

DATE: February 7, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Four of the 2014 Legislative Session



Feet were moving under the Gold Dome this week as legislatures and lobbyists ran from one committee meeting to the next, proving the 2014 legislative session to be in full swing. If the quick pace continues, we are expecting to hit Crossover Day on February 27th. Here are some highlights from week four at the Capitol:

AFY 2014 Supplemental Budget: The 2014 amended budget was passed in the Senate today with a vote of 49-0. It will now go back to the House for final approval. There were no significant changes to the [document](#).

Guns: [HB 875](#), the new gun bill, received a “Do Pass” from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on Thursday. It is now in the House Rules Committee. This proposed piece of legislation would allow guns in churches and bars as well as allow school boards to arm employees, among other things. Public comment from Thursday’s meeting can be found in [this AJC article](#).

Georgia Core: As discussed on our conference call on Monday, the Center for Oncology Research and Education ([Georgia Core](#)) aims to elevate the quality of cancer care in the state through education and research. They also partner with the Georgia Department of Public Health to develop and implement Georgia’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, an endeavor that unifies health professionals and survivors to forge a coherent cancer-fighting strategy for the state. They have been allocated \$275,000 in the upcoming budget and are requesting to have it raised to \$500,000.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, February 10th at 3:00 in room 606 CLOB the House Health and Human Services Committee will meet to discuss HB 885 (medical cannabis bill). This will only be a hearing and testimony is limited to invited speakers only.
- Thursday, February 13th at 3:00 in room 406 CLOB the House Health and Human Services Committee will meet again to discuss HB 885 (medical cannabis bill). The first hour will be devoted to public comments on the use of medical cannabis for the treatment of seizures in children.

Additional meetings in the Senate can be found [here](#). Meetings from the house can be found [here](#).

Schedule:

- The House and Senate are adjourned until 10:00 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.

Legislative Tracking Sheet

| Bill | Sponsor | Committees | Current Status | Analysis |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HB481 | (1) Neal, Jay 2nd (2) Kirby | HC: Judiciary SC: | Summary Feb/27/2013 - House | H.B. 481, sponsored by state Rep. Jay Neal, (R - LaFayette), is titled the “Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act.” SB |

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| | Tom 114th (3) Taylor, Darlene 173rd (4) England, Terry 116th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Nix, Randy 69th | | Second Readers | 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 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.” |
| HB644 | (1) Taylor, Tom 79th (2) Brockway, Buzz 102nd | HC: Insurance SC: | Summary Mar/22/2013 - House Second Readers | (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 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. |
| HB676 | (1) Kidd, E. Culver "Rusty" 145th (2) Sharper, Dexter 177th (3) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (4) Clark, Valerie 101st (5) Jasperse, Rick 11th (6) | HC: Health & Human Services SC: | Summary Jan/13/2014 - 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 patient. |

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| | Spencer, Jason 180th | | | |
| HB885 | (1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Watson, Ben 166th (3) Channell, Mickey 120th (4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) McCall, Tom 33rd | HC: Health & Human Services SC: | Summary Feb/03/2014 - House Second Readers | Sponsored by Representative Peak (R - Macon), HB 885 is known as "Haliiegh's Hope Act." It would allow the General Assembly to permit research on the therapeutic and treatment applications of cannabis with regards to such disorders as cancer, glaucoma and seizure disorder patients. The cannabis would be delivered in a nonsmoking form, such as a liquid, pill, vaporization, or injection. This bill does not encourage or sanction the recreational use of marijuana. It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. |
| SB224 | (1) Golden, Tim 8th (2) Shafer, David 48th (3) Chance, Ronnie 16th | HC: Ways & Means SC: Insurance and Labor | Summary Mar/28/2013 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted | (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 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 |

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| | | | | 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. |
| SB85 | (1) Bethel, Charlie 54th (2) Mullis, Jeff 53rd (3) Golden, Tim 8th (4) Carter, Buddy 1st (5) Loudermilk, Barry 14th (6) Chance, Ronnie 16th | HC: Health & Human Services SC: Health and Human Services | Summary Mar/12/201 3 - House Second Readers | Allows pharmacists and nurses to give vaccinations to adults. |
| HB310 | (1) Wilkinson, 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. This bill was the first bill to be passed and signed by the Governor in the 2014 legislative session. |
| HB688 | (1) Kirby, Tom 114th | HC: Ways & Means SC: | Summary Jan/13/2014 - House | HB 688, sponsored by Rep. Kirby, proposes to eliminate income taxes collected by the state, taking effect January 2015. The |

