be amended to prohibit or restrict a non-owner occupied lot from continuing to be leased or rented for an initial term of six months or longer pursuant to the pre-amended instrument. In the event such lot, or any interest in the lot, is transferred for consideration worth \$100 or more, the lot must then conform to the instrument as amended.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 482 Office of Health Strategy and Coordination; state all-payer claims database; establishment of an advisory committee; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 482 establishes the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database (GAPCD). Claims data is the information included in an institutional, professional, or pharmacy claim for a covered individual, including the amount paid to a provider of health care services, plus any amount owed by the covered individual.

Additionally, the bill creates an advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the creation of the framework and implementation plan for the GAPCD to facilitate the reporting of health care data. The committee will make initial recommendations to the director of the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination no later than March 1, 2021. The objective of the GAPCD is to facilitate data-driven and evidence-based improvements in access, quality, and cost of health care in order to understand health care expenditure patterns.

The committee will conduct an evaluation of the GAPCD at least every five years to ensure these purposes are met.

The director will seek funding for the creation of the all-payer health claims database and report to the governor and General Assembly on the status of the funding effort and final data elements recommended by the advisory committee no later than March 15, 2021. The GAPCD will be created if sufficient funding is received through gifts, grants, donations, or appropriations on or before January 1, 2022.

**Authored By:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**SB 489 Lighting Equipment of Motor Vehicles; requiring an amber strobe light upon low-speed vehicles; provisions; repeal**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 489 removes the requirement that low-speed vehicles must display an amber strobe light as a warning to other drivers.

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

## Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 36th Legislative Day, Monday, June 22, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Monday, June 22, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 37th Legislative Day.*

### **SB 26 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; prior service as a member of Georgia Defined Contribution Plan; creditable service; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 26 allows members of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to receive creditable service for prior membership under the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan. The member must have five years of creditable service with ERS and transfer all funds from their Georgia Defined Contribution Plan to ERS. The member must pay the Board of Trustees an amount determined to cover the full actuarial cost of granting service after accounting for funds transferred from their Georgia Defined Contribution Plan. This bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill. The actuarial investigation determines there is no cost to this legislation.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Retirement

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-25-2020 Do Pass

### **SB 313 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions; provide**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 946 requires any physician employed or contracted with a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) that is advising or making determinations specific to an insured individual to: have actively seen patients within the past five years; and has practiced in the same specialty area for which the physician is providing advisement within the past five years. The Department of Community Health (DCH) is encouraged to require the use of a licensed Georgia physician for prior authorization, step therapy appeals, or determination reviews for contracts and amendments entered into with a PBM.

This bill grants the Department of Insurance regulatory authority of PBMs in Georgia. Any methodologies utilized by a PBM in connection with reimbursement must be filed with the department. A PBM must utilize the national average drug acquisition cost as a point of reference for the ingredient drug product component of a pharmacy's reimbursement for drugs appearing on the national average drug acquisition cost list. A report must be filed with the department every three months detailing all drugs appearing on the national average drug acquisition cost list reimbursed at 10 percent and below the national average drug acquisition cost, as well as all drugs reimbursed at 10 percent and above this national average. For each drug in the report, a PBM must include: the month the drug was dispensed; the quantity of the drug dispensed; the amount the pharmacy was reimbursed per unit or dosage; whether the dispensing pharmacy was an affiliate; whether the drug was dispensed pursuant to a state or local government health plan; and the national average drug acquisition cost on the day the drug was dispensed.

This bill requires that PBMs will not engage in any practice that: discriminates in reimbursement, assesses any fees or adjustments, or excludes a pharmacy from the PBM's network; in any way bases pharmacy reimbursement for a drug on the patient outcomes, scores, or metrics; includes imposing a point-of-sale fee or retroactive fee; or derives any revenue from a pharmacy or insured in connection with performing PBM services.

PBMs are required to pass on to the health plan 100 percent of all rebates it receives from pharmaceutical manufacturers and report annually to each health plan the aggregate amount of all rebates and other payments that the PBM received from pharmaceutical manufactures in connection with claims if administered on behalf of the health plan. PBMs must offer the option of charging a health plan the same price for a prescription drug as it pays a pharmacy for the prescription drug. A PBM must report in the aggregate to a health plan the difference between the amount the PBM reimburses a pharmacy and the amount the PBM charges a health plan. This information will be

confidential and not subject to open records unless the health plan is administered by the DCH.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Dean Burke (11th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 435 "The Debbie Vance Act"; court imposing sentence may grant the relief of vacatur for convictions and sentences of defendants; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 435, 'The First Survivors Act', provides relief to proven victims of human trafficking from sentencing and punishment for crimes committed while being trafficked.

