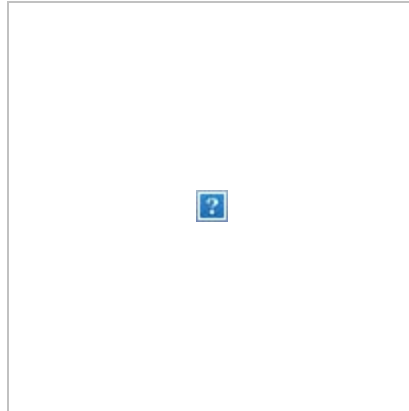


From: [Devin Krecl](#)
To: [Robyn Garrett](#); [Jesse Hambrick](#)
Cc: [Travis Lindley](#); [Cathalene Teahan](#)
Subject: 2023 Georgia Legislative Session - Legislative Day 12
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 3:23:07 PM



Under the Gold Dome *Legislative Day 12*

A Quarter of the Way

As Legislators returned to the State Capitol on Monday for Legislative Day 9, the week ended with Day 12, passing the quarter way mark to Sine Die. As the legislative days tick away, Lawmakers and lobbyists alike seemingly remain subdued in the face of 28 remaining legislative days. All are waiting for floor sessions that carry on through the lunch hour and committee meetings to run into the late afternoon.

House Appropriations Committee Approves Amended FY23 Budget

This past week, House Appropriations Committee members began unveiling their spending plan for the Amended FY 2023 Budget. The subcommittees outlined their various program areas which culminated in the full committee providing a do pass recommendation for the budget.

The full tracking sheet for HB 18 is linked [here](#).

The legislation outlining the spending plan for HB 18 is linked [here](#).

There was positive news for many agencies, and those they serve, scattered throughout the latest version of the proposed use of \$32.5 billion in state funding. Some of these changes include:

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- Adult Developmental Disabilities Services Program - \$500,000 to consolidate funds for respite services (this is a transfer from Special Project Program)
- Adult Mental Health Services - more than \$2 million to support private psychiatric contract beds and \$825,000 to coordinate outreach to address homelessness in the Atlanta area

- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services program - \$100,000 reduction for a delayed contract implementation and \$600,000 for providing one-time gap funding for Georgia Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities receiving less than \$500 per patient per day while under cost report reimbursement methodology
- Departmental Administration program - \$300,000 to support operations personnel for the administration of federal opioid settlement funds
- Direct Care Support Services program - \$4 million is added for patient treatment mall renovation

Department of Community Health

- Healthcare Access and Improvement program - \$25,000 is added for a rural hospital study; \$184,000 is added to support existing housing with the Area Health Education Centers; and \$778,000 is added to support the psychiatric and internal medicine resident learning and work centers at St. Francis Hospital
- Healthcare Facility Regulation program - \$250,000 is added to implement and regulate the new licensure category for adult residential mental health programs as established by HB 1069 (2022)
- State Health Benefit Plan - \$100,000,000 is added to reflect a three-year phase in of an increase in the employer contribution per member per month for non-certified school employees effective January 1, 2024
- Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education - \$237,966 is added to fund internal medicine residency capitation payments for St. Francis Hospital
- Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education - \$56,000 is added for nursing program recruitment in Southwest Georgia

Department of Education

- Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants Program - the House increased funds from \$50,000 to \$60,000 per school for local school systems to allocate funding for security grants (the Governor had originally proposed a total of \$115.7 million, and the House moved this to a more than \$138.8 million); the House changed the funding proposal for reimbursable grants for paraprofessionals who are seeking to earn a certificate through the Georgia Teacher Academy for Preparation and Pedagogy (the governor proposed \$15 million but the House reduced this to \$5 million - funding for those who are actually enrolled on and after January 1, 2023); and the House eliminated the \$25 million in state funds for learning loss (the House added language that the department utilize the \$977.5 million from ARPA funds designated for learning loss); and the House added \$1.25 million to provide the matching funds for school systems to implement character education programming
- Quality Basic Education Program - the House decreased the funding from \$28 million to \$16 million for the funding the State Commission Charter School Supplement; increased from \$6.3 million to \$7.4 million for the Special Needs Scholarship (reflection of growth); and added \$60,564 to fund mid-term adjustment to the local charter school grant pursuant to SB59 (2021)
- Technology/Career Education program - \$3.3 million was added to purchase equipment for construction industry certification programs statewide

Department of Human Services

- Out-of-Home Care - \$5 million was added to provide funds for alternative housing options for youth with complex needs

The House took up the following measures on the floor on Thursday:

- **HB 18 - Supplemental Appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.** The bill passed by Committee Substitute with a vote of 170-1.

New Legislation

SB 43 - Sen. Kim Jackson

Suicide of Public Safety Officer - Seeks to provide that death by suicide of a public safety officer in certain instances be considered a death in the line of duty for purposes of indemnification; to provide clarification for instances of indemnification for heart attack, stroke, or vascular rupture.

SB 46 - Sen. Chuck Hufstetler

HIV Testing of Pregnant Women - Seeks to require physicians and healthcare providers to test all pregnant women for HIV and syphilis at the first prenatal visit, at 28–32 weeks' gestation, and at delivery.

SB 59 - Sen. Bo Hatchett

Creation of the Office of Inspector General - Seeks to to establish the Office of the Inspector General.

SB 88 - Sen. Carden Summers

Parents and Child Protection Act - Seeks to prohibit certain actions by an adult acting in loco parentis with respect to child privacy.

HB 140 - Rep. Lee Hawkins

PANDA/PARS - Seeks to provide for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit plan.

