

DATE: January 17, 2014
SUBJECT: First Week of 2014 Legislative Session



The Georgia General Assembly began the 2014 Legislative Session Monday of this week, proving the rumors of a quick legislative session to be true. Here's a brief recap of some highlights from this week down at the Capitol:

Proposed FY2015 Budget: Governor Nathan Deal presented his budget on Wednesday with his State of the State Address, emphasizing his proposed plan to put \$547 million into the K-12 education budget, which equates to more than 80 percent of new state spending. In addition, the Governor proposed:

- \$7.4 million in new funding for the Division of Family and Child Services over the next three years to hire new caseworkers
- \$12.5 million allocated to renovate the old DOT building in Atlanta
- \$35 million increase to the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project
- \$97 million increase to Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids, as well as \$101.3 million for new expenses related to the Affordable Care Act
- A proposed \$8 million for correctional officer raises as part of an incentive program
- \$12 million increase on emergency medical flights in Southwest Georgia
- \$37.27 million has been allocated to prison repairs and security updates
- Juvenile Justice facilities will see \$42.8 million in bond funding for repairs and renovations, including \$25 million to replace two aging facilities.
- \$4.5 million increase to technical colleges
- \$25 million in new economic development efforts

For the complete FY2015 Budget, you can access it via this link from OPB:

http://opb.georgia.gov/sites/opb.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/FY2015GovernorsReport.pdf

FY2014 Supplemental Budgets: The supplemental budgets were heard on Thursday of this week via departmental presentations. The amended 2014 budget is expected to be out of the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday and voted on by Friday of next week.

Good job by all team members for keeping the supplemental rebate (Medicaid) out of the budget! We would like to call that a win.

HB 310: HB 310 was passed today, moving state and partisan county primaries to the same day, from July to May 20. This reaffirms the rumors that 2014 will be a short Legislative Session, as legislatures have a shorter amount of time to campaign. We are expected to be out by St. Patrick's Day, if not shortly after.

Guns: HB 35 will again be a topic of discussion this session and we will closely monitor its progress. Sponsored by Rep. Paul Battles (R - Cartersville), this bill would allow school boards to designate any number of school employees to carry concealed weapons. While providing some training criteria, the legislation leaves most of the decision making up to local authorities. The committee process brought resolution to issues dealing with liability coverage, background checks, and potential penalties for refusing to comply with such an act from a school board. HB 512 will also be on our radar, as it would allow Georgians with a weapons permit to carry guns into churches, parts of college campuses and bars.

The Georgia General Assembly will be in recess until Tuesday, January 21, 2014. The Senate will begin at 10:00 and the House will begin at 11:00.

Bill	Description	Sponsor	Committees	Current Status	Analysis
HB310	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in government, so as to revise definitions; to provide for the method of filing certain disclosure reports; to provide for the method of notifying candidates of late fees due; to eliminate the grace period on certain reports; to provide for the notice of dissolution of a campaign or committee; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(1) Wilkins on, Joe 52nd	HC: Ethics SC: Ethics	Summary Jan/14/2014 - Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute	HB 310 would move state and partisan county primaries to the same day, from July to May 20. That complies with a federal judge's order so that ballots from overseas members of the military have time to be counted in any runoff. The bill would also require all candidates to file a campaign finance report on March 31. That date, however, would appear to be mostly aimed at unelected challengers because incumbent state officials cannot raise money during the 40-day legislative session, according to the AJC. With little or no fundraising to report, incumbents would have little to disclose by March 31. HB 310 passed on Friday, January 17, 2014.
HB688	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia	(1) Kirby, Tom 114th (2) Lindsey,	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/13/2014 - House Second Readers	HB 688, sponsored by Rep. Kirby, proposes to eliminate income taxes collected by the state, taking effect January 2015. The imposed tax will remain in retail purchases, retail

