

DATE: January 24, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Two of the 2014 Legislative Session



The Georgia General Assembly met for week two of the 2014 legislative session. Here are some highlights:

AFY 2014 Supplemental Budget: The AFY 2014 Supplemental Budget was passed in the House this morning, moving to the Senate for consideration. There were no drastic changes to the original document, but a comparison between the House and Governor’s recommendations can be found in the [Budget document itself](#).

HB 310: the Governor signed HB 310 on January 21st, moving state and partisan county primaries to the same day, from July to May 20.

Guns: HB 512, which would allow Georgians with a weapons permit to carry guns into churches, parts of college campuses and bars, is expected to be revised by [another gun bill](#) being introduced soon. The provision in the proposed bill would drop the language allowing students to carry weapons on public college campuses. We will be closely watching this legislation as it progresses.

Georgia Bio Day at the Capitol: Georgia Bio Day will be held on January 29th. The legislative breakfast reception is from 8:00 to 10:00 in room 216 of the Capitol and the Brown Bag Bio Lunch will take place at the Georgia Railroad Freight Depot from 11:30 to 1:00.

Schedule:

The Senate is in recess until 10:00 Monday morning.

The House is in recess until 11:00 Monday morning.

The General Assembly will be adjourned on Friday, February 14 through Monday, February 17.

They will begin the 24th day of the 2014 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 18th.

Bill	Description	Sponsor	Committees	Current Status	Analysis
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	(1) Neal, Jay 2nd (2) Kirby, Tom 114th (3) Taylor, Darlene 173rd (4) England, Terry 116th (5) Sheldon,	HC: Judiciary SC:	Summary Feb/27/201 3 - 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

	<p>definitions; to provide that it shall be unlawful for 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.</p>	<p>Donna 104th (6) Nix, Randy 69th</p>			<p>hybrid.” Nothing in the bill would prohibit: -- “Research involving the use of transgenic animal models containing 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.”</p>
<p>HB644</p>	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 20 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia</p>	<p>(1) Taylor, Tom 79th (2) Brockway, Buzz</p>	<p>HC: Insurance SC:</p>	<p>Summary Mar/22/2013 - House Second Readers</p>	<p>(Support) HB 644, sponsored by Representative Tom Taylor of the 79th, would require insurance carriers to disclose any changes to drug formularies as well as notify the enrollee if there is a change to drug</p>

	<p>Annotated, relating to health care plans, so as to require issuers of health benefits plans which utilize drug formularies to make certain disclosures to enrollees; to provide for definitions; to require notice to an enrollee of a modification affecting drug coverage; to provide that certain copayment or cost-sharing amounts continue to apply for a certain duration; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.</p>	<p>102nd</p>			<p>coverage. In addition, the insurer would not be able to increase the copayment or cost-sharing amount during the enrollee's contract period, about one year.</p>
<p>HB676</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>(1) Kidd, E. Culver "Rusty" 145th (2) Sharper, Dexter 177th (3) Kaiser,</p>	<p>HC: Health & Human Services SC:</p>	<p>Summary Jan/13/2014 - House Second Readers</p>	<p>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>

	<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>
<p>SB85</p>	<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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	other purposes.				
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/21/2014 - Act 343	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. The House agreed to the Senate's changes of HB 310 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.				
SB308	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical assistance generally, so as to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to provide for certain restrictions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other</p>	<p>(1) Fort, Vincent 39th (2) Jones, Emanuel 10th (3) Tate, Horacen a 38th (4) Henson, Steve 41st (5) Seay, Valencia 34th (6) Thomps on, Curt 5th</p>	<p>HC: SC:</p>	<p>Summary Jan/23/201 4 - Senate Hopper</p>	<p>This bill, SB 308, would allow for appropriations to be used for Medicaid under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee.</p>

	purposes.				
SB316	<p>A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., relating to public officers and employees, so as to provide for a whistleblower hotline commission; to provide methods for the anonymous reporting of complaints and information of fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by public officers or employees; to provide for the investigation of complaints and information of fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds by public officers or employees; to amend Code Section 50-18-72 of the O.C.G.A., relating to when public disclosure is not required, so as to provide for nondisclosure of records for a</p>	<p>(1) Henson, Steve 41st (2) Ramsey, Sr., Ronald 43rd (3) James, Donzell a 35th (4) Butler, Gloria 55th (5) Davenport, Gail 44th (6) Carter, Jason 42nd</p>	<p>HC: SC:</p>	<p>Summary Jan/23/2014 - Senate Hopper</p>	<p>SB 316 would create a Whistleblower hotline for people to call and report abuse of funds by public officers and employees. It was referred to the Committee on Government Oversight.</p>

	whistleblower hotline commission; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other 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.

Notes

