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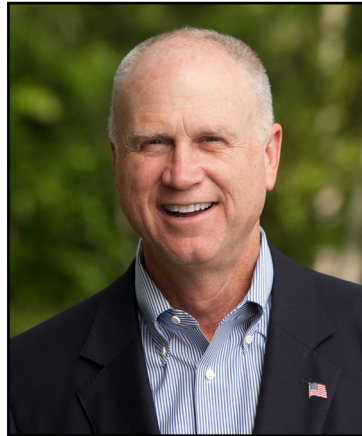
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 GeorgiaStateSenate

This Week in the Senate

February 11-15, 2019



Almost Halfway to *Sine Die*

This week, the Senate unanimously passed four bills out of our chamber. The unanimous, bipartisan support of these pieces of legislation is encouraging to see and I am in fact hopeful that we can continue down this path of unity in the coming weeks.

Among the four bills we passed was Senate Bill 16, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which is sponsored by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta). This bill would add Georgia to the list of states that allow for an expedited licensure process for certain physicians to practice across state borders. With a demand for doctors and health professionals in our

state, especially in rural areas, this Compact would help Georgians across the state receive better access to health care providers without having to drive great distances to do so.

Speaking of health care Governor Kemp dropped his “Patients First Act,” Senate Bill 106, which is sponsored by Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia). This legislation allows Georgia to apply for the 1115 and 1332 waivers administered by the federal government. To put it quite simply, this legislation is intended to allow health care to be more accessible and more affordable for all Georgians.

Additionally, I was overwhelmed by the support my colleagues received in the Senate Education and Youth Committee as they heard testimony, and later passed, Senate Bill 48 which addresses recognizing and providing resources for individuals with dyslexia. I am looking forward to supporting this bill on the Senate floor soon to help provide all of our students with the resources they need to succeed.

The pace is going to continue to pick up here under the Gold Dome, but I always look forward to seeing visitors. If you ever find yourself at the Capitol, please feel free to stop by my office - I would love to meet you! If you can't make it down here and ever have any questions or concerns you would like to address, please feel free to reach out to my office, I am happy to help.

Senator Butch Miller

President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Establishing Georgia's Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 16 which would authorize the Georgia Composite Medical Board to administer the Georgia Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The bill would allow doctors who have a clean disciplinary record to be eligible for an expedited licensure process to practice medicine in Georgia. States entered into the Compact are able to share information with each other regarding the doctor's disciplinary record and background check information. SB 16 passed with a vote of 51-0. – **SB 16**

Blessed Trinity Catholic High School Football Team Visits Senate

Senate Resolution 28, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), commended the Blessed Trinity Titans for their 2018 AAAA Georgia High School Association state football championship win. Titans coach Tim McFarlin was named the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association AAAA Coach of the Year, as well as the 2018 National Catholic High Schools Coach of the Year. – **SR 28**

Gatewood Gators Varsity Football Team Celebrated for Championship Win

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) sponsored Senate Resolution 57 which welcomed the Gatewood Gators football team and their coaches to the Senate in celebration of their 2018 GISA AA State Football Championship win. The team finished their season with 10 wins and only two losses. – **SR 57**

Community Health Centers Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 115, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) and presented by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta), recognized Monday, February 11, as Community Health Centers Day at the Capitol. The Georgia Primary Care Association was commended for its efforts to increase the number of community health centers in Georgia. – **SR 115**



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Georgia Farm Bureau Day at the Capitol

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) sponsored Senate Resolution 58 which recognized Tuesday, February 12, as Georgia Farm Bureau Federation Day at the Capitol. The Georgia Farm Bureau Federation provides a variety of services to over 250,000 members regarding insurance, advocacy and banking in 158 county chapters. – **SR 58**

Georgia Young Farmers Association Commended by Senate

Senate Resolution 82, sponsored by Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla), recognized the accomplishments of the Georgia Young Farmers Association (GYFA), and declared February 12, as GYFA Day at the Capitol. GYFA, founded in 1970, is a resource for young farmers by providing school tours, classes and field demonstrations for participants. – **SR 82**

Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce Visits Senate

Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta) sponsored Senate Resolution 86 which commended the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce for its role in the economic development of north Fulton County. The Greater North Fulton Chamber was created in 1973 and is composed of more than 1,000 members who work to maintain north Fulton’s business-friendly climate. – **SR 86**

Dyslexia Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 116, sponsored by Sen. Jen Jordan (D – Atlanta), declared February 12, as Dyslexia Day at the Capitol. Affecting one in five individuals nationwide, dyslexia is the most common learning challenge. Dyslexia causes difficulties regarding reading and writing fluency, affecting the ability for individuals to decode words. However, early intervention is proven to increase the chance of future learning success. – **SR 116**



The Senate Celebrates the City of Cochran’s 150th Birthday

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) sponsored Senate Resolution 143 which honored the City of Cochran on its 150th birthday.

