



2024

capitol watch

# 2023-2024 Legislative Term Summary

*The 2024 Legislative Session ran from Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*This following report includes key passed legislation as well as carried over legislation to the 2024 legislative session.*

The 2023 - 2024 Legislative Term and 2024 Legislative Session has come to an end. Legislative Days 39 and 40 never fail to keep legislators and lobbyists alike on their toes. Late-arriving Rules Committee substitutes and amendments, measures being sent to the floor only to be recommitted for further perfection, and outright flops on final consideration made for long days. The session wrapped up around 1:30am on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> with a call of Sine Die from both chambers.

The final Fiscal Year 2025 budget includes agreed upon by conference committee in the late evening hours of day 40 includes the following highlights:

- 4% raises for State employees and an additional \$3,000 supplements for certain POST-certified State employees, DFCS employees, and some others.
- Medicaid and DBHDD provider rate increases "across the board," annualizes 513 NOW and COMP waivers, and adds 100 more.
- Appropriation of \$108 million for school safety grants and over \$200 million for pupil transportation.
- \$1M to expand pilot program for home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood.
- \$979K to increase funds for newborn screening to include two additional disorders approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.
- \$796K for outreach and breast cancer screening services.
- \$150K for one congenital syphilis and HIV case manager
- \$34.5M for the Mercer School of Medicine grant
- \$33.4M for Morehouse School of Medicine grant
- \$15.9M for the Georgia Pediatric Program
- \$5.6M in state funding for continuous glucose monitor provision as a Medicaid benefit (from SB 35)
- \$4.6M for the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) including to hire investigators and modernize licensure application software
- \$2.7M to increase select primary care and OBGYN codes
- \$2M for 105 new residency slots in primary care

A full tracking sheet of the final Fiscal Year 2025 budget can be [found here](#).

***Like the budget, most new laws take effect on July 1 unless another date is specified in the bill itself. The Governor has forty days following the legislative session to veto entire bills or line items in the budget. Below is a full breakdown of key identified pieces of legislation and their final status for 2024.***

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## Legislation Sent to Governor Kemp for Signature or Veto

### Senate Legislation

#### **SB 12 - Sen. John Albers**

##### **Protecting Victims and Dismantling Georgia Street Gangs Act**

The underlying legislation was stripped of its original language and added **HB 375 - Rep. Rob Leverett, Guardianship Cooperation** - Seeks to revise the list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a guardian for an adult, the modification and termination of such guardianship, and the appointment of an emergency guardian. Additionally, **HB 1264 - Rep. Ron Stephens, Provider Wellness Program** was added to authorize the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals. It also authorizes the Georgia Board of Nursing to establish a professional health program to monitor and rehabilitate impaired healthcare professionals.

#### **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. Additionally, a total of \$5.6 million was allocated in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for implementation.

#### **SB 198 - Sen. Sally Harrel**

##### **Georgians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Innovation Commission, Now HB 1363 - Rep. Karen Mathiak, PBM Transparency**

- Seeks to require that drugs dispensed to a covered person for self-administration under a state health plan be reimbursed using a transparent, index-based price, plus a dispensing fee. The legislation is an attempt to bring stability, transparency, and savings and encourages the use of the National Drug Acquisition Cost to set pricing and dispensing fees.

#### **SB 293 - Sen. Ben Watson**

**Public Health District Directors** - Seeks to establish in code that district health directors, appointed by the DPH Commissioner, serve as the chief executive officer of county boards of health. This bill removes the requirement that district health directors be a non-physician, as long as the Chief Medical Officer is one. This bill further clarifies the right of the Commissioner to appoint an interim director to fill temporary vacancies without county board of health approval.

#### **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 and to be considered an unattended death. This improves the timeline to receive someone's death certificate.

#### **SB 370 - Sen. Mike Hodges**

**Human Trafficking Hotline Postings** - Seeks to require certain establishments to post human trafficking hotline information. Specifically, the bill extends this posting requirement to medical offices, convenience stores, body art studios, manufacturing facilities, and massage therapy businesses. The bill also provides for surprise inspections of massage therapy practices, requires that massage therapy licenses bear a photo of the therapist and that massage therapy board members receive training on human trafficking.