	Annotated, relating to revenue and taxation, so as to provide for a short title; to abolish the state income tax; to increase the rate of tax on the retail purchase, retail sale, rental, storage, use, or consumption of certain tangible property and on certain services; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for an effective date; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	Edward 54th (3) Sheldon, Donna 104th (4) Williamson, Bruce 115th (5) Ballinger, Mandi 23rd (6) Gravley, Micah 67th			sale, rental, storage, use or consumption on tangible personal property, among others. The percentage of tax will be determined by the General Assembly
HB707	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding health, to the state or any political subdivision, from engaging	(1) Spencer, Jason 180th (2) Stover, David 71st (3) Turner, Scot 21st (4) Caldwell,	HC: Judiciary SC:	Summary Jan/15/2014 - House Second Readers	HB 707 is to be known as "The Georgia Health Care Freedom and ACA Noncompliance Act." This bill proposes to prohibit the implementation of the Affordable Care Act by any local municipality, State Agency or political subdivision of the State of Georgia. It has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary. For more information, refer to this recent article from the AJC: http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/political-

	<p>in an activity that aids in the enforcement of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010; to endow the Attorney General with authority to bring suit to enjoin violations of such prohibition and issue advisory rulings; to provide that neither the State of Georgia nor any of its political subdivisions shall establish a health care exchange; to provide that no agency, department, or other state entity shall authorize any person acting on behalf of such agency, department, or entity to undertake any action under the aegis of Section 2951 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable</p>	<p>Michael 20th (5) Cooke, Kevin 18th (6) Lindsey, Edward 54th</p>			<p>insider/2013/dec/18/dialing-rhetoric-obamacare-georgia/</p>
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	Care Act of 2010; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.				
HB729	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-5C-1 of the O.C.G.A., relating to definitions, exemption from taxation, allocation and disbursement of proceeds collected by tag agents, fair market value of vehicle appealable, and report, so as to change the manner for determining fair market value of motor vehicles subject to the tax; to provide for penalties for fraudulent applications for such reductions; to provide for the distribution of revenue to newly created municipalities; to amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the O.C.G.A., relating to	(1) Rice, Tom 95th (2) Geisinger, Harry 48th (3) Oliver, Mary Margaret 82nd	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/15/2014 - House Second Readers	Sponsored by Representative Rice (R - Norcross), HB 729 would change the way in which the fair market value of motor vehicles subject to the tax are determined. It has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

	<p>registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to provide for multi-year decals for certain vehicles; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>				
<p>HR1038</p>	<p>A RESOLUTION recognizing and encouraging the efforts of the Georgia Department of Education, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Department of Community Affairs, and the private sector to place Georgia at the forefront of the return of manufacturing to the United States; and for other</p>	<p>(1) Stephen s, Ron 164th</p>	<p>HC: Economic Development & Tourism SC:</p>	<p>Summary Jan/14/2014 - House Second Readers</p>	<p>HR 1038, sponsored by Representative Stephens of the 164th, proposes to encourage the Georgia Department of Education, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Department of Community Affairs, and the private sector to work together and collaborate to assist in the return of manufacturing to the United States. These groups are key in continuing to develop and train our current and future workforce to meet the challenges of an ever-changing manufacturing environment. Ultimately, this collaboration and continued innovation will increase the economic stability of our state and strengthen the global economy.</p>

	purposes.				
SR734	A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that members of the Senate shall serve four-year terms of office; to provide that members of the Senate shall have limited terms of office; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.	(1) Dugan, Mike 30th	HC: SC: Ethics	Summary Jan/14/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	Sponsored by Senator Dugan of the 30th, this resolution proposes to amend the Constitution to allow members of the Senate to serve four-year terms of office.
HB481	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 7 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the parent and child relationship generally, so as to provide for a short title; to provide for definitions; to provide that it shall be unlawful for	(1) Neal, Jay 2nd (2) Kirby, Tom 114th (3) Taylor, Darlene 173rd (4) England, Terry 116th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Nix, Randy	HC: Judiciary SC:	Summary Feb/27/2013 - House Second Readers	H.B. 481, sponsored by state Rep. Jay Neal, (R - LaFayette), is titled the "Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act." SB 481 would make it illegal to: -- "Create or attempt to create a human-animal hybrid;" -- "Transfer or attempt to transfer a human embryo into a nonhuman womb;" -- "Transfer or attempt to transfer a nonhuman embryo into a human womb" -- Transport or receive for any purpose a human-animal hybrid or any product "derived from such a hybrid." Nothing in the bill would prohibit: -- "Research involving the use of transgenic animal models containing

