

30 March 2017

LWVAF, Report from the Capitol, Week 12

The General Assembly has adjourned 'sine die', without day for reconvening. This report contains action for the last two days. There were more bills passed on Days 39 and 40 than in the previous 38 legislative days. Thus, the length of this report.

The final report will be available at the League's Legislative Reception on April 22 at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 4393 Garmon Rd, 10 a.m. Free. Food available. Thereafter, the report will be posted on the web site, www.lwvaf.org.

BOLD Bill Number = final passage

CA = constitutional amendment. Requires a 2/3s vote in each chamber and a majority vote in the next general election scheduled for November 2018. CAs need no signature.

NNS = Needs No Signature

TGFS = To Governor for Signature

In CHAMBERS

BUDGET

CHILDREN

SB 160 Harper – 7 **TGFS** Back the Badge Act of 2017. Superior court shall have primary jurisdiction of minors, age 13 – 17, for aggravated assault or aggravated battery on a police or other public safety officer in the line of duty. Imprisonment imposed will not be suspended, stayed, probated, or deferred by the sentencing judge. Any person causing public safety officers to be exposed to bodily fluids or materials while in the line of duty is guilty of a felony.

SB 168 Miller – 39 **TGFS** Grants access to child abuse records to a licensed adoption agency when placing a child for adoption. Also law enforcement agencies in GA, departments of Community Supervision, Corrections, and Juvenile Justice may have access when such departments are providing supervision or services concurrently with Department of Family and Children's Services, unless federal law or regulations prohibit release.

HB 250 Ballinger – 23 **TGFS** An employee of early care and learning who received a satisfactory fingerprint records check within the previous 24 months is exempt from an additional background check for providing care to children placed in a foster home.

EDUCATION

HR 57 Carter – 175 **NNS** Creates the 15 member House Elementary and Secondary School Nutrition Programs Study Committee to study and collect information on the overall condition of school nutrition programs in GA and to discuss opportunities for improvement to the state administration of these programs. Report due 12-1-17.

SR 95 Black – 8 **TO BALLOT CA** to divide ESPLOST proceeds between a county school system and any city school system therein. The split shall be based on the FTE in each system unless an agreement is reached between the systems for another formula which no longer has to be ratified by the legislature. If no agreement is reached, the school system with the higher enrollment may call a referendum for the area which it serves. Enabling legislation is SB 76 which has not yet passed.

HB 139 Belton – 112 **TGFS** Requires all financial information to be disclosed publicly by school and school district and dictates how schools can be compared, i.e. by per pupil or per square foot expenditure. DOE will collect and develop the website. Individual districts and schools which have a web site must include a link to the DOE site. *Currently, the chart of accounts required to be used by school districts makes such per school expenditures problematic, except for*

direct salaries which constitute 80% or more per school expenses while central office salaries are not generally distributed between schools served. Distributing much of the non-salaried expenses ordered by the school district but used by multiple schools requires cost accounting techniques which do not exist in school districts. DOE could distribute indirect expenses among the schools in the district on the bases of percent of FTEs in each school. (HB 148) Requires DOE to provide a unique identification number for students who are children of active military personnel so that statistics can be aggregated for them. *The DOE already identifies these students in their digital record.*

SB 149 Jones – 10 **TGFS** School resource officers may have training as defined by the GA Peace Officers Standards & Training Council if assignment of duties is to any K-12 school. The training is at least 40 hours and is not applicable to officers who have had SRO training in the last 24 months. At a minimum the training shall cover search and seizure in a K-12 school, criminal offenses, gang awareness, drug awareness, interviews and interrogations, emergency preparedness, and interpersonal interactions with adolescents including encountering mental issues.