The City of Cochran is located in Bleckley County and was named in honor of Judge Arthur E. Cochran. The city’s community has more than 5,000 citizens and is home to the Cochran Campus of Middle Georgia State University. – **SR 143**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Revising Court Filing Procedures

Senate Bill 38, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – White Oak), would declare that a fee cannot be charged for the filing of a leave of absence or conflict notice, regardless of whether the document was filed electronically or in person. The bill would also prohibit electronic filing service providers or clerks from charging the state, its agents or political subdivisions a fee for the filing of superior or state court documents, and would allow the clerk or service provider to recover the cost from available grant funding. Additionally, there is a provision within the bill that would allow clerks to assign a different case number, to require that a separate case entry be given, for post-judgment proceedings filed 30 days post-judgment or dismissal. SB 38 passed with a vote of 53-0. – **SB 38**

Dekalb County Public Library Named Georgia Public Library of the Year

Sen. Gloria Butler (D – Stone Mountain) sponsored Senate Resolution 62, and Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 111, both of which celebrated the Dekalb County Public Library for being named Georgia’s Public Library of the Year. The Dekalb County Public Library is a system of library locations that serves a diverse population with a variety of interests and needs. – **SR 62 & SR 111**



Valdosta State University Football Team Commended for National Championship Win

Senate Resolution 95, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), commended the Valdosta State University Blazers football team for their 2018 Division II NCAA National Championship victory. Their head coach, Kerwin Bell, was named Gulf South Conference and Division II National Head Coach of the Year. – **SR 95**

Wear Red Day in the Senate

Sen. Valencia Seay (D – Riverdale) sponsored Senate Resolution 134 which recognized Wednesday, February 13, as National Wear Red Day at the Capitol. Cardiovascular diseases are the number one killer of women in the United States. Go Red for Women encourages women to learn their family's medical history and visit their health care provider regularly to determine their risk for cardiovascular disease and stroke. – **SR 134**

Clark Atlanta University Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 136, sponsored by Sen. Horacena Tate (D – Atlanta), recognized February 13, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the Capitol. Clark Atlanta University was established in 1988 and offers 38 academic programs to approximately 4,000 students each year. – **SR 136**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Prohibiting Drone Use Over Places of Incarceration

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Bill 6 which would enforce felony charges upon the act of using an unmanned aircraft system, or drone, to transport contraband over or photograph or record images over an incarceration facility. SB 6 passed with a vote of 54-0. – **SB 6**



Annual Georgia Code Updates

Senate Bill 52, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – White Oak), would make annual updates to the grammar, terminology and punctuation within the Official Code of Georgia as recommended by the Code Revision Commission. SB 52 passed with a vote of 52-0. – **SB 52**

Family & Consumer Sciences Recognized in the Senate

Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville) sponsored Senate Resolution 34 which recognized the field of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) as integral in fostering informed decisions about well-being, relationships and resources to achieve the highest quality of life. Faculty from the UGA FCS department were recognized for their efforts in creating healthier people and communities through developing effective educators and a high tech global workforce. – **SR 34**

Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia Visits the Capitol

Senate Resolution 45, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon (R – White Oak), commended the Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia (MBAG) for their advocacy of sound business practices in the Georgia mortgage community. The MBAG was founded in 1972 by lenders in the Atlanta area and now has seven chapters across Georgia. – **SR 45**

February Recognized as American Heart Month

Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur) sponsored Senate Resolution 113 which recognized February as American Heart Month at the Capitol. Heart disease, although preventable, is the leading cause of death in the United States. American Heart Month's goal is to promote awareness about heart health and urge Georgians to lower their risk of developing heart disease by encouraging regular doctor visits. – **SR 113**

Spelman College Class of 1969 Day

Senate Resolution 138, sponsored by Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro), declared Thursday, February 14, as Spelman College Class of 1969 Day at the Capitol. This class of 250 young women entered Spelman College in 1965, having experienced high school during the historic era of civil, reproductive and women’s rights movements.
– *SR 138*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

History Made – Governor Brian P. Kemp Signs SB 25

On Friday, February 15, 2019, Senate Bill 25 was signed into law by Governor Brian P. Kemp. This is the first piece of legislation to be signed by Governor Kemp. Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen) sponsored this legislation which reverses the language in House Bill 978, passed during the 2018 Legislative Session, and mirrors the law that has been in place since 1954. This legislation becoming law makes it clear that the presence of only a turn lane does not allow passing of a stopped school bus. It is now law that the presence of a grass median, unpaved area or physical barrier are the only lawful conditions when a vehicle can pass a stopped school bus on the other side of the road.



**The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.**