



This Week in the Senate

January 14-18, 2013

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Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act Passes Senate

Senate Bill 24, also known as the Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act, passed the Senate on Thursday by a vote of 46 - 9. SB 24 will authorize the Department of Community Health to facilitate a financial program in order to obtain additional matching federal dollars for the state's Medicaid program. The Board of Community Health will be responsible for drafting the framework and regulations necessary to collect the fee, but the Georgia General Assembly will retain oversight and veto authority of all administrative decisions. If signed into law, SB 24 will become effective on July 1, 2013 and sunset on June 30, 2017. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R – Dalton). **–SB 24**

Governor Deal Delivers State of the State Address

On Thursday, Gov. Nathan Deal delivered the annual State of the State address and outlined initiatives for job creation, health care, juvenile justice reform, public safety, and education. The Governor also offered a \$19.8 billion recommendation for the FY 2014 budget. [Click here](#) for a full transcript of the State of the State address.

Senate Passes First Resolution of Session

Majority Leader Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone) sponsored SR 1, which amends the Senate Rules to cap gifts from any individual or group of registered lobbyists at \$100 per gift, event or meal. The resolution passed by a vote of 42-12. **–SR 1**

Senate “Housekeeping” Resolution

On Monday, President Pro Tempore David Shafer (R-Duluth) sponsored a resolution regarding the general rules, functions, committees and employees of the Senate. This resolution always marks the beginning of the legislative session and was passed by a vote of 48-5. **–SR 4**

Addiction Recovery Day

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) recognized several addiction recovery advocates from across the state on Tuesday. Sen. Mullis commended the courage and strength of addiction recovery advocates for telling their stories and teaching the importance of addiction recovery to others. There was a rally held on the second floor of the Capitol, with Gov. Nathan Deal in attendance to show his support.

Recognizing Calvin Johnson

Sen. Seay sponsored Senate Resolution 16 to recognize Calvin Johnson for making his community proud and for striving to overcome personal obstacles on the football field. As an NFL player,

Johnson was commended for his precision and strength to his team through the epitome of sportsmanship. – **SR 16**

In Remembrance of Clarence Williams, Sr.

Sen. Buddy Carter (R-Pooler) authored a resolution in remembrance of the life of Clarence Williams Sr. A resident of Liberty County, Williams served in the U.S. Army during World War II and volunteered around his local community by mentoring young people, assisting local farmers and working for the Community Block Program, which provided 40 families with free homes or home renovations. – **SR 19**

19th Poet Laureate of the United States

A resolution authored by Sen. Jason Carter (D-Decatur) was adopted by the Senate to congratulate poet Natasha Trethewey on receiving the distinguished position of 19th Poet Laureate of the U.S. The Poet Laureate is officially appointed by a government or conferring agency and is often expected to compose poems for special events and occasions. – **SR 15**

Happy Birthday to Louis W. Pointer

Senate Resolution 18, sponsored by Sen. Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale), was adopted on Wednesday and celebrates the 80th birthday of retired Chaplain Colonel Louis W. Pointer. – **SR 18**

Sandy Creek High School football team honored

On Thursday, Senate Resolution 17 was adopted by the Senate to recognize and commend the Sandy Creek High School football team on their 2012 Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Class AAAA State Championship. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale). – **SR 17**

Eagle Scouts Recognized

Senate Resolutions 22, 23 and 24, sponsored by Sen. Barry Loudermilk (R-Cassville), were adopted to recognize three gentlemen, Timothy A. Oltjenbruns, Zachariah A. Conley, and Jacob A. Weaver, for reaching the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. – **SR 22, SR 23, SR 24**

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