

Legislative Days 23 - 25
Principal: Don Bolia

Session Week 6 Legislative Report



Georgia Society
of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery

2024

PGR | PEACHTREE
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS

Week 6, Legislative Days 23-25

The Georgia General Assembly met this week from Tuesday to Thursday, which were session days 23 through 25. The legislature did not meet on Monday due to the national holiday, President's day. This week, there were several committee meetings each day, each covering a wide range of topics. Notably this week, the Senate passed a bill creating Pre-K programs in school districts around Georgia, continuing efforts by the state to improve reading levels of our students. Additionally, discussions on the Fani Willis (Fulton County District Attorney) debate continued in the Senate, furthering tension on the subject at hand. Lastly, the new House Rules Chairman, Representative Butch Parrish, has taken charge of the Rules committee after the passing of former Chairman Richard Smith.



New General Bills of Interest for the Week

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
HB 1329 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	State government; regulation and taxation of fantasy contests; authorize and provide	House Economic Development and Tourism Committee
HR 1168 (Rep. Shelly Hutchinson)	General Assembly; legalize and regulate the cultivation, transportation, and sale of marijuana and marijuana-infused products; authorize - CA	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Healthcare Legislation

House Regulated Industries Committee

Two bills were heard in the House Committee on Regulated Industries on Monday, February 19th. HB 1175, presented by Representative Cannon, gives physical therapists unlimited access to patients without patients having to see a medical doctor. The Georgia Orthopedic Society and the Medical Association of Georgia both were prepared to provide testimony in opposition of the bill but were unable to speak. Medical doctors see this as a patient safety issue and oppose continued PT treatment without seeing a medical doctor for imaging and diagnosis. This bill was passed and now goes to the Rules Committee.

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee convened on February 21st to review several important healthcare-related bills. The most notable bill discussed was SB 419, introduced by Sen. Larry Walker, which aimed to revise provisions regarding the administration of anesthesia by certified registered nurse anesthetists. The bill would remove oversight regulations for CRNAs, allowing them to administer anesthesia without direct oversight of a physician. Despite support from the Georgia Hospital Association and Georgia Nursing Association, SB 419 ultimately failed by a tiebreaker vote from Chairman Watson. The bill faced opposition from groups such as the Georgia Anesthesiologist Association and the Medical Association of Georgia. A subsequent motion to reconsider also failed by a tiebreaker vote.

During the meeting, SB 456, SB 460, SB 480, SB 481, SB 495, SB 515, and SB 524 were addressed and voted upon. SB 456, introduced by Sen. Brian Strickland, focused on adding disabled persons to the central caregiver registry, and it passed. SB 460, introduced by Sen. Clint Dixon, aimed to revise provisions regarding the supervision of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants, and it passed as well. SB 480 and SB 481, introduced by Sen. Mike Hodges, addressed issues related to mental health and substance use professionals and the establishment of the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System, respectively. Both bills passed. Additionally, SB 495, introduced by Sen. Sam Watson, focused on the term of validity of Low THC Oil Patient Registry cards, and it passed with an amendment. SB 515, introduced by Sen. Bo Hatchett, proposed a pilot program to provide additional ambulances to certain areas of the state, and it passed. Finally, SB 524, introduced by Sen. Jason Anavitarte, addressed the certification of community health workers and passed as well.

Toward the end of the meeting, a surprise motion was made to reconsider SB 419 when several legislators who were against the bill had left, but the meeting was swiftly adjourned due to not meeting the quorum requirement.

New Healthcare Bills of Interest for the Week

Bill	Description	Status
HB 1302 (Rep. Karen Bennett)	Medical assistance; mandatory maternal mental health screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders for Medicaid recipients; provide	House Health Committee

HB 1322 (Rep. Chas Cannon)	Georgia Hemp Farming Act; regulate consumable hemp products	House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee
HB 1326 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Crimes and offenses; Schedule I, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances; provide certain provisions	House Health Committee
HB 1332 (Rep. Mesha Mainor)	No Patient Left Alone Act; enact	House Health Committee
HB 1336 (Rep. Tyler Paul Smith)	Insurance; plan sponsor of health benefit plan to consent on behalf of a covered person to the electronic transmittal or electronic posting of such plan; allow	House Insurance Committee
HB 1343 (Rep. Marvin Lim)	Public assistance; provide Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments	House Public Health Committee
HB 1352 (Rep. Lydia Glaize)	Pharmacists; prescribers provide certain information to patients or their representatives on Schedule II controlled substances or opioids	House Hopper
SB 529 (Sen. Kim Jackson)	Physicians; certain licensure for qualifying foreign medical graduates; provide	Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

GSDDS Legislation

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>
HB 502 (Rep. Deborah Silcox)	Georgia Cosmetic Laser Services Act; revise a definition; revise a provision	House passed, Senate Committee favorably reported
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 Health favorably reported
HB 1302 (Rep. Karen Bennett)	Medical assistance; mandatory maternal mental health screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders for Medicaid recipients; provide	House Health Committee
HB 1322 (Rep. Chas Cannon)	Georgia Hemp Farming Act; regulate consumable hemp products	House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee
HB 1326 (Rep. Ron Stephens)	Crimes and offenses; Schedule I, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances; provide certain provisions	House Health Committee
HB 1332 (Rep. Mesha Mainor)	No Patient Left Alone Act; enact	House Health Committee
HB 1336 (Rep. Tyler Paul Smith)	Insurance; plan sponsor of health benefit plan to consent on behalf of a covered person to the electronic transmittal or electronic posting of such plan; allow	House Insurance Committee
HB 1343 (Rep. Marvin Lim)	Public assistance; provide Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments	House Public Health Committee
HB 1352 (Rep. Lydia Glaize)	Pharmacists; prescribers provide certain information to patients or their representatives on Schedule II controlled substances or opioids	House Health Committee
SB 481 (Sen. Mike Hodges)	Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; establishment; definitions; collaboration with state licensing boards; provide	Senate Health and Human Services Committee favorably reported
SB 487 (Sen. David Lucas)	Medical Assistance; Medicaid expansion; provide	Senate Health and Human Services Committee

SB 491 (Sen. Matt Brass)	Licensed Pharmacist; Georgia State Board of Pharmacy to increase the maximum ratio of pharmacists; authorize	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
SB 495 (Sen. Sam Watson)	Low THC Oil Patient Registry; term of validity of a registration card; provide	Senate Health and Human Services favorably reported by substitute
SB 529 (Rep. Kim Jackson)	Physicians; certain licensure for qualifying foreign medical graduates; provide	Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee