



February 4, 2009

GSASC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This week was a busy legislative week -- many bills were introduced, several hearings and important stakeholder meetings on pending legislation were convened. To date, there have been 232 bills introduced in the House and 67 bills in the Senate.

Prompt Pay legislation passed the Senate Insurance Committee and is eligible for the Senate floor next week. Please watch for our alerts if we need help contacting Senators when it gets to the floor vote.

An important stakeholder meeting was convened by Chairman Sharon Cooper to review proposed changes to the Medical Practice Act. The purpose of the meeting was for the interested parties in medicine to have input at this early stage. We want to publicly thank Chairman Cooper for taking this step and also thank the Board for giving us this opportunity to make comments and requests for change.

Medical Board Executive LaSharn Hughes walked through the bill explaining the rationale for changes as we went along. Board Medical Director, (and retired ophthalmologist) Dr. Jim McNatt was on hand to answer our questions and clarify some proposals. For the most part the changes are updates to antiquated language (it was first enacted in 1935), reorganization of sections and chapters, and modernization of provisions to reflect changes in the way medicine is practiced in the new century. The bill is 110 pages and there are sections that bear scrutiny and we will get an electronic copy and send it out as soon as possible with annotations for sections on which we need feedback. The bill has not been introduced and we have been invited to make suggestions at this early stage.

An update of legislation of interest to date is included. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the bills.

Thank you!

Lasa and Travis

LEGISLATION TRACKING FOR 2009

As of January 30, 2009

Senate Insurance

[SB 50](#) - Rental / Silent Networks - Senator Ralph Hudgens - Prohibit access to a provider's health care services/ contractual discount by certain contracting entities. *In Senate Insurance Committee. A stakeholders meeting was held on the bill by Sen. Hudgins on January 28 - no compromise was reached.*

[SB 62](#) - Prompt Pay - Senator Ralph Hudgens - Insurance; provide certain definitions; include plan administrators in prompt pay requirements; penalties. *Passed Senate Insurance Committee on January 29th, in Senate Rules - eligible for Senate floor week of Feb. 2.*

[HB 12](#) - Insurance; Marketing and Sales - Rep. Kevin Levitas - Dealing with unscrupulous practices; broaden prohibition. *In House Insurance.*

[HB 80](#) - Insurance Contract Number - Rep. Howard Maxwell - Insurance contracts; Corporations; Employees covered; change minimum number. *In House Insurance.*

Senate Health and Human Services

No pending Scope bills

No pending CON bills

[HB 228](#) - DHR/DCH Reorganization - Rep. Mark Butler - State health and human services agencies reorganization. *Not yet assigned to a committee.*

[SB 8](#) - Epi Pin - Epinephrine Shots - Senator Jack Murphy - To allow students in elementary and secondary education to possess and self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine shots. *Passed Senate Health and Human Services Committee, now in Senate Rules.*

[HB 194](#) - Drug Substitution - Rep. Fran Millar - Brand name drugs; substitute generic drugs; provisions - substitution must be clearly marked and noted on the prescription label. *In House Health and Human Services.*

HB 217 - Flu Shots - Rep. Jimmy Pruitt - Physicians; influenza vaccine orders Allows nurses and pharmacists to give flu shots. - *In House Health and Human Services.*

House Judiciary

HB 24 - Evidence Code Revision - Rep. Wendell Willard - Evidence code re-write and update, culmination of study committee findings and stakeholder compromises. MAG is taking the lead on the legislation and monitoring the bill as it moves forward, areas of concern are on ER cases. ER cases and Orthopaedic Trauma cases are being closely watched. *In House Judiciary.*

HB 15 - Georgia Administrative Procedures Act - Rep. Kevin Levitas - Changes the way agencies and state departments can change and implement rules. *In House Judiciary.*

HB 96 - Georgia Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act of 2009 - Rep. Austin Scott - Legislation relating to commerce and trade, so as to provide a short title; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to prohibit certain anticompetitive actions; to provide for exceptions; to authorize the Attorney General to investigate and litigate such matters; to provide for methods of investigation; to provide for jurisdiction and authority for enforcement; to provide for subpoenas; to provide for the authorization of certain immunity from prosecution; to provide for the determination of whether certain actions are violations through declaratory judgment actions; to provide for civil actions against violators; to provide for criminal sanctions; to provide for certain limitations on actions; to provide for enforcement and revision of covenants not to compete; to provide for certain requirements for such covenants; to provide for preemption; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date and for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. *In House Judiciary.*

House Non Civil Judiciary

No pending legislation of interest in this committee

House Special Judiciary

No pending legislation of interest in this committee

House Regulated Industries and Utilities

No pending legislation of interest in this committee

Legislation of Interest in Other Committees

HB 148 - Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission Funding - Reps. Austin Scott, Ron Stephens - certain reports, certain funds; provisions - car tag fee. *In House Ways and Means.*

HB 183 - Georgia Trauma Hospital Support Act of 2009 funding - Reps. Harry Geisinger, Porter, Cooper, Oliver, Willard and Cox - funding through \$1 dollar per month on all cell phones. *In House Ways and Means.*

HB 192 - Georgia Trauma Trust Fund - Rep. Fran Millar - funding through state ad valorem tax, funds to go to state trauma system. *In House Ways and Means.*

SB 45 - Nurse Licensure -Sen. Seth Harp - nursing education programs; revise requirements; definitions. *In Senate Higher Education Committee.*

SB 49 - Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act - Sen. Lee Hawkins - Nursing education program requirements and revision of certain provisions within the nurse practice act. *In Senate Higher Education Committee.*

SB 3 - Prior Authorization - Sen. Jack Murphy - Prescription Drugs; provide for prior authorization requirements; definitions; penalties; discounts; PeachCare for Kids Program. *In Senate Insurance and Labor.*

HB 59 - Sample Drug Sales Tax Exemption - Rep. Larry O'Neal - Sales and use tax; controlled substances and dangerous drugs; certain exemptions. *In House Ways and Means.*