**SB 395 - Sen. Clint Dixon**

**Opioid Antagonists in Schools** - Seeks to to authorize the possession of opioid antagonists in schools. Additionally, **HB 1170 - Rep. Lee Hawkins, Government Buildings Accessing Opioid Antagonists** - Seeks to require that certain state government buildings, courthouses, and university buildings maintain and make accessible opioid antagonists was substituted into this legislation. Lastly, is has **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.

**SB 426 - Sen. Blake Tillery**

**Motor Vehicle Insurance Tort** - Seeks to revise requirements for joining of a motor carrier and motor carrier's insurer to a cause of action; to provide for subrogation for unpaid final judgments relative to causes of action involving motor carriers. This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**SB 449 - Sen. Larry Walker**

**Medical Military Personnel** - Seeks to exempt certain military medical personnel from certain requirements to qualify for their healthcare position within 24 months of service. Additionally, the bill allows the exemption from an examination requirement to qualify as a certified nursing aide. Substitute language was added in committee to have a separate license for advanced practice registered nurses and adds a definition for rural hospital organizations.

**SB 480 - Sen. Mike Hodges**

**Mental Health Workforce** - Seeks to provide student loan repayment for mental health and substance use professionals serving in certain capacities. The Board for Physician Workforce will create the rules and regulations. The measure is contingent on appropriations.

**SB 495 - Sen. Sam Watson**

**Low THC Update** - to provide for the term of validity of a registration card and to provide for delivery of registration cards.

**SB 502 - Sen. Clint Dixon**

**State Agency Contracting** - Seeks to prohibit state agencies from contracting for advertising or marketing services with certain companies or from supporting certain companies. Additionally, **HB 883 - Rep. Devan Seabaugh, State Boards Teleconference** - Seeks to authorize county boards of health directors and community services boards to conduct meetings via teleconference, has been substituted into this legislation.

**SB 505 - Sen. Blake Tillery**

**Hospital Transparency** - Seeks to revise provisions relating to required publication by hospital of certain financial documents on its website. The legislation reverted back to the as-introduced version of the bill but also added language around how county and municipal hospital authorities are to fill vacancies. Under current law, the governing body of the area of operation submits a list of three eligible persons to the board of the hospital authority, and the board then selects one of the three named on such list or declines to make that selection. This revision eliminates the option for them to reject the names. The bill also eliminates the requirements for reporting by for-profit hospitals and eliminates the community benefit language in the prior version.

**SR 476 - Sen. John Albers**

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

**SR 542 - Sen. Gloria Butler**

**Colorectal Cancer Screenings Minimum Age** - Seeks to encourage the changing of the minimum age of colorectal cancer screenings.

**House Legislation**

**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 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.

**HB 441 - Rep. Katie Dempsey**

**Teledentistry** - Seeks to authorize and regulate teledentistry in this state by licensed dentists pursuant to permits issued by the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

**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. The new version addresses a definition for diagnostician (eliminating APRN and Physician's Assistant); a decreased benefit (lowering the amount from \$10,000 to \$3,000 lifetime benefit after diagnosis); and a requirement that the Department of Insurance to provide an annual report on the benefit activity so that changes may be made in the future.

**HB 455 - Rep. John LaHood**

**Physician Safe Haven** - Seeks to provide confidentiality protections to participants in a wellness program for health care workers.

**HB 502 - Rep. Deborah Silcox**

**Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act** - Seeks to update the definition of "cosmetic laser services" and addresses supervision requirements, eliminating the requirement for a senior cosmetic laser services practitioner to be "on-site". This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**HB 557 - Rep. Ron Stephens**

**APRN Schedule II Prescribing** - Seeks to authorize physicians to delegate the authority to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to prescribe limited Schedule II controlled substances with a maximum 5-day supply.

**HB 663 - Rep. Matt Hatchett**

**No Patient Left Alone Act** - Seeks to establish certain rights of minors and adults admitted to hospitals to authorize hospitals and long-term care facilities to limit or restrict visitation in certain circumstances and to require visitors to wear personal protective equipment.