SB 186 Tippins – 37 **TGFS** Students completing high school through dual enrollment at technical colleges or via internet are eligible for a HOPE grant towards an associate's degree. *Students who take courses at a technical college while in high school are paid from a pot of money appropriated annually by the legislature. When the student has completed the work on the specific industry certificate, the student may be a few hours [15 or so] short of an associate's degree. But the funding stream for the certificate will not pay for that additional coursework, and the eligibility for HOPE grant may not be met. This bill allows the lottery funded HOPE to complete the additional required hours for an associate's degree.* (HB331) Kinship caregivers may be given authority to enroll a child in school and get medical care related to education, such as vaccinations. The caregiver will become the primary contact for that child's education experience, and eligible to sign permission for field trips, extracurricular activities. The affidavit signed by the parent is good for 1 year and can be revoked at any time. No other parental powers are authorized, such as getting more comprehensive health care for the child, consenting to marriage, or approval for an abortion.

HB 198 Dempsey – 13 **TGFS** In grades 6 – 12 when the required information about the meningitis vaccine is distributed by the school, information about influenza and its vaccine is also to be distributed. DOE and DPH shall make information available to the schools regarding these diseases and their vaccines and post it on their website.

SB 211 Tippins – 37 **TGFS** SBOE is to consult with local boards of education regarding formative tests in grades 1-2 and the use of formative tests in grades 3-8 so as to align with summative tests. A high school summative test will be given only in grade 12. *Formative tests are used to determine what students need to meet the criteria for the class. Summative tests query the students about the standards that are supposed to have been taught. Summative tests are what the state requires now, given after the teaching. Formative tests are given before the teaching, thus one cannot use the results of a formative test to determine if the student has learned the required standards or if a teacher has taught all that is supposed to be covered.* (HB 114) Bans local boards of education for excluding students from consideration of valedictorian or salutatorian if the student is enrolled in any dual enrollment courses. Student must have taken at least one course at the high school during grades 9-12. Does not apply to students transferring into a school in the third year or later. *With more and more students taking dual credit courses there has been some resentment when those students were given valedictorian or salutatorian, especially if they had taken no courses at the school. So many local school boards have adopted policies about the number of credits or courses a student must take at the school to be eligible for these honor recognitions. This bill will set a minimum standard.*

HB 237 Coleman – 97 **TGFS** The Public Education Innovation Fund Foundation under the Office of Student Achievement is authorized in 2018 to receive private donations to provide competitive grants to the lowest performing public schools to implement academic and organizational innovations to improve student achievement and to disseminate information about successful innovations in other public schools. Criteria for grant awards include the potential for improvement in achievement, potential for adoption by other schools, quality of the proposal design, costs and other characteristics. The foundation shall report annually to the Department of Revenue a number and amount of grants and other data as requested. DOR shall post the report on its web site. Donors and amounts donated shall be public information as shall be the schools receiving the grants. An income tax credit to donors of up to \$1000 for single taxpayers and \$2500 for married taxpayers shall be available. Members of an LLC, subchapter S corporation or a partner in a partnership may claim up to \$10,000 per year credit against income from those sources. Unused tax credits can be carried forward. The total state cap for the credits is \$5 million, first come first served. The grant sunsets in 2020.

