



Legislative Day 4

The Georgia General Assembly 2019 legislative session convened for the first legislative day on Monday, January 14th. Newly elected Governor Brian P. Kemp was sworn in shortly after 2:00 pm Monday and preceded back to the Capitol to send off Governor Deal and First Lady Deal. Governor Kemp gave his State of the State address on Thursday morning laying out his vision for the State of Georgia.

Click [here](#) for the full transcript

Some highlights:

- \$3,000 pay raise for teachers
- \$69 million plan in the amended budget for school security
- Creation of a GBI gang task force
- \$1 million plan to craft state flexibility options for Medicaid
- \$8.4 million in additional funding through APEX

Lawmakers are out of session next week, and will reconvene for Legislative Day 5 on Monday, January 28, 2019.

Governor Kemp's Floor Leaders

State Representatives:

Jodi Lott (R-Evans)
Terry Rogers (R-Clarkesville)
Bert Reeves (R-Marietta)
Dominic LaRicca (R-Douglas)

State Senators:

Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia)
Brian Strickland (R-McDonough)

Key Senate Committee Chair Changes

Senate Health and Human Services is now chaired by Senator Ben Watson, MD with Senator Renee Unterman chairing Senate Science and Technology.

Senator P.K. Martin is now the Chair of the Senate Education and Youth Committee, replacing Senator Lindsey Tippins who now chairs Senate Higher Ed.

Former Majority Leader Bill Cowsert takes over Senate Regulated Industries.

Senator Jeff Mullis retains the Rules Committee Chair

You can see a full list of all Senate Chairmen [here](#).

House Committee Assignments Pending

House committee announcements are expected over the weekend and into the MLK holiday week.

**For our complete legislative tracking sheet [click here](#).
Here are a few bills of note so far:**

SB 16 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD)

SB 18 - Direct Primary Care Act (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD)

Pending Action in the Coming Weeks

The legislature will be in adjournment next week for the observation of the MLK holiday and will hold budget hearings at the end of the week. As expected, the session will get off to a slow start as committee assignments are made and the process gets underway. We should expect action to pick up at the start of February.

We expect to see the following legislation soon:

- CON Reform
- Insurance Reform (Out of Network Billing)
- Mental Healthcare Reform

For legislative highlights and review, watch [Lawmakers](#), which airs at **7 PM on GPB** every day the General Assembly is in session.



You can also watch a live stream of each legislative day's proceedings on the General Assembly website. Go to