

# EMORY



## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT



# EMORY'S OGCA TEAM

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Emory's Office of Government and Community Affairs (OGCA) team is comprised of nine members; two who manage federal affairs, two focused on state affairs, a local government affairs lead, three who focus on community engagement, and an Executive Administrative Assistant. The 2022 State Legislative Session Report is brought to you by the State Affairs team.

The OGCA State Affairs team serves as the official liaison between Emory and Georgia's legislative, executive and regulatory bodies, including the Governor's Office, the Georgia General Assembly and state agencies that administer higher education and healthcare programs. It is our responsibility to continually monitor each of these entities for any legislative or regulatory changes that could impact Emory. We strive to create new, and build upon existing, relationships with state officials and to find ways for Emory to strengthen its partnership with the state. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions.



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# RETURN to NORMAL

The 2022 Legislative Session began on the second Monday in January, and everything appeared to be back to “normal.” The third floor of the Capitol was packed with lawmakers, staff, lobbyists, and visitors, with little room to move around. Groups returned for events in the rotunda and large groups gathered outside in Liberty Plaza to express their support or opposition to policies under consideration behind Capitol walls. The policies set in place for the previous session to prevent the spread of COVID-19 appeared to be a thing of the past. While lawmakers were required to submit to COVID testing twice a week, masks became optional and social distancing in committee rooms seemed to disappear.

While returning to a “normal” Capitol for the session, the OGCA team was able to continue its work to advance Emory's mission and priorities at the state level. The following report details the budget impact to Emory, relevant legislation that passed and issues that were discussed during the 2022 session. If you have any questions on the bills listed below or other measures introduced during the legislative session, please contact Ines Owens at [ines.owens@emory.edu](mailto:ines.owens@emory.edu) or 678-608-8871.

## BUDGETS: AMENDED FY 2022 AND FY 2023

Each year, the General Assembly passes and the Governor signs two separate budgets, with the primary one being the budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). The other is the "amended" fiscal year budget, which adjusts the current fiscal year to account for unanticipated needs that arise.

Unlike the previous session, the economic outlook and revenue projections were very positive for the state. This year, we are pleased to share that Emory did not receive any cuts in the Amended FY 2022 budget that funds the state from January - June 30, 2022. Emory receives around \$20 million annually in state funding for a number of programs like Georgia Memory Net, a statewide program dedicated to the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as programs addressing autism, behavioral health and intensive care. Emory also receives state funds through the Zell and HOPE Scholarships for Georgia students.

### AFY 2022

The Amended FY 2022 appropriation for total state funds was raised to \$30.3 billion, an increase of \$3.08 billion, or 11.3%, over the original budget.

Budget items of interest to Emory include:

- **\$264 million** for growth in the Medicaid programs to meet the projected need resulting from increased enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **\$2.7 million** to fund both deemed and non-deemed private hospitals eligible for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program.
- **\$3 million** for grants for nursing programs with waitlists and additional student capacity needs.
- **\$1.4 million** for support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

## FY 2023

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The FY 2023 appropriation includes \$30.2 billion in state funds, an 11% increase over FY 2022. Budget items of interest to Emory are listed below. The first three items are Emory specific and are listed in bold.

- **\$2.6 million** to increase the award amount from \$850 to \$900 per year for students who qualify for Tuition Equalization Grants. There are 1099 students with the GTEG award for aid year 2021-2022 at Emory.
- **\$109,323** to provide capitation funds for seven residency slots at Emory University.
- **\$3 million** in additional state funding for the Georgia Memory Net Program. This is in addition to the existing \$4,120,000 bringing the total to **over \$7 million**.
- **\$3 million** in funding for equipment and operating grants for nursing programs with wait lists to promote additional student capacity.
- **\$4 million** in funding for 199 new slots in primary care medicine across the state.
- **\$800,000** for continued support for the All-Payers Claims Database.
- Overall, **\$183 million** increase to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) budget.
  - **\$1.5 million** for support staff to manage national 988 hotline expansion.
  - **\$1.2 million** in DBHDD and **\$1.6 million** in Department of Community Health (DCH) for Medicaid reimbursement of psychiatric and behavioral health care management services.

