



## Georgia Association of Community Service Boards 2026 Legislative Agenda Draft

**1. HB291: Health; certification of community health workers; provide **SUPPORT (crossed over)****

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to provide for the certification of community health workers; to provide for definitions; to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee; to provide for membership, powers, and duties of the committee; to provide for the approval of training programs; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

*Creates a formal system to certify community health workers in Georgia. It sets up a committee to oversee training programs and make sure workers meet consistent standards.*

**2. HB 657: Mental health; qualifications of recovery community organizations for substance use; provide **SUPPORT (crossed over)****

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, so as to provide for the qualifications of recovery community organizations for substance use; to provide for definitions; to provide for the certification of peer specialists; to provide for the approval of certification training bodies; to designate one state-wide recovery community organization; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes

*Sets standards for organizations that support people in recovery from substance use. It also creates a certification process for peer specialists and designates one statewide recovery organization.*

**3. HB1097: Mental health; criminal background, license status, and registry checks for owners, applicants, and employees of certain mental health facilities; provide **SUPPORT (crossed over)****

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, so as to provide for criminal background, license status, and



registry checks for owners, applicants, and employees of certain mental health facilities; to provide for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to submit fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Georgia Crime Information Center for the purpose of background checks to find disqualifying records; to provide for maintenance of personnel files; to provide for procedures relating to applicants or employees with ineligible determinations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

*Requires background checks (including fingerprints) for owners and staff at certain mental health facilities to ensure safety. It also sets rules for handling employees who don't pass those checks.*

**4. HB1368/SB 535: Mental health; re-creation of community service boards; provide **SUPPORT (crossed over)****

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, so as to provide for the re-creation of community service boards; to reconstitute the governing boards of community service boards; to provide for conforming changes; to amend Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place, access to minutes, and teleconferences, so as to revise a provision authorizing community service boards to conduct teleconference meetings under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

*This bill focuses on updating how Community Service Boards (CSBs) in Georgia are structured and operate. It allows the state to review and continue these organizations while making updates to how they are governed. Specifically, it changes the makeup and structure of CSB governing boards.*

*In addition, the bill updates rules around how CSB boards can meet. Specifically, it allows for more flexibility in holding meetings by teleconference (virtual meetings), which can make it easier for board members to participate and for boards to conduct business efficiently, especially when in-person meetings are difficult.*

**5. SB162: Georgia Composite Medical Board; implement an automated credentialing system for healthcare providers in this state; provide **SUPPORT (crossed over)****

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Georgia Composite Medical Board, so as to provide for the board to implement an automated credentialing system for healthcare providers in this state;



to provide for requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

*Creates an automated system to streamline how healthcare providers are credentialed (approved to work), making the process faster and more efficient.*