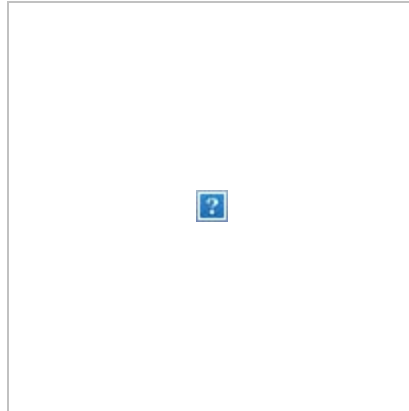


From: [Devin Krecl](#)
To: [Robyn Garrett](#); [Jesse Hambrick](#)
Cc: [Travis Lindley](#); [Cathalene Teahan](#)
Subject: 2023 Georgia Legislative Session - Legislative Day 8
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 5:39:06 PM



Under the Gold Dome *Legislative Day 8*

Governor Kemp State of the State Address

Governor Brian Kemp delivered his first State of the State Address of his second term on Wednesday, January 25. He graciously acknowledged the challenges overcome by hardworking Georgians during his first term of office. Additionally, he proclaimed that the state of our state “has never been more resilient.” This set the tone to lay out his vision for the legislative session ahead, calling it “a session of consequence” as he pursues his goal of setting Georgia on a “path of greatness for generations to come.”

Governor Kemp’s plans for the session, as set out in his remarks, fall into four broad categories:

- Supporting education
- Fighting crime
- Improving healthcare
- Strengthening Georgia’s workforce.

Governor Kemp proposed \$1.9 billion in additional funds proposed for public education in his budget proposals, which includes \$2,000 raises for educators. The addition of this \$2,000 will mean teacher salaries have been increased by \$7,000 in five years, which, according to Kemp, puts Georgia’s teacher salaries \$7,000 higher than the Southeastern average.

The Governor discussed his plans to advance his fight against crime and stop the “revolving door” of criminal justice. He announced his plan to offer legislation to increase criminal penalties for those who try to recruit children into gangs, proclaiming: “Come after our children, and we’ll come after you.”

On the healthcare front, Kemp proposed legislation that will allow pregnant women who qualify to receive TANF benefits. Additionally, he reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the health workforce with \$4.5 million in loan repayment for healthcare workers and \$1.7 million for 102 new residency slots.

Finally, Kemp detailed his Rural Workforce Housing Fund, which will allow the State to partner with local governments to develop sites across the state for workforce housing.

The full text of Governor Kemp's address is available [here](#).

Governor Kemp's Floor Leaders

2023-2024 Georgia State Senate Floor Leaders

[Senator Bo Hatchett, Senate District 50](#)

[Senator Mike Hodges, Senate District 3](#)

2023-2024 Georgia House of Representatives Floor Leaders

[Representative Lauren McDonald, House District 26](#)

[Representative Soo Hong, House District 103](#)

[Representative Will Wade, House District 9](#)

[Representative Matthew Gambill, House District 15](#)

House Leadership and Committee Chair's

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

- Chairman: Rep. Robert Dickey (R-Musella)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Joe Campbell (R-Camilla)

Appropriations

- Chairman: Rep. Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin)

Banks & Banking

- Chairman: Rep. Noel Williams (R-Cordele)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Will Wade (R-Dawsonville)

Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight

- Chairman: Rep. Steven Meeks (R-Screven)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Spencer Frye (D-Athens)

Code Revision

- Chairman: Rep. Bill Yearta (R-Sylvester)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R-Dallas)

Creative Arts & Entertainment

- Chairman: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners)

Defense & Veterans Affairs

- Chairman: Rep. Josh Bonner (R-Fayetteville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. David Clark (R-Buford)

Economic Development & Tourism

- Chairman: Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Matthew Gambill (R-Cartersville)

Education

- Chairman: Rep. Chris Erwin (R-Homer)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners)

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

- Chairman: Rep. Don Parsons (R-Marietta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Matt Barton (R-Calhoun)

Ethics

- Chairman: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (R-Townsend)

Game, Fish & Parks

- Chairman: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R-Greensboro)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (R-Gillsville)

Governmental Affairs

- Chairman: Rep. John LaHood (R-Valdosta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia)

Health

- Chairman: Rep. Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Mark Newton (R-Augusta)

Higher Education

- Chairman: Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R-Cartersville)

Human Relations & Aging

- Chairman: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Mike Cameron (R-Rossville)

Industry & Labor

- Chairman: Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R-Glenncville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R-Marietta)

Information & Audits

- Chairman: Rep. Steve Tarvin (R-Chickamauga)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R-Marietta)