## 2022 STATE STRATEGIC GOALS

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- Continue introducing President Fennes to key stakeholders and increase his exposure to state government leaders.
- Explore opportunities for President Fennes and other Emory Representatives to be engaged in state-appointed boards.
- Advocate for continued support for workforce, academic health care, research, and higher education.
- Leverage Emory's subject matter experts to cultivate new collaborations with the state and strengthen existing partnerships.
- Offer strategic campus invitations to influential policy makers to learn more about Emory.
- Provide internal expertise and guidance regarding the public policy and state engagement process.
- Develop relationships and increase visibility to newly elected officials throughout the state.

## UPCOMING 2022 STUDY COMMITTEES

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Study committees are appointed or selected to perform a specific task or study a certain issue. After the committee examines the topic, a report is released which includes any findings, recommendations, or legislative proposals the committee deems appropriate. The following legislative study committees are expected to meet this summer and fall. The Emory OGCA team looks forward to participating in these committees to provide information that could help further Emory's mission.

## HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEES

### **House Study Committee on Literacy Instruction (HR 650)**

- The 15-member committee will review the definition of evidence-based instruction, the impact of low literacy on Georgia's national standing, and the different programs addressing literacy instruction.

## SENATE STUDY COMMITTEES

### **Senate Study Committee on the Restoration of Veterans Nursing Facilities (SR 383)**

- The five-member committee will study the shift in demographics of Georgia's veterans and the need that may exist to build a skilled nursing facility in communities with large veteran populations.

## HOUSE LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

The General Assembly introduces over 2,000 bills annually, and the OGCA state team tracks every bill that has the potential to impact Emory policy and mission. While only a small percentage of bills reach the finishline with a signature from the Governor, a bill's mere introduction is informative and the OGCA state team pays attention to all legislative priorities. The following bills originated in the House, passed both chambers, and are relevant to Emory because they could impact specific areas of our mission.

**House Bill 1 - Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act** by Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Peachtree City) prevents the creation or eliminates any existing "Free Speech Zones" and designates all unrestricted outdoor areas of campus as public forums. Prohibits material and substantial disruption of protected expressive activity at these campuses. Additionally, requires public institutions of higher education to provide public notice of rules and expectations regarding expressive activity. Public institution of higher education or institution is defined as any college or university under the management and control of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 275 – Giving the Gift of Life Act** by Rep. Lauren McDonald (R – Cumming) protects living donors from losing or being denied life insurance because they donated all or part of specific organs or bone marrow. Raises the tax credit to \$25,000 for the donor, this would be an increase from the \$10,000 currently set by the 'National Organ Procurement Act.'

*Effective July 1, 2022, and will be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after 7/1/22*

**House Bill 412 - Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board** by Rep. Katie Dempsey (R – Rome) establishes a Georgia Behavioral Analyst Licensing Board to license and provide oversight for practitioners of applied behavioral analysis.

*Effective July 1, 2023*

**House Bill 733 - Cost-sharing Requirements for Breast Examinations** by Rep. Tyler Smith (R – Bremen) requires insurers who cover diagnostic examinations for breast cancer to treat cost-sharing requirements the same as annual mammograms.

*Effective May 6, 2022, and applies to all such policies and contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2023*

**House Bill 752 – Psychiatric Advance Directive Act** by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta) allows a competent adult to execute a psychiatric advance directive containing mental health care preferences, information, or instructions regarding his or her mental health care that authorizes and consents to a provider or facility acting in accordance with such directive. A directive may include consent to or refusal of specified mental health care.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 884 – Expedited Licensure** by Rep. Dave Belton (R – Buckhead) establishes a process for expediting licenses by endorsement for military spouses if specific state requirements are met. Professional licensing boards will have 90 days to consider an expedited licensure request.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 910 – Amended Fiscal Year 2022 Budget** by Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge) For additional details, please see page 3.

*Effective July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022*

**House Bill 911 – Fiscal Year 2023 Budget** by Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge) For additional details, please see page 4.