A defendant convicted and sentenced for an offense as a direct result of being the victim of human trafficking may petition the court to vacate the conviction. The petition must be submitted on the appropriate form promulgated by the attorney general, along with a copy of the defendant's criminal history background check, no earlier than six months following the conviction and sentencing for a misdemeanor and one year following a completion of sentencing for a felony. The petition may include certain documentation of the defendant's status as a victim of an offense of human trafficking. Defendants with an outstanding warrant may not file a petition.

If the prosecuting attorney consents to set aside the conviction or fails to respond to the petition within 30 days, the court shall, without notice or hearing, issue an order vacating the convictions and sentence and restrict access to criminal history record information for the offense. If the prosecuting attorney objects, the court shall hold a hearing within 90 days of the filing of the petition. If the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant committed an offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking, the court may issue an order vacating the conviction and sentence. If ordered, the court shall also issue an order restricting access to criminal history record information for the offense.

Finally, the bill amends the Code as it relates to the Georgia Crime Information Center to allow for the restriction of access to a defendant's criminal history record information in accordance with the intent of the bill.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-18-2020 Do Pass

**SB 439 Juvenile Code; enhanced notice to and improved participation of foster, preadoptive, and relative caregivers in certain hearings; provide**

Bill Summary: SB 439 ensures that foster parents can be heard in court for hearings. The court must record whether or not the foster parents accept or decline to testify. Moreover, notice must be given to the foster parents, which may include email notification.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Matt Brass (28th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Juvenile Justice	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-19-2020 Do Pass

**SB 446 Cash Bonds; unclaimed cash bonds; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 446 allows a posted cash bail to be paid into the general fund of an appropriate court when it is unclaimed by the surety on the bond after two years. The bill also provides that the time begins from the date of the surety's release from liability or the date of disposition of the case, whichever is earlier.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-18-2020 Do Pass

**SB 483 "Behavioral Rehabilitation and Stability Services Act"; certain Medicaid reimbursement; enact**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 483 establishes a behavioral rehabilitation joint venture, or an agreement between a general acute hospital and an institution for mental diseases to authorize the institution to manage up to 16 of the hospital's vacant beds as swing beds for the treatment of behavioral health patients. The Department of Community Health (DCH) will provide Medicaid reimbursement up to 100 percent for any patient treated under the joint venture.

Any contributions received by a joint venture will not count against the aggregate limit cap of \$4 million for an individual rural hospital organization in any taxable year, or the overall aggregate cap on tax credits of \$60 million per taxable year.

Effective January 1, 2021, the joint venture will be conducted as a pilot program in up to three counties identified by the Department of Community Health (DCH). No later than December 31, 2025, DCH will provide a report to the chairpersons of the House and Senate Health and Human Services committees. This report will evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program in increasing access to behavioral health services for indigent and Medicaid patients and make recommendations about potential statewide implementations. DCH has the authority to establish rules and regulations necessary to implement the pilot program.

Additionally, an ambulatory surgery facility that performs medical procedures only in non-sterile procedure rooms, and has a letter of determination from DCH that the performance of certain procedures is not subject to prior review and approval for certificate of need (CON), is not required to have an operating room or be subject to any minimum physical plant and operational standards specified in DCH rules for purposes of CON.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Matt Brass (28th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-18-2020 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 504 Electors of Glynn County; nonbinding advisory referendum; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 504 provides for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the residents of Glynn County to vote on whether the Glynn County Board of Commissioners should abolish the Glynn County Police Department.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House Committee:</b>	Governmental Affairs	<b>Committee Action:</b>	06-19-2020 Do Pass

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

*No committees took action on general bills today.*

## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.*

*To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

### Monday, June 22, 2020

8:00 AM	<a href="#">AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS</a>	403 CAP
8:00 AM	<a href="#">DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS</a>	606 CLOB
8:00 AM	<a href="#">RETIREMENT</a>	506 CLOB
9:00 AM	<a href="#">RULES</a>	341 CAP
9:30 AM	<a href="#">GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS</a>	606 CLOB
11:30 AM	<a href="#">JUDICIARY</a>	132 CAP
12:30 PM	<a href="#">HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</a>	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">EDUCATION</a>	406 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE TRANSPORTATION</a>	506 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS</a>	606 CLOB
3:00 PM	<a href="#">SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE</a>	403 CAP
3:30 PM	<a href="#">PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY</a>	606 CLOB
4:30 PM	<a href="#">REGULATED INDUSTRIES</a>	606 CLOB