



AIA
Georgia

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GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1, 2019
Week 3

WEEKLY REPORT

The slow start to the 2019 legislative session continues. Legislators convened on Monday with the threat of winter weather predicted to come in on Tuesday afternoon. With State employees taking a snow day, both Chambers gaveled in and out on Wednesday so as to count a legislative day but allow members to avoid winter conditions on the roads. With the exception of a few House Committees, most meetings were canceled for the afternoon.

Following a break to avoid Superbowl gridlock, legislators will be back at it on Tuesday, February 5th. The general consensus is that everyone is ready to get to work on legislation!

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

House subcommittees of Appropriations began meeting this week to consider the Amended FY 2019 budget proposals introduced by Governor Kemp last week. The House expects to send its final recommendations to the Senate by the end of next week.

On Monday, the Human Resources subcommittee and the Education Subcommittee met to hear from Commissioners and Directors on their budget requests.

Of note, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald requested \$8.4 million to generate the Apex program to all of Georgia's schools. The program calls for new counseling and other mental health and wraparound services to be delivered by community service boards in schools. Currently there are 412 schools being served by this program. The additional funds would be to dramatically expand the program. This is a part of Governor Kemp's pledge to expand mental health services for students.

Ted Beck presented to the Education subcommittee. He reiterated the Governor's resolve to provide each of Georgia's public schools with a one-time \$30,000 school security grant.

On Tuesday, in spite of the winter weather, the Health subcommittee of Appropriations met to review Department requests for the AFY19 budget. Department of Community Health Commissioner Frank Berry presented his budgetary needs. The majority of his requests centered around Medicaid adjustments. \$1 million will go towards an external consultant to consider options for a Medicaid waiver in Georgia. Additionally, the budget request included \$162.1 million for benefit growth in the State Health Benefit Plan.

NEW LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

(Please also find an attached spreadsheet with all bills we are following)

HB 42 – (Representative Scot Turner) This bill prohibits professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or revoking the license of a person who is in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal program.

referred to Higher Education. **AIA position: SUPPORT**

LEGISLATION WE ARE FOLLOWING

SB 15 – (Senator John Albers) “Keeping Georgia's Schools Safe Act.” This bill adds additional requirements to the existing public school threat assessment requirements to the existing requirements and imposes the collective list on private schools as well. The additions include:

- Preparation for security issues involving school functions held outside of normal school hours
- Addressing issues involving transportation to and from school functions when the transportation is furnished by the school or school system
- Requiring annual drills for responses to fire, weather, acts of violence, and acts of terrorism



Client Watch Report for AIA

Shareable link: [Client Watch Report for AIA](#)

Importance	Bill	Description	Summary	Sponsor	Committees	Status	Analysis
3-Medium	HB42	<p>HB 42 - Professional licensing boards; refuse to issue a license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan; prohibit educational loan; prohibit</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend various titles of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated so as to prohibit professional licensing boards from refusing to issue a license or suspending or revoking the license of a person who is a borrower in default under an educational loan issued through the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation or through a federal agency; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>	(1) Turner , Scot 21st	HC: Higher Education	Jan/29/2019 - House Second Readers	

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Contact Us

Please contact your lobbying team if you have any questions or concerns.

Don Bolia:

404-314-4484

Don.Bolia@peachgr.com

Laura Norton:

678-699-6426

Laura.Norton@peachgr.com

Brittany Ellison

404-516-7825

Brittany@peachgr.com

Luc Boulet

678-978-1030

liboulet@gmail.com