*Effective July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023*

**House Bill 918 – Georgia Rare Disease Advisory Council** by Rep. Mike Cheokas (R – Americus) creates the 16-member Georgia Rare Disease Advisory Council. All 16 appointments will be made by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Lt. Governor. The council will be under the Department of Public Health and advise on the needs of those with rare diseases.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 937 – Mammogram Coverage** by Rep. Sharon Henderson (D – Covington) requires specific insurers to provide notification to all insured females 40 and older of her coverage for mammograms under specific conditions. This requirement must be done annually once the female turns 40.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 961 – Apportionment** by Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula) authorizes apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits when action is brought against one or more persons.

*Effective May 13, 2022*

**House Bill 963 – Annual Drug Update** by Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro) is the annual update to the Schedule I and Schedule IV controlled substances list.

*Effective May 13, 2022*

**House Bill 972 – Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists Licensing Law** by Rep. Dave Belton (R – Buckhead) updates licensing requirements and provisions for professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1013 - Mental Health Parity Act** by Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge) addresses access to care, mental health parity for providers and patients, workforce initiatives, transparency and accountability and resources and tools for frontline responders and communities. For additional details, please see Appendix A on page 15.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1041 – Rural Tax Credit** by Rep. Clay Pirkle (R – Ashburn) increases the tax credit to \$75 million per taxable year for those contributing to rural hospital organizations, effective January 1, 2023.  
*Effective on January 1, 2023, and will be applicable to taxable years beginning on or after 1/1/23*

**House Bill 1042 - OneGeorgia Authority Act** by Rep. Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper) updates the 'OneGeorgia Authority Act' by establishing a grant program within DCH for the development of health care provider practices in health professional shortage areas. The practice would be a primary care medical facility where the majority of the services provided are primary care, dental, or mental health services.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1049 - State Board of Nursing Home Administrators** by Rep. John LaHood (R – Valdosta) extends the State Board of Long-Term Care Facility Administrators until June 30, 2022 and increases membership to 11 members. The term for all members shall be three years from the date of appointment.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1069 - Adult Mental Health Services Licensing Act** by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R – Monroe) permits residential and nonresidential care centers to seek licensure as adult mental health programs. Currently, they are regulated by the Department of Community Health and are licensed as personal care homes, which are not subject to CON approval.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1084 – CRT** by Rep. Will Wade (R – Dawsonville) addresses the instruction of Critical Race Theory for K-12. Additionally, gives the Georgia High School Association the control to make a policy regarding same sex sports. It only applies to public high school grade levels.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1086 – Flu Vaccine Update** by Rep. Katie Dempsey (R - Rome) requires hospitals to offer a flu vaccine to a patient who is 50 years of age or older prior to discharge. The current requirement is to offer influenza vaccines to patients who are 65 or older.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1186 – Audiologist Updates** by Rep. Penny Houston (R – Ashville) allows individuals who are not licensed as audiologist to use otoacoustic emissions or auditory brainstem response technology on patients under the age of 22.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1219 - Georgia Board of Dentistry** by Rep. Penny Houston (R – Ashville) updates the Georgia Board of Dentistry from 11 to 17 members. *Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1276 – DCH Reporting** by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville) requires the Department of Community Health to post in a prominent location on their website a statistical report(s) containing data relating to the state health plans administered by the department.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1304 - Georgia Caregivers Act** by Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville) defines a lay caregiver for a patient who is discharged from a hospital. If the patient has identified a lay caregiver, a hospital must notify the lay caregiver of the patient's discharge to the patient's residence, discharge to a post-acute healthcare facility, or transfer to another hospital as soon as practicable.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1308 – Electronic Records** by Rep. Noel Williams (R – Cordele) allows a plan sponsor of a health benefit plan to consent on behalf of an enrollee to the electronic delivery of all communications related to the plan. Under this legislation, enrollees can opt out of electronic communications.  
*Effective July 1, 2022, and will apply to all policies or contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after 7/1/22*

**House Bill 1324 – Layperson Standard** by Rep. Beth Camp (R - Concord) requires that a layperson standard is not affected in final diagnosis for an emergency condition, physical or mental.  
*Effective July 1, 2022*