HB 143 - Rep. Danny Mathis

Continuous Glucose Monitors for Medicaid Recipients - Seeks to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients.

HB 191/HB 192 - Rep. Ron Stephens

Tobacco Tax (Health Appropriations) - Seeks to to increase the rate of the tax on each pack of cigarettes and vape products and to provide that the proceeds derived from such increase are intended to be appropriated for healthcare purposes.

HB 196- Rep. Alan Powell

Georgians Access to Medical Cannabis Update - Seeks to provide that the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission shall be subject to the Administrative Procedure Act and laws governing open meetings and open records

HB 197 - Rep. Derrick McCollum

Drug Induced Homicides (Wesley's Law) - Seeks to provide for the offense of drug-induced homicide; to provide for enhanced penalties for the distribution of certain controlled substances; and to provide for enhanced penalties for the distribution of controlled substances within 1,000 feet of any substance abuse treatment facility.

HB 203 - Rep. Mark Newton

Contact Lens Dispensing (1-800 Contacts) - Seeks to address the sales and dispensing of contact lenses.

HB 211 - Rep. Ron Stephens

Undergarments Tax Exemption - Seeks to exempt the sale or use of certain absorbent diapers, undergarments, and pads from taxation.

HB 213 - Rep. Katie Dempsey

Required Vaccine Information - Seeks to revise provisions relating to required information to parents of students regarding meningococcal meningitis and influenza and their respective vaccines.

HB 214 - Rep. Alan Powell

APRN/PA Schedule II Prescribing - Seeks to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to execute affidavits certifying an individual is disabled for purposes of obtaining special vehicle decals for persons with disabilities; to authorize physicians to delegate the authority to physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances under certain conditions

HB 215 - Rep. Alan Powell

APRN Affidavit Execution- Seeks to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to execute affidavits certifying an individual is disabled for purposes of obtaining special vehicle decals for persons with disabilities.

HB 226 - Rep. Sharon Cooper

HIV Medicaid Treatment Services - Seeks to require the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to persons in this state living with HIV.

Committee Updates

Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

Chairman Larry Walker and the Insurance and Labor Committee met, beginning with introductions to the Committee members. The Committee adopted its Committee Rules for the year. There were no changes from 2022. Two subcommittees have been established to review bills, and authors are required to see the Chairman to request their bills to be heard.

Presently, nine bills have been assigned to this Committee, but only SB 20 has been requested - that is the legislation on network adequacy by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick.

House Public Health Committee

Chairman Sharon Cooper chairs this committee which was previously known as the Health and Human Services Committee. The committee adopted its rules for the 2023-2024 biennium, and the rules establish a quorum at 10 members for business to be conducted. Chairman Cooper had members present to briefly introduce themselves and offer a bit about their professional backgrounds.

House Health Committee

Chairman Lee Hawkins chairs this newly configured House Health Committee, also meeting for an organizational meeting this week. The Committee, composed of 23 members, adopted its rules. The quorum to conduct business is set at 8 members.

Chairman Hawkins noted that this committee process with the new health committees is a work in progress, but the focus is on access and quality of healthcare.

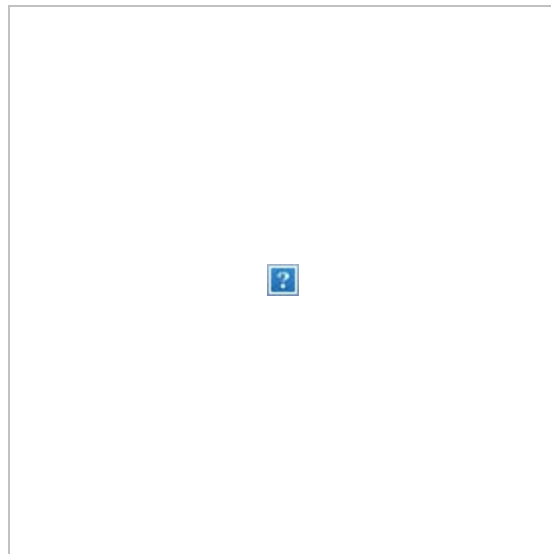
Lawmakers must ask for their bills and those requests are to be made to Chairman Hawkins or his vice chair Representative Mark Newton. Additionally, Chairman Hawkins stressed that not all bills will be heard and that legislation will be prioritized over the two-year cycle.

Latest Rumors...

- Likely legislative action on banning certain parameters of Private Equity acquisitions
- Likely legislative action on Certificate of Need modernization
- Likely legislative action on Tort Reform (Seatbelts, Bifurcation of Trials, Phantom Damages)

The 2023 Legislative Session will reconvene at 10:00am Monday, February 6th, 2023.

To find any bill, go to www.legis.ga.gov and use the search box at the top left of the page. There is also an advanced search option that allows you to find bills by keyword or sponsor.



For legislative highlights and review, watch ***Lawmakers***, which airs on **Georgia Public Broadcasting** at **7PM** every night the Georgia General Assembly is in session.

We will be sending out legislative updates regularly throughout the 2023 session, so keep an eye on your inbox to stay updated on all of the happenings from under the Gold Dome.

More information: Please reach out to our office at 770.435.5586 or reach out to us personally via our cell phones.

Travis Lindley
404.886.5058
travis@capitolstrategy.us

Devin Krecl
770.655.9545
devin@capitolstrategy.us

--

Devin Krecl | Capitol Strategy Group, Inc.

2700 Cumberland Parkway, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Office: (770) 435-5586 | Cell: (770) 655-9545

devin@capitolstrategy.us | www.capitolstrategy.us