	any person or entity to intentionally or knowingly create or attempt to create an in vitro human embryo by any means other than fertilization of a human egg by a human sperm; to provide that it shall be unlawful for any person or entity to intentionally or knowingly create or attempt to create an in vitro hybrid human-animal embryo; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	69th			human genes; -- “Xenotransplantation of human organs, tissues or cells into recipient animals; -- “An individual from receiving nonhybrid organs, tissues or cells delivered from outside of this state....” The legislation also states that: “In disputes arising between any parties regarding the in vitro human embryo, the judicial standard for resolving such disputes shall be in the best interest of the in vitro human embryo.”
HB676	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 43-34-103 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to delegation of authority to	(1) Kidd, E. Culver "Rusty" 145th (2) Sharper, Dexter 177th (3) Kaiser,	HC: Health & Human Services SC:	Summary Jan/13/201 4 - House Second Readers	This proposed bill, sponsored by Representative Kidd, proposes to authorize a physician to delegate to a physicians assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances. It will be required that physicians assistant's name be recorded for purposes of documenting care and treatment provided to a

	<p>physician assistants, so as to authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances; to require health insurance providers to record the name of a physician assistant providing care and treatment to a patient; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>	<p>Margaret 59th (4) Clark, Valerie 101st (5) Jasperse, Rick 11th (6) Spencer, Jason 180th</p>			<p>patient.</p>
<p>SB224</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 10 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Seed-Capital Fund, so as to create the Invest Georgia Fund; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to</p>	<p>(1) Golden, Tim 8th (2) Shafer, David 48th (3) Chance, Ronnie 16th</p>	<p>HC: Ways & Means SC: Insurance and Labor</p>	<p>Summary Mar/28/2013 - House Withdrawn , Recommended</p>	<p>(Support) Invest Georgia will be overseen by a five-member appointed board. Through a competitive bid process the board will select a third-party fund administrator, which will then competitively select venture capital funds to manage investment activities focused on both Georgia early or seed stage and growth stage companies. The venture capital funds must have or establish a physical presence in Georgia in order to ensure that the investments are Georgia-focused. The State will contribute \$95 million over a five-year period into the Fund to serve as principal. The</p>

	<p>provide for a fund administrator; to provide for reports; to provide for conditions, procedures, and limitations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>				<p>returns from the investments by the venture funds would be distributed in the following manner: the principal amounts of the investment will be retained by the Invest Georgia Fund as well as 80 percent of the profit, while the remaining 20 percent will be retained by the venture fund as profit. The Invest Georgia Fund is created as a separate fund maintained by the board and will be capitalized through grants from the existing Seed-Capital Fund, designated State appropriations to ATDC, and private contributions to the board. The capital raised will be periodically distributed to the venture capital funds selected by the fund administrator. State funding will be dispersed annually over a five-year period in the following amounts: \$10 million; \$10 million; \$15 million; \$25 million; and \$35 million.</p>
SB85	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., relating to physicians, so as to authorize the administration of vaccines by pharmacists or nurses pursuant to vaccine protocol agreements with</p>	<p>(1) Bethel, Charlie 54th (2) Mullis, Jeff 53rd (3) Golden, Tim 8th (4) Carter, Buddy 1st (5) Louder milk, Barry 14th (6)</p>	<p>HC: Health & Human Services SC: Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Summary Mar/12/201 3 - House Second Readers</p>	<p>Allows pharmacists and nurses to give vaccinations to adults.</p>

	<p>physicians; to provide for definitions; to provide requirements for the content of vaccine protocol agreements; to provide that a party to a vaccine protocol agreement shall not delegate his or her authority; to limit the number of vaccine protocol agreements into which a physician may enter at any one time; to prohibit certain entities from entering into vaccine protocol agreements; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for limited liability; to provide for applicability; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for</p>	<p><u>Chance, Ronnie 16th</u></p>			
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