



Senate District 15 – Session Update – Week Eight - 2017

Monday, February 27th, we returned to Capitol Hill for week eight of the legislative session, which ended Friday with Crossover Day. Any legislation that did not pass out of its respective chamber by Friday's deadline, will not have time to make it through the process and therefore will not be reconsidered until next session. Healthcare, education and public safety remain a top priority as we passed numerous bills in hopes that we can continue positive reform efforts and progress in Georgia. All Senate bills passed prior to the Crossover Day deadline are now under review in the House.

Healthcare

Senate Bill 121 works to fight the current opioid (heroin) epidemic we are experiencing in Georgia. This bill would allow pharmacists to dispense “opioid antagonists,” which are used to block the effects of opiates. This bill would also remove Naloxone off the list of dangerous drugs and would reclassify it as a Schedule V controlled substance.

Senate Bill 166 would allow Georgia to participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact. This would allow registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses to get a multi-state license, allowing nurses to practice in any state also part of the Compact.

Senate Bill 206 requires that insurance companies provide hearing aids and replacements to children 18 years old or younger. Coverage must be provided for a continuous 48-month period or for the duration of the hearing aid warranty, whichever is longer. The bill caps costs at \$3,000 per hearing aid, per ear.

Senate Bill 180 allows the Department of Community Health grant authority to issue grants to rural hospitals.

Senate Bill 242 increases the number of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) that can be supervised under one physician. Emergency settings allows the physician to oversee up to 10 APRNs.

Senate Bill 170 requires the Department of Human Services to provide a uniform and statewide foster care volunteer certification system. Under the bill volunteers would be able to provide household support, babysitting and mentoring for the foster child.

Public Safety

Senate Bill 1 redefines domestic terrorism to include damaging, disrupting or destroying critical infrastructure. This bill also creates a separate Department of Homeland Security as well as a State Board of Homeland Security to come up with a security strategy and manage implementation by state and local agencies.

Senate Bill 176 states that if a person arrested for violating motor vehicle or traffic laws misses their court date, a second attempt must be made to reach them before a bench warrant is used.

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Senate Bill 29 requires that drinking water outlets used in schools and child care centers be tested for lead contamination by June 30, 2019. Any lead contamination found requires the school to submit a plan of corrective action to the Department of Public Health.

Senate Bill 222 creates the Local Government 9-1-1 Authority which would act as a public corporation composed of all counties and municipalities offering 9-1-1 services. The Authority would administer, collect, audit and remit 9-1-1 revenue for local governments on terms set by each local government. The Authority would also be responsible for the maintenance and improvement of 9-1-1 services across Georgia.

Senate Bill 250 requires that an individual who is a convicted sexual offender in another country register on the State Sexual Offender Registry.

Senate Bill 127 allows a victim of a crime to be heard in a criminal case. Specifically, SB 127 grants a victim the right to file a motion to be heard if they have not received reasonable notice of proceedings, if they had not been given the opportunity to testify or if the rights of other victims had been violated.

Education

Senate Bill 139 allows local school systems, charter schools and colleges create additional career pathways to be considered by the State Board of Education.

Senate Bill 152 would require schools to reassign students to an alternative education program rather than suspending or expelling them. This bill would also limit the length of time of the assignment, if the student acts appropriately throughout the duration of the assignment; the assignment may be prolonged if the student has committed a serious offense.

Senate Bill 186 allows students earning a high school diploma through dual enrollment programs to be eligible for a HOPE grant assistance. Students must still meet all residency, achievement and enrollment requirements.

Senate Bill 30 requires the Department of Education (DOE) make grants available for eligible schools demonstrating a need for community school programming. If awarded a grant, the school must provide the DOE with a community school plan and establish a school leadership team responsible for overseeing and putting the program in place.

Senate Bill 134 also known as the “Save, Earn, Win Act,” would authorize banks and credit unions to offer a new type of savings account where depositors are entered into a drawing that pays a prize to the winner. It would be up to the financial institutions in question to organize the terms of their raffle.

Business Measures

Small businesses will receive help through **Senate Bill 133** if passed by the House. The bill would make corporations valued at less than \$100,000 exempt from paying the corporate net worth tax.

Senate Bill 201 would allow employers who employ 25 or more people, working more than 30 hours a week, to use up to 5 days of sick leave to care for an immediate family member or dependent. Those Employees using sick leave must adhere to the terms of their employer's sick leave policy.

As we move into the final days of the 2017 session, the Senate will begin reviewing hundreds of House Bills that have been brought forth. House bills receiving passage from the Senate, will then be sent to Governor Deal for his final signature. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me anytime. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve you under the Gold Dome as I continue to work for the betterment of our state and district!