**HB 872 - Rep. Lee Hawkins**

**Dental Student Service Cancellable Loans** - Seeks to expand the service cancelable loan program for physicians and other health care providers in underserved areas to include dental students.

**HB 874 - Rep. Lee Hawkins**

**School Automatic Defibrillators** - Seeks to require automated external defibrillators in all schools, provide for the establishment of emergency action plans to address a person in cardiac arrest, provide for internal response teams, and provide for practice drills. This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**HB 1010 - Rep. Jan Jones**

**Paid Parental Leave** - Seeks to increase the number of hours permitted for paid parental leave to 240 for state employees.

**HB 1028 - Rep. John LaHood**

**Department of Public Health Cleanup** - Seeks to to repeal the requirement of screening of public school children for scoliosis, to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to revise the state health officer's authorization to issue standing orders, to repeal provisions relating to the Georgia Diabetes Control Grant Program, to repeal provisions relating to a pilot program for preexposure prophylaxis drug assistance or services; to repeal provisions relating to control of mass gatherings. This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**HB 1046 - Rep. David Clark**

**APRN/PA Death Certificates** - Seeks to authorize advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to sign death certificates under delegating authority by the physicians. The new version stripped out the permissions for APRNs and PAs the ability to write home health orders; it left intact the permission for them to sign death certificates and granted them the authority to do so in Titles 31 and 43. The APRN or PA would be required to have such authority in the practice agreement or protocol from the physician. Additionally, they will be required to complete biennial continuing education regarding the recognition and documentation of the causes of death and appropriate execution of death certificates, as approved by the Composite Medical Board and check a box that the certificate is signed by a non-physician. Additionally, **SB 460 - Sen. Clint Dixon - APRN/PA Supervision**; was added, revising provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants that a physician can authorize and supervise at any one time from 4 to 8. Senator Rick Williams added language to provide **immunity from liability**. Lastly, the legislation now includes **HB 1037 - Rep. Lauren Daniel Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health** which seeks to create the Georgia Commission on Maternal and Infant Health.

**HB 1072 - Rep. Sharon Cooper**

**Drug Repository** - Seeks to provide for pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratios in the program, require reverse drug distributors to make and document diligent efforts to donate drugs rather than destroy them and provide for substitution of drugs in some instances. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved on to the Senate Rules committee. **HB 546 - Rep. Rick Jasperse, Pharmacy Practice Act** - Seeks to revise the definition of "pharmacy care," and allows pharmacists to perform prescription adaptation. It adds a new definition for "pharmacy care" to allow for the adaptation of a prescription drug order. It allows the pharmacist to change the quantity of medication prescribed under certain conditions; change the dosage of the prescription prescribed if in the best interest of the patient; or complete missing information on a prescription drug order if there is evidence to support the change. There is a requirement for the pharmacist to document any adaptation.

**1078 - Rep. Jesse Petrea**

**PACE Program Establishment** - Seeks to create a new adult day center licensure exclusion; to authorize the Department of Community Health to establish and implement the Georgia Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as part of the state's medical assistance program. This legislation passed the House floor, 165-1 and passed the Senate floor, 49-1.

**HB 1083 - Rep. Bruce Williamson**

**Residential Mental Health Services Licensing** - Seeks to extend grace periods applicable to the Department of Community Health, including creation and promulgation of rules and regulations and the issuance of a one-time provisional license. This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**HB 1114- Rep. Will Wade**

**Data Analysis for Tort Reform Act** - Seeks to provide for data collection from certain insurers, insurance rating organizations, and state agencies. This legislation failed on an initial Senate floor vote, 28-22, it is set for reconsideration for next week.

**HB 1326 - Rep. Ron Stephens**

**Dangerous Drug Clean Up** - Seeks to provide for certain provisions relating to Schedule I controlled substances, Schedule III controlled substances, and Schedule IV controlled substances. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved on to the Senate Rules committee. This legislation now awaits signature by the Governor.