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| | <p>(2) Lindsey, Edward 54th</p> <p>(3) Sheldon, Donna 104th</p> <p>(4) Williamson, Bruce 115th</p> <p>(5) Ballinger, Mandi 23rd</p> <p>(6) Gravley, Micah 67th</p> | | <p>Second Readers</p> | <p>imposed tax will remain in retail purchases, retail sale, rental, storage, use or consumption on tangible personal property, among others. The percentage of tax will be determined by the General Assembly</p> |
| HB707 | <p>(1) Spencer, Jason 180th</p> <p>(2) Stover, David 71st</p> <p>(3) Turner, Scot 21st</p> <p>(4) Caldwell, Michael 20th</p> <p>(5) Cooke, Kevin 18th</p> <p>(6) Lindsey, Edward 54th</p> | <p>HC: Judiciary</p> <p>SC:</p> | <p>Summary Jan/15/2014 - House Second Readers</p> | <p>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-insider/2013/dec/18/dialing-rhetoric-obamacare-georgia/</p> |
| HB875 | <p>(1) Jasperse, Rick 11th</p> <p>(2) Meadows, John 5th</p> <p>(3)</p> | <p>HC: Public Safety and Homeland Security</p> <p>SC:</p> | <p>Summary Feb/03/2014 - House Second Readers</p> | <p>HB 875, sponsored by Representative Jasperse (R - Jasper) would change provisions relating to carrying weapons and the issuance of weapons. Under this proposed law, it would be legal for an individual to carry a weapon in a government building, on a college campus.</p> |

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| | Powell, Alan 32nd (4) Ballinger, Mandi 23rd (5) Hightower, Dustin 68th (6) Roberts, Jay 155th | | | <p>It would also allow individuals to carry a gun in a school and on a school bus, given that it has been approved by the board of education and the school administrator. It would also allow an individual to obtain a carry permit if they are 18 years of age and can prove that they have completed basic training and are either currently serving in the armed forces or have been honorably discharged. It has been referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and has been passed to full committee.</p> |
| HR1038 | (1) Stephens, Ron 164th | HC: Economic Development & Tourism SC: | Summary Jan/14/2014 - House Second Readers | <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> |
| SB308 | (1) Fort, Vincent 39th (2) Jones, Emanuel 10th (3) Tate, Horacena 38th (4) Henson, Steve 41st (5) Seay, Valencia 34th (6) Thompson | HC: SC: Appropriations | Summary Jan/24/2014 - Senate Read and Referred | <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> |

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| SB316 | (1) Henson, Steve 41st (2) Ramsey, Sr., Ronald 43rd (3) James, Donzella 35th (4) Butler, Gloria 55th (5) Davenport, Gail 44th (6) Carter, Jason 42nd | HC: SC: Government Oversight | Summary Jan/24/2014 - Senate Read and Referred | 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. |
| SB328 | (1) Fort, Vincent 39th (2) Henson, Steve 41st (3) Tate, Horacena 38th (4) Davenport, Gail 44th (5) Sims, Freddie Powell 12th (6) Butler, Gloria 55th | HC: SC: Insurance and Labor | Summary Jan/27/2014 - Senate Read and Referred | SB 328 refers to state employees' health insurance plans. It would require the board to contract with at least two health provider vendors. It was referred to Insurance and Labor Committee. |
| SB334 | (1) Carter, Buddy 1st | HC: SC: Insurance and Labor | Summary Jan/31/2014 - Senate Read and Referred | SB 334, sponsored by Senator Buddy Carter, is the Senate's version of HB 707 or "The Georgia Health Care Freedom and ACA Noncompliance Act." It proposes to prohibit the implementation of the Affordable Care Act by any local municipality, State Agency or political |

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| | | | | subdivision of the State of Georgia. It has been referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee. |
| SR734 | (1) Dugan, Mike 30th | HC: SC: Ethics | Summary Jan/14/2014 - Senate Read and | 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