HB 338 Tanner – 9 **TGFS First Priority Act.** A Chief Turnaround Officer, CTO, will be hired by the state board of education, work and consult with the state school superintendent, and report to the board. This person shall have experience as a principal or higher for at least three years in a public school system, extensive experience in turning around failing schools. The CTO will then hire turnaround coaches to work with schools in the greatest need of assistance among the lowest 5% in achievement. These schools are identified by the CTO. Students will be screened within the first 60 days of the school being identified. An evaluation will be done by the turnaround team as to the needs in the school. Coaches will assist in creating local collaborations to address personal and community conditions such as poverty, lack of economic development, safety, transportation options for parents and students, adult educational opportunities, wellness, and mental health services. Each local board under a contract with DOE, currently 178 of the 180 school districts, will request changes to the contract to agree to receive and pay for assistance for its needy schools. Those without contracts will be held to current law for school underachievement. If after 3 years, the school is not improving and not cooperating with the CTO or following the turnaround plan, the CTO may consider the efforts as likely to make progress or require various adjustment by the local board of education including removal of school personnel, becoming a charter school, appointing a new principal, relocating students, allowing another school system to manage the school. If after 5 years, one half or more of a local school district's schools are not improving, the governor can remove the school board members having served 2 years or more in a manner similar to removal when accreditation is lost. An Educational Advisory Committee, composed of several recognized educational groups and four political appointees, is to provide input on several areas such as CTO qualifications, and school district performance. A Leadership Academy is to be formed to train principals for low performing schools. A Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process is created to audit financial responsibility and student performance. Southern Association of College and Schools, SACS, looks principally at governance. CTO and coaches are explicitly a state cost, as is any third party brought in to help evaluate the school. ***Plan B, the alternative to the failed Amendment 1. Familiar concepts. The CTO and CT coaches report to the governor through the state board of education appointed by the governor. The lowest scores on the CCRPI report determined by the Office of Student Achievement, appointed by the governor, are the schools targeted. Paying for these new services will be through the local school systems in which these schools reside. The state school superintendent seems to be relegated to an advisory role, even though part of DOE is already doing very similar work. And there already exists a leadership academy, GLISI, GA Leadership Institute for School Improvement. Some positives. The CTO will be an educator and there will be vetting by the Educational Advisory Committee as well as the state school board. The author has taken input from any legitimate group that offered it, and accepted some of the recommendations. The students and schools stay with the school district. The mechanism of the school district contractually agreeing to have 'outsiders' in the school means the local board retains some oversight. This is the way DOE is using now to get into low performing schools. Districts which implement school improvement plans of their own choice will be bypassed for intervention if some progress is being made. There is \$1 million in the 2018 budget to hire the CTO and the coaches.***

HB 430 Brockway – 102 **TGFS** Implements charter school recommendations of the Governor's Education Reform Commission. Defines school district vacant buildings that must be given to the charter schools for use, without charge as not used for students for two years and not in the district's 5 year facility plan.

HR 634 Coomer – 14 **NNS** Creates a 3-member House Study Committee on Civics Education in GA to study how civics education is delivered in this state and other states by both school and non-profit organizations. Make recommendations to ensure that all state standards, curricula, and tests remain consistent with furthering GA's students' civics literacy. Report due 12-1-17.

HR 686 Tanner – 9 **NNS** Creates the 3 member House Study Committee on Equitable Local Education Funding to study the adequate and equitable funding of the education system in GA.

ELECTIONS/ETHICS

HB 268 Fleming – 121 **TGFS** Election officials requiring certification must complete the process within six months following their appointment. Repeals provision for municipal registrars. Eliminates as an acceptable photo ID the Bureau of Indian Affairs card number, the tribal card number, or the tribal enrollment number. Polling places outside the boundaries of the precinct shall be determined 90 or more days before an election. Gives precinct workers authority to

manage the number of people within a polling place to prevent confusion, congestion, and inconvenience to voters. A voter registration applicant will have 26 months, now 30 days, to correct or submit incomplete information. In presidential election years, a request for an absentee ballot in the presidential preferential primary will automatically put one on the list to get an absentee ballot in all the other elections that year. Independent candidates declare for office about the time partisan candidates do. . Election superintendents may correct errors on the ballot and report same to the Secretary of State within 24 hours. *A proposal of the Secretary of State.*

SR 403 Shafer – 48 NNS Appointing Seth Harp to the State Election Board. *Mr. Harp is a lawyer from the Columbus area and served several terms in the state Senate. This seat was vacated by Tex McIver.*

GOVERNMENT - GENERAL

HB 87 Raffensperger – 50 TGFS Annual registration of corporations, partnerships, and associations may be extended by the Secretary of State up 3 years. Non profits can transfer their state of domicile to GA just as corporations can and domiciled non profits can move to another state.

SB 117 Martin -9 TGFS Authorizes GA Technology Authority to set uniform policies and procedures for cybersecurity in the executive branch including departments headed by constitutional officers. GTA may grant a waiver if special conditions apply, such as client-attorney privileges. Constitutional departments have options to not adhere to GTA procedures. *Currently, there is no authority over departments headed by constitutional officers. GA has not gotten insurance against cyber security intrusions because there is no authority to do so.*

SR 130 Hufstetler – 52 TGFS Creates the 15 member Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee to recommend how data can be shared with other state government entities and the public without compromising individual privacy. There are 4 members from each chamber and 7 citizens with specific data information or security experience. Report due 12-1-17.

