

**Legislative Days 19 - 22**  
Principal: Don Bolia

# Session Week 5 Legislative Report



Georgia Society  
of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery

# 2024

**PGR** | PEACHTREE  
GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS

# Week 5, Legislative Days 19-22

The Georgia General Assembly met this week from Monday to Friday, with the exception of Wednesday, which were session days 19 through 22. Throughout the week there were several committee meetings, each covering a wide range of topics such as homestead tax exemptions along with miscellaneous financial and tax concerns.. Keep reading below for a breakdown of the week!



# Healthcare Legislation

## Senate Health and Human Services Committee

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee convened on February 12th, addressing several key issues and bills. The meeting began with a presentation from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Screening Project, advocating for increased screenings and awareness efforts. Following this presentation, the committee discussed and unanimously passed SR 542, proposed by Sen. Butler, which encouraged the changing of the minimum age for colorectal cancer screenings. Next on the agenda was SB 293, presented by Sen. Watson, which aimed to ensure that operational policies and procedures of the Department of Public Health apply to local personnel. This bill, an agency initiative through the governor's office, also passed without opposition. The committee then deliberated on SB 16, sponsored by Sen. Albers, which focused on Emergency Medical Systems Communications Programs administered by the Department of Public Health. This bill allowed counties the option to opt out of the current system, with the exception of Fulton County. Public testimony was heard, with representatives from various organizations expressing both support and opposition. While some, such as Joe Penino, Fire Chief of the City of Roswell, and Fire Chief McDaniel of Rockdale County, voiced support for the bill citing a preference for local control, others, including representatives from the Georgia Ambulance Providers Association (GAPA), Grady EMS, and Georgia EMS Association, expressed opposition. Despite the mixed feedback, the bill was not put to a vote during this meeting.

## House Regulated Industries Committee

On February 12th, the House Regulated Industries Committee convened to discuss HB 575, a bill aimed at providing licensees the ability to request a review of occupational regulations. The bill included provisions for definitions, procedures for requesting a review, duties of occupational licensing boards, criteria for conducting reviews, and the establishment of a private right of action, among other matters. During the meeting, there was confusion regarding the proponents of the bill, leading to uncertainty among committee members. Despite the confusion, the committee ultimately passed HB 575. However, due to the aforementioned confusion and the need for further clarity on the bill's intentions and implications, the committee decided to recommit the bill back to another committee for further review. This decision reflects the committee's commitment to ensuring a thorough understanding of the legislation and its potential impact before advancing it further in the legislative process. The discussion surrounding HB 575 underscores the complexities involved in regulatory matters and the importance of clarity and consensus among stakeholders. By opting to recommit the bill for additional scrutiny, the committee demonstrates its dedication to responsible governance and informed decision-making.

## Healthcare Bills of Interest for the Week

Bill	Description	Status
HB 1264 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Professions and businesses; establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals; authorize	House Hopper
SB 481 (Sen. Mike Hodges)	Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; establishment; definitions; collaboration with state	Senate Health and Human Services Committee

	licensing boards; provide	
<b>SB 487 (Sen. David Lucas)</b>	Medical Assistance; Medicaid expansion; provide	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 491 (Sen. Matt Brass)</b>	Licensed Pharmacist; Georgia State Board of Pharmacy to increase the maximum ratio of pharmacists; authorize	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 495 (Sen. Sam Watson)</b>	Low THC Oil Patient Registry; term of validity of a registration card; provide	Senate Hopper

# GSDDS Legislation

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>HB 502 (Rep. Deborah Silcox)</b>	Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act; revise a definition; revise a provision	House passed, Senate Committee favorably reported
<b>HB 1264 (Rep. Ron Stephens)</b>	Professions and businesses; establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals; authorize	House Hopper
<b>SB 481 (Sen. Mike Hodges)</b>	Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; establishment; definitions; collaboration with state licensing boards; provide	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 487 (Sen. David Lucas)</b>	Medical Assistance; Medicaid expansion; provide	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 491 (Sen. Matt Brass)</b>	Licensed Pharmacist; Georgia State Board of Pharmacy to increase the maximum ratio of pharmacists; authorize	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
<b>SB 495 (Sen. Sam Watson)</b>	Low THC Oil Patient Registry; term of validity of a registration card; provide	Senate Hopper