**HB 1339 - Rep. Butch Parrish**

**Hospital Certificate of Need Update** - Seeks to amend Title 31 relating to the State's Certificate of Need Law. The final language left in place the capital thresholds in place for physician owned and hospital joint venture ASCs. The original House version of House Bill 1339 and the Senate version of the bill removed the capital thresholds. A few key points of the bill are:

- Exempting proposals to build hospitals in rural counties from having to obtain a CON if they plan to have a full-time emergency room, accept psychiatric and substance-abuse patients, participate in Medicaid, provide indigent care, and offer a training program.
- Allow ambulatory surgical centers to be utilized by physicians who are of the same single specialty, who may include physicians who are not owners or employees of the single group practice of physicians that own and operate the center.
- Allow for entering into an arrangement with an outside entity for practice management and/or administrative services
- Allow rural hospitals that have been closed to reopen without a CON, a provision aimed at the planned reopening of a closed hospital in Cuthbert.
- Exempting a proposed hospital in southern Fulton County from having to get a CON would pave the way for a new facility to replace the Atlanta Medical Center, which closed its doors in 2022.
- Raise the state's rural hospital tax credit from an annual cap of \$75 million to \$100 million.

**HB 1409 - Rep. Rob Leverett**

**Mental Health Tort Relief** - Seeks to limit liability for mental health care providers under certain circumstances. Specifically, the bill limits liability for mental health care

providers providing care to individuals age 21 or under to instances of gross negligence (instead of mere negligence), provides considerations for the jury in such cases, and limits liability for punitive damages.

## Defeated Legislation

### Senate Legislation

#### **SB 109 - Sen. Shelly Echols**

**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. This would increase patient access to monitors because access to a pharmacy is more accessible than to an endocrinologist (**This underlying legislation was passed on SB 35**). **HB 417 - Rep. David Knight Insurance Discrimination** was added which seeks to prohibit insurers from discriminating against certain health care facilities and providers in connection with the procurement, delivery, and administration of provider administered drugs.

#### **SB 307 - Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD**

**Gold Card** - Seeks to require insurers operating in the state to create and register a prior authorization program with the Department of Insurance. The legislation will streamline the approval process for providers that meet certain thresholds as it relates to prior authorization. Substituted into the original bill is also **HB 924 - Rep. Mandi Ballinger, Insurance Discrimination (Whitebagging)** - Seeks to prohibit insurers from discriminating against certain health care facilities and providers in connection with the procurement, delivery, and administration of provider administered drugs. Specifically, the bill targets “white bagging” and “brown bagging” practices and prohibits insurers from requiring insureds to obtain provider administered drugs through specific specialty pharmacies. The bill does not prohibit these practices if optional and selected, but it does bar insurers from requiring insureds to secure pharmaceuticals in this way.

#### **SB 320 - Sen. Doc Rhett**

**Sentencing and Imposition of Punishment of HIV** - Seeks to provide for time frames for HIV testing relating, for sentencing and imposition of punishment, to provide for additional testing and to provide for disclosure of test results.

#### **SB 336 - Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD**

**Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Designees** - Seeks to amend Titles 37, 39, and 49. This measure allows designees to be assigned to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. It also repeals two reports from DBHDD. The measure authorizes the Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists the ability to waive experience requirements for those coming from states with similar experience requirements. An amendment to include a designee for the Commissioner of Veteran Services was approved.

#### **SB 427 - Sen. Blake Tillery**

**Pharmaceutical and Legal Disclosures** - Seeks to provide for disclosure requirements for advertisements for legal services and for drugs. An amendment was

made and accepted to remove lines 39-42 to clarify the drug portion that follows federal guidelines.

**SB 428 - Sen. Blake Tillery**

**Motor Vehicle Injury Tort** - Seeks to provide for a cap on damages recoverable against foster parents in personal injury actions involving the use of a motor vehicle by a child where the liability of the foster parent is based solely upon application of the family-purpose car doctrine or the negligent entrustment doctrine.

**SB 431 - Sen Blake Tillery**

**APEX Doctrine** - Seeks to remove certain factors from consideration in discovery determinations (Bill seeks to strike 2023 update to GA law).