SB 141 Thompson - 14 TGFS An engineering evaluation of the safety mechanisms and condition of critical components is required to get a permit for a carnival ride after 1-1-18.

HB 405 Hitchens – 161 TGFS Requires the GA Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to issue ID cards to facilitate the transport and distribution of essentials in commerce during a state of emergency declared by the governor. *This enables trucks and personnel transporting supplies into an area hit by an emergency, or people going into an area which public service personnel have declared off limits to supply services, to get through without delay and with the full knowledge that they are about legitimate activities.*

HB 434 Willard – 51 TGFS Blighted property, which occurs in nearly every city, can be exempted from the restriction on eminent domain that the property must be used for 20 years for public purposes. A court will determine if the property is blighted. The local government can then condemn it, sell it to a developer to put something on the property with the same zoning as it currently has. So if residential property is blighted, it can be redeveloped for residential purposes only.

HR 560 Drenner – 85 NNS Creates the 5-member House Study Committee on Public Utility Payment Options for Customers in Need of Assistance. Customers on government fixed incomes need help to get utilities paid especially those run by governments.

GOVERNMENT – COUNTIES AND CITIES

HR 284 LaRiccia – 169 NNS Creates the 9-member House Study Committee on State and Local Construction Management to study the strengths and weaknesses of the construction management at risk method and the design, bid, and build method. The House shall appoint 7 members plus the State School Superintendent and a representative of the University System of GA shall be on the committee. Report due 12-1-17.

HB 481 Tanner – 9 TGFS Local government ordinances, regulations, or resolutions regarding the testing or operation of unmanned aircraft systems, drones, are no longer valid, that is, preempted by the state. They may, however, adopt an

ordinance to enforce FAA restrictions or regulate the launching or intentional landing of drones on its public property. State entities may provide for or prohibit operation of drones on public property owned by the entity.

GOVERNMENT – COURTS AND CRIMES

HB 5 Caldwell – 131 **TGFS** Juvenile Court judges, not superior court judges assuming duties of the juvenile court, will have salary support from the state increased subject to appropriations. Full time judges will receive \$100K state support as a group; part time judges will receive lesser amounts depending on the number of days worked. Local governments may supplement this salary.

HB 88 Fleming – 121 **TGFS** A superior or state court judge shall vacate the office immediately if disbarred or suspended from the practice of law whether voluntary or involuntary.

SB 95 Stone – 23 **TGFS** The state wide master jury list developed by the GA Crime Information Center will now include a token numerical value of the social security number of each name. Race as an identifier has been removed. The Council shall provide the agency supplying the names the software to generate this token numerical value. *Why is the social security number necessary for a jury member? This exposes the jury member to identity theft if the ‘token number’ can be cracked.*

SB 104 James – 35 **TGFS** Requires the posting of the human trafficking hotline notice in all government buildings. Removes the sunset date for this requirement in law. (HB9) Bans using any device to film under or through a person’s clothing by anyone 16 and over without consent of the person observed. Exceptions are law enforcement if investigating or prosecuting a criminal offense or a retailer monitoring a customer changing room if signage conspicuously warns of such surveillance. (HB67) Entering a motor vehicle with intent to commit a theft or felony has an increased penalty of a \$5000 fine for the first conviction. For a second conviction, imprisonment is increased up to 5 years. For a third or subsequent conviction, imprisonment is up to 10 years. If the crime is at a gas station, the fine increases to \$100,000 and imprisonment is up to 15 years. (HB213) Adds fentanyl to morphine, opium, and heroin regarding the offense of trafficking in illegal drugs. *Fentanyl is cheap to produce and is much stronger. It is often used to cut heroin, contributing to overdoses.*

HB 126 Willard – 51 **TGFS** Expands the Judicial Qualifications Commission to 10 members to be confirmed by the Senate. Seven shall be the Investigative panel and three shall be the hearing panel. The Investigative Panel shall have an attorney appointed by the governor, two judges appointed by the Supreme Court, one attorney and one citizen each appointed by the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House. The hearing panel shall be one citizen appointed by the governor, and one judge and one attorney appointed by the Supreme Court. *Another change to the JQC approved by the citizens on the Nov ‘16 ballot.*

SB 250 Mullis – 53 **TGFS** People who are or should be registered on another state’s sexual offender registry cannot lawfully loiter near any child care facility, school, or any area where minors congregate.

