



2024

capitol watch

Quarter One Down, Three To Go

The Georgia General Assembly was back in action on Monday after coming out of last week's budget hearings. After a week together in Joint Appropriations hearings, the House and Senate returned to their respective chambers — to take up a couple of each other's bills. A cooperative spirit was in the air, but not for long. The Senate quickly began holding up House bills in the Rules committee for the lack of forward movement on any Senate bills.

Legislative Days Completed: 10
Legislative Days Remaining: 30

The 2024 Legislative Session will reconvene at 10:00am Monday, January 29th, 2024

On the Senate Floor Next Week

HB 455 - Rep. John LaHood

Physician Safe Haven - Seeks to provide confidentiality protections to participants in a wellness program for health care workers. This legislation is set to be on the Senate floor on Monday, January 29th. Additionally, Senator John Albers will carry the legislation on the Senate floor.

House Floor Action This Week

SB 35 - Sen. Nikki Merritt

Continuous Glucose Monitors - Seeks to require the Department of Community Health to include continuous glucose monitors as a benefit for Medicaid recipients via the most cost-effective benefit delivery channel. This legislation passed the House floor 152-1. As a note, this legislation was carried over from the 2023 legislative session. It now heads to Governor Kemp's desk.

HB 434 - Rep. Lee Hawkins

Radiologist Assistants - Seeks to provide for the licensing of radiologist assistants. This legislation passed the House floor 152 -2 and now moves onto the Senate.

New Notable Legislation

Senate

SB 361 - Sen. Greg Dolezal

Meetings Open to the Public - to increase the number from 2 to 6 of authorized nonemergency teleconference meetings in which members of non statewide agencies can participate each year.

SB 395 - Sen. Clint Dixon

Opioid Antagonists in Schools - Seeks to to authorize the possession of opioid antagonists in schools.

SR 476 - Sen. John Albers

Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence - Seeks to create the Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

House

HR 809 - Rep. Kim Schofield

State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and Screenings in Communities of Color - Seeks to create a State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and Screenings in Communities of Color.

HB 887 and HB 890 - Rep. Mandisha Thomas

Artificial Intelligence Healthcare - Seeks to prohibit the use of artificial intelligence in making certain decisions regarding insurance coverage

HB 913 - Rep. Imani Barnes

EmPATH Georgia Act - Seeks to provide for the establishment of a grant program for the purpose of creating emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing (EmPATH) units in hospitals.

HB 945 - Rep. Lee Hawkins

SHBP Out of Network - Seeks to provide protection for covered persons under a state health plan when an in-network hospital becomes out-of-network prior to the end of the plan year.

HB 1029 - Rep. Karen Mathiak

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy - Seeks to amend Georgia's law on newborn screening in order to add Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the current listing of diseases.

HB 1035 - Rep. Sharon Cooper

Opioid Antagonists - Seeks to expand the exemption of naloxone from the definition of a dangerous drug to include any opioid antagonist when used for drug overdose prevention.

HB 1037 - Rep. Lauren Daniel

Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health - Seeks to create the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health.

HB 1046 - Rep. David Clark

APRN/PA Prescribing - Seeks to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services.

Senate Health and Human Service Committee

SB 348 - Sen. Rick Williams

Death Pronouncement - Seeks to reduce the time from 180 to 60 days from when the deceased person last saw their physician. This improves the timeline to receive someone's death certificate. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved onto the Senate Rules committee.

HB 343 - Rep. Mark Newton

Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Patients- Seeks to require pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale. The legislation is an attempt to address uncontrollable prescription drug costs to patients. It proposes allowing patients to obtain 50% of the negotiated rebates. This legislation failed on a Do Pass motion by 5-8. It remains on the table in the Senate HHS Committee.

Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

HB 63 - Rep. Noel Williams

Furnishing of Insurance Claims - Seeks to require insurers providing policies for groups of 20 or more to timely furnish claims experience at the request of a group policyholder and to allow such insurers that use other methods to apply to the Commissioner for approval of the use of an alternative form of claims experience reporting. The Committee recommended the bill Do Pass and moved onto the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 362 - Rep. Karen Mathiak

Insurance Disclosure - Seeks to require an insurer or other entity which provides for payment or reimbursement of health care expenses, to disclose to a treating provider a written accounting of all payments and reimbursements for such provider's health care services. The measure increases transparency between hospitals and insurance bills. Specifically, the measure seeks fuller explanations in writing from insurers of payments and reimbursements to any treating provider upon request. The legislation received a Do Pass and moved onto the House Rules Committee.

House Governmental Affairs Committee

HB 883 - Rep. Devan Seabaugh

State Boards Teleconference - Seeks to authorize county boards of health and community services boards to conduct meetings via teleconference. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved on to the House Rules Committee.

House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

HB 451 - Rep. Devan Seabaugh

First Responder Occupational PTSD - Seeks to require the provision of supplemental, illness-specific insurance to certain first responders diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved onto the House Rules Committee.

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.

Physicians Day at the at the Capitol 2024

The date is set for **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 from 7:30am - 1:00pm**

Legislators and Constitutional Officers will be invited to attend the luncheon. We will be meeting with individual legislators throughout the morning hours on the House and Senate ropes.

Click [HERE](#) to register now!



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 2024 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.

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