



## GSASC Legislative Update

March 16, 2009

Thursday March 12, marked "crossover day" - the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative day. The House and Senate began the 30<sup>th</sup> day at 9 am, the Senate completed its calendar by 7 pm. The House with three times as many members and therefore more legislation to consider completed its calendar at 11 pm. It was a full and busy day for both chambers.

Below are results of the healthcare legislation that we have been tracking. Some of it moved to the other chamber and will receive further consideration this session. Some was left in the chamber of origin and where it will remain until the 2010 session. Of course it may show up as an amendment to other legislation later this session.

SB 195 E-Prescribing Revision and Clarification - Professions / Businesses, Secretary of State update bill – Sen. Ronnie Chance – bill was amended to include clarification of E-prescriptions, board of pharmacy rules codified into GA law. Passed Senate, not yet assigned to House Committee.

SB 108 Tort Reform, Sen. Bill Cowsert, Georgia Civil Practice Act pushed by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Passed Senate **without** the "loser pays" language; now in House Judiciary.

HB 509 Medical Practice Act, Rep. Sharon Cooper, to make technical corrections and modernize the medical practice act. Changes and clarifications in the act relate to role of physician assistants. Passed House, now in Senate Health and Human Services.

SB 62 Prompt Pay, Sen. Ralph Hudgens, Insurance Ctte; includes plan administrators in prompt pay requirements; penalties. Blue Cross Blue Shield and other health insurers support the bill – the GA Chamber of Commerce, United, Aetna and CIGNA oppose the legislation. Passed Senate 2/17, in House Appropriations.

HB 342 Prompt Pay, Rep. Carl Rogers, Insurance Ctte; includes plan administrators in prompt pay requirements; penalties. Blue Cross Blue Shield and other health insurers support the bill – The GA Chamber of Commerce has vigorously fought prompt pay legislation and rental/silent network reform. United, Aetna and CIGNA also

oppose the legislation. Passed House Insurance Committee, **failed to pass House prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative day.**

A more detailed update of legislation of interest is attached including the bills that failed to move from their chamber of origin prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> legislative day. Expect more action on them in 2010.

The legislature will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week, (March 17-20) which bring the calendar through the 34<sup>th</sup> legislative day. They plan to meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the following weeks and plan to adjourn the session on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To date, there have been 729 bills introduced in the House and 260 bills in the Senate.