HB 251 Ealum – 153 **TGFS** During a declared emergency, Department of Corrects personnel and people in their custody and under their direction may go onto private property for property protection, debris removal, restoration of services, and infrastructure repair and relocation. They shall avoid interfering with the rights of the private property owner and shall vacate the property if the owner requests.

HB 279 Ballinger – 23 **TGFS** A name change requested by a person alleging to be a victim of family violence shall be under seal and not require public notice.

HB 341 Reeves – 34 **TGFS** For the purchase of sex from individuals in sexual servitude, the mandatory sentence is 24 hours in jail.

HB 343 Hilton – 95 **TGFS** Mentally retarded and mental retardation as terms are removed from the code, and instead uses the terms intellectual disability and developmental disability. *Most states, 43, and the federal law have removed this terminology.*

HB 452 Petrea – 166 **TGFS** Aliens who have committed a felony and are released from federal custody into GA are to be publicly posted by the GBI within 12 hours and be sent to the GA Sheriffs' Association. The information is to come from the Law Enforcement Notification System of the Enforcement Integrated Database of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Establishes a Department of Homeland Security with a board, now a part of GEMA. Changes the name of GEMHSA back to GEMA.

GOVERNMENT – CAPITOL AND GROUNDS

HR 629 Hatchett - 150 **NNS PASSED** House and
SR 414 Mullis - 53 **NNS PASSED** Senate

Creates an 8- member Senate Study Committee on the Utilization and Modernization of the State Capitol.

GOVERNMENT - EMPLOYMENT

SB 201 Miller – 49 **TGFS** Earned sick leave from employers of 25 or more, including the state and any political subdivisions, may be used for immediate family members. Nothing requires the employer to offer sick leave or to allow an employee to use more than 5 days for an immediate family member. Sunsets this provision in three years.

HB 202 Powell – 171 **TGFS** Increases the salary of the governor to \$175,000 per year, currently \$139,000, effective 1-1-19. Establishes a 5 member state commission on Compensation to evaluate salaries of all constitutional officers and members of the legislature and full time heads of state agencies.

HB 243 Werkheiser – 157 **TGFS** Prohibits local governments from requiring private employers to pay employees due to shift cancellations or schedule changes.

HB 312 Maxwell – 17 **TGFS** Employees Retirement System, ERS, may include as part of a deferred compensation plan, a Roth plan.

HB 370 Hilton – 95 **TGFS** Council of Municipal Court Judges may include as part of a deferred compensation plan, a Roth plan.

GOVERNMENT – ENVIRONMENT

HR 482 Parsons – 44 **NNS** Urges the GA delegation to reestablish the Nuclear Waste Program per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Waste has nowhere to go. Can Yucca Mountain be used or not.

GOVERNMENT – FEDERAL ISSUES

GUNS

HB 280 Ballinger – 23 **TGFS** Weapons may be carried on postsecondary public campuses by license holders age 21 or older, except in buildings and property used for child care centers, sporting events, student housing including fraternity and sorority houses, buildings where college and career classes are held, buildings where high school students may be in class, and faculty and staff or administrative offices where discipline proceedings are conducted. Only concealed handguns are permitted. *Campus Carry. GA is one of 17 states that ban carrying weapons on campus.*

HB 292 Jasperse – 11 **TGFS** Anyone licensed to carry a weapon in another state may carry in GA for up to 90 days. Persons hunting or fishing, if licensed to do so, may carry a knife without a license while hunting or fishing. Retired law enforcement officers with 10 years of experience and honorably retired may carry a weapon in schools, at school functions, or on school buses without a license.

