

March 14, 2022, Issue 10

Legislative Session at Halfway Point

HB1013, the speaker's Mental Health Parity Act, underwent some clarifications before passing unanimously and going to Rules.

HR768 would create the House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options
to explore ways to modernize care for seniors. A home-style living situation, one potential model, provides separate bedrooms for a dozen residents with common dining and living spaces, and a staff. Data shows improved health, reduced hospitalizations, lower Medicare and Medicaid costs, and reduced infection rates, as well as lower staff turnover, and increase d job satisfaction with this model. Passed unanimously, moved to Rules.

HB1371 would create the Rural Health Advancement Commission to develop private sector solutions to short- and long-term healthcare in rural Georgia. Passed unanimously, moved to Rules.

SB345 bans any state or local agency, government or school from requiring employees to get a COVID-19 vaccination. The ban would end on June 30, 2023.

SB514 would prohibit public school systems from requiring students to wear masks. If a parent opts their child out of the school's mask policy, the school could not ask for any information about the child's health, i.e., whether they are infected with COVID. The law would expire in June 2027. The bill passed, moved to Rules.

SB256, first introduced last year, would make the sale of items containing dextromethorphan (DMX), including some cough syrups, illegal to minors. Passed unanimously.