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1 Week to Sine Die; 8 Weeks to the Primary

Education

SB377 and **HB1084** dropped the provision to prohibit the teaching of divisive concepts, aka critical race theory, in the state's colleges and universities. The provision for K-12 schools remains, however.

SB514 received a less than enthusiastic hearing before the House Education Committee where Democrats charged that the committee lacked the expertise to vet the merits of prohibiting mask mandates in schools. Although the bill's sponsor Sen. Clint Dixon (R-45, Buford), admitted that his own profession is real estate, he claimed that masks are ineffective in preventing the spread of disease. The bill passed after a failed attempt to move it to the House Health & Human Services Committee, where several members have backgrounds in health care.

HB1435 would give students who have completed 80% of their college education $2,500 to help them finish. The bill passed the House almost unanimously. Students who drop out that close to graduation seldom return, often for lack of money. A source of funding has not been identified.