HB 406 Powell – 32 **TGFS** Those licensed in other states to carry a weapon shall be able to carry a weapon in GA, if age 21 or over. *Reciprocity with other states cannot be 100% if the other state does not allow persons under 21 to carry. GA allows those between 18 and 21 to carry if they have been in the military.*

HEALTH

SB 14 Burke – 11 **TGFS** Rural hospitals may receive state grants through the Department of Community Health. Hospital must be in a county of 50,000 or less population, excluding any military personnel, be operated by a county or city authority, accept Medicare and Medicaid patients, serve indigent care patients up to 10% of revenues.

SB 16 Watson – 1 **TGFS** Adds diagnoses of Tourette’s syndrome, autism, Alzheimers, AIDS, epidermolysis bullosa, peripheral neuropathy to those eligible to be registered to legally possess medical marijuana. Hospice patients are eligible for registration. Lawful possession of low THC oil for medical purposes is when it is in a pharmaceutical container labeled by the manufacturer indicating the percent of tetrahydrocannabinol therein. The person must be registered with the Department of Public Health or have a registration card from another state and in the state less than 45 days.

SB 41 Unterman – 45 **TGFS** Those who rent or sell durable medical equipment directly to customers are to be licensed for a 3 year term, except entities already licensed such as hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, pharmacies and pharmacists, government owned health care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assistant living facilities, licensed health care professionals who provide durable medical equipment within their scope of practice, suppliers of insulin and infusion pumps and related services, and manufacturers and wholesale distributors that do not provide equipment directly to customers. *Three fourths of durable medical equipment is paid for by a government program. Bill targets entities that deliver to homes.*

SB 47 Hufstetler – 52 **TGFS** Exempts from licensure a physician, physician assistant and athletic trainer licensed in another state but traveling into GA with a sports team for training or competition for up to 10 days. The physician, physician assistant and athletic trainer limited to serving the team members and staff.

SB 88 Mullis – 53 **TGFS** Narcotic Treatment Programs Enforcement Act. Regulates narcotic treatment programs and licenses programs in 49 regions of the state, the same as judicial regions. Defines scope and regulations for geographic placement of programs. Allows 4 treatment programs in each region and grandfathers existing programs. Applicants must demonstrate need and solicit public input. *Opioid addictions are escalating. Good treatment programs provide methadone for drug therapy, which trades one addiction for another, and extensive counseling so the addiction can be conquered, requiring each treatment program to have both a medical program and a counseling program. Much of this proposal is encoding in law what is already in regulations.*

SB 106 Kirk – 13 **TGFS** Anesthesia administered by a certified registered nurse anesthetist within the scope of practice is authorized in pain clinics as long as there is a written physician’s order and a patient written consent.

SB 109 Williams – 27 **TGFS** Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA) is a multistate compact to recognize EMTs, advanced EMTs and paramedics licensure, authority, and regulation from other states in the compact.

SB 121 Miller – 49 **TGFS** The state health officer may allow opioid antagonists to be accessible under a standing order statewide and shall be immune from any civil liability, criminal responsibility or professional licensing sanctions if acting in good faith. Each pharmacy shall record every opioid antagonist dispensed and keep available for two years.

SB 125 Jeffares – 28 **TGFS** A physician may delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe hydrocodone compound products not in excess of a 5 day supply if not more than 30 tablets or 300 milligrams. Must complete 3 hours of continuing education every two years on hydrocodone medications.

HB 146 Gravely – 67 **TGFS** Firefighters who get specific cancers receive \$25000 at the time of the diagnosis and after an evaluation at 6 months, if the firefighter cannot return to work, 60% of salary for an additional 36 months. *2/3 of firefighters get cancer compared to 22% of the general population.*

SB 153 Brass – 28 **TGFS** Licensed optometrists may administer certain drugs by injection if under the direct supervision of a physician of ophthalmology. Requires 30 hours of instruction.