**SB 455 - Sen. Brian Strickland**

**Medical Assistance Provisions** - Seeks to bar liable third-party payers from refusing payment solely because a health care item or service did not receive prior authorization and to require a third-party payer to respond to a state inquiry regarding a health care claim within 90 days. Additionally, **HB 1179 - Rep. Sharon Cooper, Mental Health Step Therapy** - Seeks to provide that step therapy protocols may not be required for medications prescribed for the treatment of serious mental illness under health benefit plans to establishment by health benefit plans of step therapy protocols, exception process, time requirements, appeals, construction, and application and to provide that step therapy protocols may not be required for medications prescribed for the treatment of serious mental illness under health benefit plans. This legislation awaits an agree by the Senate.

**SB 460 - Sen. Clint Dixon**

**APRN/PA Supervision & CRNA Independent Practice** - Seeks to revise provisions relating to the number of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants that a physician can authorize and supervise at any one time from 4 to 8. Additionally, a floor amendment was made by Senator Brass to amend Title 43 to expand a nurse anesthetist's scope of practice. The measure seeks to allow certified nurse anesthetists to administer anesthesia in rural county hospitals that qualify for the Rural Hospital Tax Credit.

**SB 473 - Sen. John Albers, Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act** - Seeks to enact the "Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act"; to protect the privacy of consumer personal data in this state.

**SB 481 - Sen. Mike Hodges**

**Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System** - Seeks to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System.

**SB 519 - Sen. Ben Watson**

**Puberty Blockers** - Seeks to prohibit prescribing or administering certain hormone replacement therapies and puberty blocking medications to minors.

**SB 529 - Sen. Kim Jackson**

**Foreign Medical Graduates** - Seeks to provide for certain licensure for qualifying foreign medical graduates and to provide for a nonrenewable limited provisional license under certain conditions.

**House Legislation**

**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. This legislation addresses the ability for individuals to get access to HIV medications and allows individuals to live normally if they take their medications with their viral suppression load so that they do not transmit the disease. It allows individuals who have HIV to go into Medicaid when eligible – it costs about \$10,000 to treat folks, and if AIDS, it costs \$30,000 annually (without hospitalizations). Changes were made to reflect the legislation taking the cap from 138 to 100.

**HB 278 - Rep. John LaHood**

**Athletic Trainers Supervision** - Seeks to require athletic training students to be under the direct supervision of a physician or licensed athletic trainer.

**HB 343 - Rep. Mark Newton**

**Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Patients (Share the Savings)**- Seeks to require pharmacy benefits managers to calculate defined cost sharing for insureds at the point of sale. Patients often receive explanations of benefits which outline the list price for a service and contract price. The bill addresses exemptions, and it omits self-funded plans which are federally regulated.

**HB 434 - Rep. Lee Hawkins**

**Radiologist Assistants** - Seeks to provide for the licensing of radiologist assistants.

**HB 470 - Rep. Sharon Cooper**

**CANDOR** - Seeks to establish a CANDOR system that would allow for voluntary open communications related to healthcare that are protected from future disclosure in a civil suit.

**HB 498 - Rep. Danny Mathis**

**Funeral Directors and Embalmers Licensing Provisions** is now **SB 473 - Sen. John Albers, Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act** - Seeks to enact the "Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act"; to protect the privacy of consumer personal data in this state. This legislation originated back to previous versions and stronger than the language that left the House Technology committee. All HIPPA and clinical research protection languages remain intact.

**HB 822 - Rep. Kasey Carpenter**

**HIV in Sex Education** - Seeks to amend Title 20 to provide that the prescribed course of study in sex education and HIV prevention instruction is age-appropriate and medically accurate. It also requires that such courses include instruction on consent.

**HB 856 - Rep. Michelle Au, MD**

**Urgent Insulin Safety Net Program Act** - Seeks to make insulin accessible to individuals who are in urgent need of a short-term affordable insulin supply, provide for a pharmacy to dispense one additional short-term affordable urgent insulin supply under certain conditions and require the Department of Community Health to develop an application form, an information sheet, and satisfaction surveys regarding such program.

**HB 857 - Rep. Michelle Au, MD**

**Continuing Insulin Safety Net Act** - Seeks to make insulin accessible, under certain conditions, to an eligible individual who needs an affordable supply of insulin for up to one year, with the option to renew annually, allow the pharmacy to collect a copayment not to exceed \$75.00 for insulin dispensed through such program, and provide for re-orders and renewals; to provide for the development of an application form, an information sheet, and satisfaction surveys.