**House Bill 1335 – Juneteenth as a State Holiday** by Rep. Calvin Smyre (D - Columbus) designates the week in September during which September 11 falls every year as 'Public Safety Week' in Georgia. Establishes 13 state holidays, including Juneteenth.  
*Effective April 4, 2022*

**House Bill 1355 - Childhood Lead Exposure Control Act** by Rep. Katie Dempsey (R – Rome) updates the definition of 'confirmed lead poisoning' to a confirmed concentration of lead equal to or greater than 3.5 micrograms of lead per deciliter using a single venous blood test or two capillary blood tests taken within 12 weeks of each other.  
*This Act shall become effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of funds for purposes of this Act.*

**House Bill 1435 – Financial Aid Gap** by Rep. Chuck Martin (R – Rome) establishes a needs based financial aid program to provide grants to eligible students for undergraduate level postsecondary education at qualified institutions. The maximum award amount per eligible student shall be \$2,500 in total. This applies to students whose family income is considered economically disadvantaged, based on specific criteria, or who has a financial aid gap. This applies to the University System of Georgia, an institution of the Technical College System of Georgia, or a nonproprietary institution of higher education eligible for tuition equalization grants in accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of Code Section 20-3-411.  
*Effective July 1, 2022; specific parts will repeal by operation of law on June 30, 2025.*



**House Resolution 998** – By Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta) recognizes the benefits of biomarker testing as a necessary part of precision medicine.

## SENATE LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

A bill can originate in either chamber; however, the bill must pass both the Senate and House in order to advance to the Governor for signature. The following bills originated in the Senate and have passed both chambers. Where a bill originates indicates a priority for each chamber and the Majority/Minority Caucuses. Additionally, all budget and tax bills must originate in the House Chamber to be considered so typically the Senate takes up priorities outside of these two issues.

**Senate Bill 226 - Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors** by Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas) addresses the sale or distribution of harmful materials to minors. Harmful to minors is defined as description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse. No later than January 1, 2023, each local board of education shall adopt a complaint resolution policy for its local school system to be used to address complaints submitted by parents or permanent guardians alleging that material that is harmful to minors has been provided or is currently available to a student enrolled in the local school system who is the child of such parent or permanent guardian.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 319 - Chairman John Meadows Act** by Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas) removes a ‘license holder’ and defines a ‘lawful weapons carrier’ as any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a weapon or long gun, any person who is licensed pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129, or any person licensed to carry a weapon in any other state whose laws recognize and give effect to a license issued pursuant to this part. Exceptions are included for private property by allowing private property owners or persons in legal control of the private property to exclude or eject a person who is in possession of a weapon or long gun on the private property.

*Effective April 12, 2022*

**Senate Bill 333 – GNPEC Changes** by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) changes the authorizing statute for Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC), the agency that regulates non-USG colleges in Georgia. It is important to note that the GICA institutions are currently considered “exempt” organizations under the GNPEC authorizing statute. The substitute includes revisions to the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund and new exemptions for certain programs within industry-specific certifications and certain short courses.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 338 – Postpartum Care** by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) expands postpartum care for mothers to one year from the current six-month period.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 340 – Teaching Hospitals** by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) updates the definition of designated teaching hospitals and hospitals authorities. A designated teaching hospital would agree to contract with the state to offer or continue to offer a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, instead of the American

Medical Association. Additionally, the current requirement that residency programs have at least 50 beds was changed to a requirement of at least one ACGME accredited residency program to qualify.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 341 – Chronic Conditions** by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) provides guidelines for the prior authorization of a prescribed medication for chronic conditions requiring ongoing medication therapy.

*Effective January 1, 2023, and will apply to all policies or contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after 1/1/23*

**Senate Bill 345 – COVID-19 Vaccine Passports** by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) prohibits specific entities from requiring COVID19 vaccines and passports. Hospitals and hospital authorities are exempt. This legislation has a sunset of June 30, 2023.