HB 154 Cooper – 43 **TGFS** Authorizes a dentist, without being on site, to supervise up to 4 licensed dental hygienists in Title I schools, public hospitals, clinics, public health programs, volunteer community health settings, senior centers, and battered women’s shelters. The hygienists must maintain professional liability insurance. Effective 1-1-18. Findings show:

- 1/3 of older adults have untreated tooth decay
- ¼ of those ages 65-74 have severe gum disease
- 60,000 Georgians sought emergency dental care at Grady Hospital in 2009, costing \$25 million
- 118 of GA’s 159 counties are considered areas of dental health professional shortage
- Professional preventative hygiene services can help prevent such conditions and is the most cost effective.

HB 165 Price – 48 **TGFS** Physicians should not be required to fulfill professional development requirements in addition to medical board certification in the area of practice as a prerequisite for hospital or staff privileges, employment in state medical facilities, reimbursement from third parties or malpractice insurance coverage.

SR 188 Unterman – 45 **NNS** Creates the 9 member Senate Committee on Barriers to Georgians’ Access to Adequate Healthcare. Members include physicians, one Advanced Practiced Registered Nurse, and others by virtue of office in the health care field. *Sponsor wishes to provide authority to APRNs to serve residents of GA in lieu of physicians, finding that they are licensed for family medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, mental health, women’s health, midwifery. There are 11,300 APRNs in GA now. There are 79 counties with no OB/GYN physicians, 63 with no pediatricians, 31 with no internal medicine physicians, and 6 have no family physicians.*

SB 193 Unterman – 45 **TGFS** Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program will no longer have references to medically indigent women, but will promote the substantial state interest of public health by providing, extending, and improving direct maternal and child health services and access to maternal and child health services. (HB 360) Expedited partner therapy is that given to sexual partners of those diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea and are treated with antibiotics without examination.

SB 200 Hufstetler – 52 **TGFS** Doctors and pharmacists may prescribe and dispense medications for chronic illnesses for less than 30 days so patients can synchronize refills.

HB 206 Kelley – 16 **TGFS** Small errors of omission, clerical, computer, or unintentional errors in billing, coding, or required documentation, shall not constitute fraud or a basis to recoup full payment for medical assistance. Proof of intent to commit fraud required to impose criminal penalties.

SB 206 Martin – 9 **TGFS** Requires health insurance policies to cover hearing aids for children 18 years and under, one device per ear every 48 months, up to \$3000 each.

SB 242 Unterman – 45 **TGFS** Doctors contracting with Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to provide services without the doctor on site is expanded to 8, currently 4, with up to 4 being on duty at a time. The physician must review up to 15% of the charts of the APRN.

HB 322 Hitchens – 161 **TGFS** Veterans eligible for admission to the war veterans home are those serving until 8-1-90, currently 5-7-75.

HR 340 Clark – 147 **NNS** Urges Congress to adopt policies on marijuana for medical use as so many states allow it. These policies will permit studies to be organized for effectiveness of dose and medical conditions where effective.

HB 427 Newton – 123 **TGFS** Cancellable loans for dentists, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses are available if they work in rural areas. *Physicians already can get this.*

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 37 Ehrhart – 36 **TGFS** Private postsecondary institutions shall not adopt sanctuary policies. Withholding state funds for the institution and its students can be the penalty. *The minority report indicates there is no process defined for the institution to challenge the ruling, nor does it indicate who or what makes the ruling of sanctuary policies. Withholding of grants, especially Tuition Equalization Grants, will hurt students who had nothing to do with adopting the policy.*

HR 561 Ealum – 153 **NNS** Urges GA higher education institutions to adopt the American Council on Education criteria whereby active duty military and veterans may get credit for selected training and experiences in the military.

