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HR688 makes Feb. 23 Ahmaud Arbery Day in Georgia

EDUCATION

SB499, Governor Kemp's Parent's Bill of Rights, passed the Senate along partisan lines. The bill allows parents access to any and all educational materials used in their children's school, something education officials claim they already have. Testifying against the bill, ACLU of Georgia Executive Director Andrea Young said that teachers are already over-stretched as they work to close the learning gap caused by repeated COVID-related school closures.

HB999 was torpedoed by a mass mailing by a conservative group asking recipients to call legislators and pressure them to support the $6,000 voucher for families to pay for private school tuition rather than sending a child to public school. In what House Speaker David Ralston called "the dumbest thing" he's ever seen, the move infuriated legislators in the middle of negotiations. The mailer featured Stacey Abrams, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris above a picture of the Republican lawmaker from the recipient's particular district along with their phone number. The text read: "The radical left want to cancel your right to choose your child's school." The bill will move no further, according to Ralston.

HB932 gained bipartisan support in the House. It would grant in-state college tuition to refugees from Afghanistan resettled in Georgia last year by waiving the one-year residency requirement. There was no vote on the bill but it could move as soon as next week.

SB435 passed the Senate. It would ban transgender girls from participating in sports that align with their gender identity unless there is no equivalent sport offered by their school. This bill has been proposed in previous sessions but had never made it to a vote by the chamber.