Insurance

- Chairman: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Noel Williams (R-Cordele)

Interstate Cooperation

- Chairman: Rep. Mark Newton (R-Augusta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R-Dallas)

Intragovernmental Coordination

- Chairman: Rep. Beth Camp (R-Concord)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Victor Anderson (R-Cornelia)

Judiciary

- Chairman: Rep. Stan Gunter (R-Blairsville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Matt Reeves (R-Duluth)

Judiciary (Non-Civil)

- Chairman: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R-Bremen)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs)

Juvenile Justice

- Chairman: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. David Jenkins (R-Grantville)

MARTOC

- Chairman: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs)

Motor Vehicles

- Chairman: Rep. John Corbett (R-Lake Park)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Matt Barton (R-Calhoun)

Natural Resources & Environment

- Chairman: Rep. Lynn Smith (R-Newnan)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain)

Public Health

- Chairman: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Dale Washburn (R-Macon)

Public Safety & Homeland Security

- Chairman: Rep. J Collins (R-Villa Rica)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Clint Crowe (R-Jackson)

Reapportionment & Redistricting

- Chairman: Rep. Rob Leverett (R-Elberton)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Soo Hong (R-Lawrenceville)

Regulated Industries

- Chairman: Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Dale Washburn (R-Macon)

Retirement

- Chairman: Rep. John Carson (R-Marietta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Lehman Franklin (R-Statesboro)

Rules

- Chairman: Rep. Richard Smith (R-Columbus)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton)

Small Business Development

- Chairman: Rep. Mike Cheokas (R-Americus)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Rey Martinez (R-Loganville)

Special Rules

- Chairman: Rep. Steven Sainz (R-St. Marys)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Bethany Ballard (R-Warner Robins)

State Planning & Community Affairs

- Chairman: Rep. Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Patty Bentley (D-Butler)

State Properties

- Chairman: Rep. Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Ken Vance (R-Baldwin)

Technology & Infrastructure Innovation

- Chairman: Rep. Todd Jones (R-South Forsyth)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Brad Thomas (R-Holly Springs)

Transportation

- Chairman: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Leesa Hagan (R-Lyons)

Urban Affairs

- Chairman: Rep. Brian Prince (D-Augusta)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Dale Washburn (R-Macon)

Ways & Means

- Chairman: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Clint Crowe (R-Jackson)

Leadership of the subcommittees of Appropriations is as follows:

Economic Development

- Chairman: Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Gerald Greene (R-Cuthbert)

Education

- Chairman: Rep. Matt Dubnik (R-Gainesville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Leesa Hagan (R-Lyons)

General Government

- Chairman: Rep. Marcus Weidower (R-Watkinsville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Bill Yeara (R-Sylvester)

Health

- Chairman: Rep. Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R-Marietta)

Higher Education

- Chairman: Rep. David Knight (R-Griffin)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Houston Gaines (R-Athens)

Human Resources

- Chairman: Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome)
- Vice Chairman: Karen Mathiak (R-Griffin)

Public Safety

- Chairman: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R-Rincon)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Danny Mathis (R-Cochran)

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Chairman: Rep. Clay Pirkle (R-Ashburn)
- Vice Chairman: Rep. Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain)

Senate GOP Caucus Priorities

The Majority Leader announced that the caucus would focus on four broad goals with specific policy initiatives supporting each:

Bolstering Opportunity and Innovation in the Georgia Economy

- Conduct a prudent income tax reform and tax credit review
- Support and implementation of new taxpayer and homeowner relief initiatives
- Lay the groundwork for the continued electrification of transportation

Cultivating an Educated Workforce

- Senate-led effort to improve literacy rates in line with graduation rates

- Implementation of learning loss grants
- Review degree requirements for state employment

Creating Safer Communities

- Serious penalties for the recruitment of minors for gang activity
- Aggressive bail bond reform for violent offenses
- Enhanced school safety legislation

Supporting the Health and Well-being of Families and At-Risk Youth

- Expansion of telehealth services for rural and underserved communities
- Increased support for foster families and children
- Extended benefits for income-eligible pregnant women

The video recording of the press conference will be available to view here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/9158785>

New Notable Legislation

SB 15 - Sen. Sally Harrell

Reproductive Freedom Act - Seeks to provide that natural persons do not include an unborn child and shall not be included in certain population based determinations

SB 20 - Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD

CATCH Act - Seeks to ensure consumer access to quality healthcare by setting adequacy standards for network plans offered by an insurer.

SB 22 - Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD

Hemp Farming - Seeks to prohibit the purchase of, sale of, and the offering of samples of hemp products by or to any individual under the age of 18 years old.