REVENUE/TAXATION

HB 117 Watson – 172 **TGFS** Voluntary contributions in addition to the price of a ticket to amusement, sports, or entertainment shall not be sales taxable. *Ticket price is \$50, but the check is for \$75. Only the \$50 is sales taxable.*

HB 125 Stephens – 164 **TGFS** Personal property used to maintain, refit, or repair a boat during a single event shall not pay sales tax over \$35,000, about \$500,000 gross sales at 7% tax rate. The items must be securely attached to the boat, such as an engine, parts, equipment. *Anything that floats is eligible.*

SB 133 Walker – 20 **TGFS** The corporate net worth tax is not to apply to corporations with a net worth of less than \$100,000. *Currently, they pay a graduated tax of \$100 or less.*

HB 134 Epps – 144 **TGFS** Sales taxes for transportation purposes may be one of several within a special tax district, usually a county, as long as the combined rates do not exceed 1%.

HB 155 Carter - 175 **TGFS** An income tax credit up to 15% for expenses by a production company of state certified musical or theater productions or recorded musical performances. A minimum expenditure in GA is required and at least a seven day stay within the state. Aggregate state credit is \$5 million in year 1, \$10 million in year 2, and \$15 million in years 3 through 5. Sunsets 1-1-23.

HB 247 LaRiccia – 169 **TGFS** A sales tax exemption for three years for materials used to repair and maintain mixer trucks used to mix or transport concrete. *This exemption is being granted under that which manufacturers have, since the truck makes the cement.*

HB 340 Blackmon – 146 **TGFS** Leased vehicles will be charged title ad valorem taxes on what they pay for the term of their lease, not the full value of the vehicle. Vehicles new to GA will have a cap of \$1100. Used cars will pay on the book value. Exempted from the tax are title changes to relatives and because of divorce. *The title ad valorem tax, TAVT, replaced the sales tax when purchased and the annual ad valorem tax. It is paid when the title is transferred and the proceeds are split by the Revenue Department between county, city, and school districts based on a formula.*

HB 342 Efstoration – 104 **TGFS** Sales taxes within an enterprise zone can be dedicated for development in the zone and pay off revenue bonds for 30 years.

TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

HB 136 Carter – 175 **TGFS** When applying for a drivers license or permit, one must surrender any drivers licenses or permits in the applicant's possession which will be returned marked to make it apparent it is no longer valid. A receipt from Department of Drivers Services will be proof of eligibility to drive until the drivers license or permit is received. Foreign jurisdictional licenses or permits must be declared but not surrendered. Temporary licenses or permits of non-citizens issued by DDS will be so marked 'non-citizen'. Physically impaired parents or guardians who are driven by a licensed drive age 14 or 15 no longer have to prove they previously held a drivers license. Collection agencies may be used to collect unpaid fines, particularly super speeder fines by out-of-staters. *Eighteen million in fines was uncollectable. A DDS bill.*

SB 183 Beach – 21 **TGFS** State Road and Tollway Authority aligns its procurement processes with those from DOT for public private partnerships.

SR 227 Beach – 21 **NNS** Urges Congress to work with FAA to change current regulations that all aviation fuel taxes be spent on airport uses. *This includes local sales taxes for education, capital outlay for counties and cities, transit. FAA says the taxes cannot be collected if it isn't going to be spent on airport uses. Most local entities don't have an airport and thus would lose this revenue as of December 2017. Clayton County particularly.*

HR 282 Carson – 46 **NNS** Creates the 10-member House Study Committee on Distracted Driving to recommend any legislative changes to help curb the rising number of accidents because of the use of electronic devices. Report due 12-1-17.

HB 412 Barr - 103 **TGFS** Authorizes a study to see if renewals of commercial vehicles may no longer get a decal. Renewal and registration of commercial vehicles shall be submitted electronically. Effective 1-1-18 motor vehicle dealers shall electronically submit all applications for certificates of title.

LOCAL

HB 506 Taylor – 79 **TGFS** MARTA contracts for concessions vendors can be awarded to those who provide the best performance and return to MARTA, not the highest return.

HB 603 Willard – 51 **TGFS** Fulton County State Court judges shall be paid 95% of the total salary of a Fulton County Superior Court Judge. Fulton County Juvenile Court judges and Probate Court judge shall be paid 90% of a Fulton County Superior Court judge.

HB 608 Martin – 49 **TGFS** Alpharetta City Council members may serve three consecutive terms and the mayor may serve two consecutive terms in office.

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