**HB 1030 - Rep. Clint Crowe**

**Safe Place for Newborns** - Seeks to codify what a newborn safety device is and defines ambulance services. A parent can leave a newborn no more than 30 days old with staff at a licensed ambulance service, fire station, medical facility, police station, or in a newborn safety device. The measure allows for these devices to be installed at medical facilities, police stations, fire stations, and ambulance service locations.

**HB 1050 - Rep. Karen Mathiak**

**Licensing Provisions for Professional Counselors** - Seeks to change licensing provisions relative to professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists

**HB 1081 - Rep. Darlene Taylor**

**Prenatal Biomarker Testing** - Seeks to provide for mandatory preeclampsia biomarker testing for pregnant women if they are admitted and at the physician's discretion after the 23 week period.

**HB 1104 - Rep. Omari Crawford**

**Note: SUBJECT CHANGE: Mental Health Resources Student Athletes** - Seeks to require schools to make mental health resources available to student-athletes. The legislation would mandate no additional screenings. Specifically, the bill requires that school athletic associations collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to develop mental health awareness materials for posting online and requires coaches to review mental health awareness materials annually. A substitute was presented that includes the following:

- Requiring notification to parents and legal guardians of public school students of the right to receive email notification each time their child obtains school library materials
- Authorizing Georgia public school to operate or facilitate separate teams for members of each gender where selection for such teams is based upon competitive fairness or student safety
- Prohibiting sex education for public school students in this state before the 5th grade.

Additionally, there was an amendment offered replacing references to “mental health” with “suicide risk and prevention” and removing private schools from the requirement.

**HB 1113 - Rep. Matt Reeves**

**Personal Privacy Protection Act** - Seeks to prohibit state agencies from disclosing certain information but does not interfere with law enforcement or political disclosures. Additionally, nonprofits are protected by this legislation. This legislation received a Do Pass and moved on to the House Rules committee.

**HB 1125 - Rep. Sharon Cooper**

**Phase Out Subminimum Wage Person Disabilities** - Seeks to phase out the payment of subminimum wage to persons with disabilities and to repeal provisions concerning exemptions to the state minimum wage law for persons with disabilities.

**HB 1170 - Rep. Lee Hawkins**

**Government Buildings Accessing Opioid Antagonists** - Seeks to require that certain state government buildings, courthouses, and university buildings maintain and make accessible opioid antagonists (**Underlying bill was passed on SB 395**). Additionally, **SB 519 - Sen. Ben Watson, Puberty Blockers**, was added to the

legislation which seeks to prohibit prescribing or administering certain hormone replacement therapies and puberty blocking medications to minors.

**HB 1175 - Rep. Chas Cannon**

**Physical Therapy Direct Access** - Seeks to remove the requirement for physical therapists to receive a referral from the patient's provider to continue treatment after 21 days or 8 visits.

**HB 1260 - Rep. Houston Gaines**

**Georgia Nicotine Vapor Products Directory Act** - Seeks to protect retailers and convenience stores from inappropriate vape products. The new Substitute allows products pending FDA approval to be sold along with already approved products. Currently, there are 23 approved products.

**HB 1264 - Rep. Ron Stephens**

**Provider Wellness Program** - to authorize the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists to establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals. It also authorizes the Georgia Board of Nursing to establish a professional health program to monitor and rehabilitate impaired healthcare professionals **(Underlying bill was passed on SB 12)** Additionally, **SB 529 - Sen. Kim Jackson, Foreign Medical Graduates** - Seeks to provide for certain licensure for qualifying foreign medical graduates and to provide for a nonrenewable limited provisional license under certain conditions.

**HB 1244 - Rep. Todd Jones**

**Intellectual Property Protection Act** - Seeks to provide for the establishment of dispute financing provisions.

**HB 1301 - 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 1340 - Rep. Scott Hilton**

**Credentialing of Qualified Behavioral Health Analysts** - Seeks to provide for credentialing of qualified behavior analysts and qualified autism services practitioner-supervisors.