SB 27 - Sen. Matt Brass

Unfair Trade Practices - Seeks to prohibit a health care insurer from requiring an ophthalmologist or optometrist to extend any discounts on services that are not covered eye care services in order to receive increased payments, better reimbursements, preferential treatment, or any other benefit.

SB 32 - Sen. Jason Anivitarte

Alyssa's Law - Seeks to require local education agencies to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting disparate emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple state and local first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency.

HB 46 - Rep. Michelle Au, MD

Violence Against Healthcare Workers - Seeks to expand enhanced punishment for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers to all healthcare workers in a hospital or healthcare facility.

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.

HB 75 - Rep. Shea Roberts

Reproductive Freedom Act - Seeks to provide that natural persons do not include an unborn child and shall not be included in certain population based determinations

HB 76 - Rep. Alan Powell

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists Training - Seeks to revise provisions relating to education, experience, and training requirements for licensure in marriage and family therapy.

HB 85 - Rep. Sharon Cooper

Biomarker Testing Coverage - Seeks to require health benefit policy coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence.

Committee Updates

Joint Senate HHS and Children and Families Committee

Chairman Ben Watson, MD and Chairwoman Kay Kirkpatrick, MD presided over the joint committee meeting and focused on foster care and the hoteling of children.

On the list speakers and topics were:

- Michelle Zeanah, MD - lack of a full and comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, lack of early intervention, and crisis intervention services are not readily available.
- Audrey Brannon, LCSW - She explained that the issue is not with the Department of Family and Children Services but with the whole system.
- Judge Render Heard
- Mike Dudgeon - Mr. Dudgeon explained that when with Lt. Governor Duncan's office they researched Amerigroup's denial rates and other data relating to foster care and hoteling. In 2018, Georgia paid \$130 million for capitation rates with Amerigroup paying \$69.5 million in claims. This means a 35% profit rate. Mr. Dudgeon felt money was not being spent appropriately.
- Amerigroup - Nick DeJong, the Government Relations representative for Amerigroup, Beveany Slonkey, a Licensed Professional Counselor, Dr. Vanderlyn Sewell, a Licensed Psychiatrist, and Mel Lindsey, the Amerigroup Georgia Plan President. They spoke of their processes and goals of ensuring access to care for their consumers. The committee members asked for access to de-identified data which the representatives agreed to provide.

House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

The House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee welcomed a new session on Tuesday with their new Chairman, Representative Tyler Paul Smith, and new rules. Chairman Smith and the committee agreed to lower the quorum threshold to five members before adjourning.

Senate Rules Committee

The Senate Rules Committee, under the new leadership of Chairman Matt Brass adopted new rules for the 2023-2024 Biennium. There was a change from the prior rules regarding what legislation could be considered from the General Calendar and those amendments and substitutes after Legislative Day 35.

Senate Regulated Industries

The Senate Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Senator Bill Cowsert, held its organizational meeting on Tuesday. The Committee adopted its rules and will require substitutes and amendments be submitted to the chairman at least 24 hours in advance of consideration. The Committee is expected to meet regularly on Tuesdays at 4PM and Thursdays at 2PM

Latest Rumors...

We understand there may be a push to curtail private equity investment in physician practices.

The 2023 Legislative Session will reconvene at 10:00am Monday, January 30th, 2023.

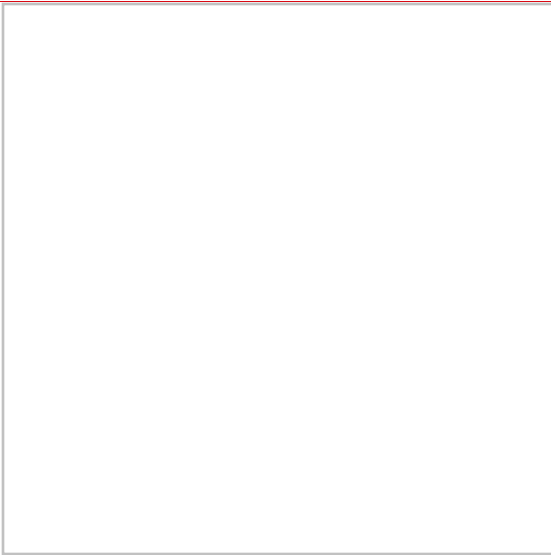
To find any bill, go to www.legis.ga.gov and use the search box at the top left of the page. There is also an advanced search option that allows you to find bills by keyword or sponsor.

Physicians Day at the at the Capitol 2023

The date is set for **Wednesday, February 8, 2023 from 9:00am - 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 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.

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