*Effective July 1, 2022, and repealed on June 30, 2023*

**Senate Bill 379 – Apprenticeship Programs** by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) establishes a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in the state within the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

*Effective July 1, 2022, and repealed on July 1, 2027*

**Senate Bill 397 – GED Update** by Sen. Russ Goodman (R – Cogdell) replaces "general educational development (GED)" with "state approved high school equivalency (HSE)" in Georgia code.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 403 – Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act** by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) establishes the framework for a state-wide team of emergency response professionals and post-emergency behavioral health professionals. Community service boards would be required to establish co-responder programs to work with local law enforcement agencies responding to emergency calls involving people in a behavioral health crisis.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 441 – GBI Election Investigation** by Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia) authorizes the GBI to investigate any potential infractions that could have put election results in doubt. The GBI's law enforcement authority would overlap with election investigators in the secretary of state's office, which would also continue to look into any infractions. Funding was included by Governor Kemp.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 496 – Medical Examiners** by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) requires a medical examiner's inquiry when a pregnant female dies under certain circumstances.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 500 – Opioid Litigation** by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough) establishes a statewide litigation bar for state and local government entities regarding any past, present, or future claim for damages resulting from the manufacture, marketing, sale, dispensing, or

distribution of opioids. This would go into effect under specific conditions.

*Effective May 2, 2022*

**Senate Bill 514 - Unmask Georgia Students Act** by Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett) ensures that no local board of education, superintendent, or personnel of public and state charter schools could impose any rule requiring students to wear a face mask or cover without an opt-out choice for parents.

*Effective March 29, 2022*

**Senate Bill 539 – Recording Healthcare Workers** by Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia) makes it unlawful for any health care facility, as defined in Code Section 24-12-10, or its employees or contractors in the normal course of their job duties, to use any device to record persons on its premises during the provision of health care services, to fulfill administrative or operational responsibilities, or to ensure the safety of patients and visitors.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 566 – Surprise Billing** by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) addresses clean up language for surprise billing, including coverage for physical, mental and substance abuse care. SB 566 clarifies language related to insurance coverage for the treatment of non-emergency and post-stabilization services.

*Effective July 1, 2022, and will apply to all policies or contracts issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after 7/1/22*

**Senate Bill 573 –Surgical Smoke** by Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) requires hospitals to adopt policies to reduce human exposure to surgical smoke.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 605 – COVID-19 Unemployment** by Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) enables specific nonprofit organizations to have the option of making installment payments to finance unemployment benefits paid to its employees during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

**Senate Bill 610 – DCH Waivers and IMDs** Sen. Sally Harrell (D – Atlanta) beginning Fiscal Year 2024, requires DCH to conduct a comprehensive review of provider reimbursement rates for home and community-based services covered by the New Options Waiver (NOW) program, the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), the Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP), and the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP). In a committee substitute, SB 610 was amended and directs the Department of Community Health to apply for federal approval to allow institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) in this state to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement for mental health and substance abuse care.

*Effective July 1, 2022*

# LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

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This list of legislation includes bills that failed to pass during the 2022 legislative session. We included these bills because they were discussed or reported on previously. These issues have the potential of rising again next session.

**House Bill 290 - Hospital Visitation** by Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth) would have required hospitals and long-term care settings to allow a legal representative to visit an inpatient daily even during a public health emergency. Exceptions would not have been made for any situation including, infectious disease, security threats, or natural disasters.

**House Bill 430 – APRNs** by Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell) would have created a separate category of license for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Currently, APRNs practice under the same type of license as registered nurses but with a separate authorization for advanced practice.

**House Bill 697 – CON Exemption** by Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta) would provide a Certificate of Need exemption for two years for certain rural hospitals.

**House Bill 867 – Truth in Prescription Pricing for Patients Act** by Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta) would address regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) by adding price concessions that accrue, including through an affiliate, subsidiary, third party, or intermediary, to the rebate definition. Requires PBMs to disclose the true net cost and final net cost, if applicable, of prescription drugs to insureds. Additionally, PBMs would be required to calculate cost sharing requirements and remittance of the difference in cost sharing payments by the insureds based on final net cost.

**House Bill 1004 – Campus Police** by Rep. Meshia Mainor (D – Atlanta) would allow for the establishment of a unified campus police force through agreements entered into by colleges and universities. 'College or university' means an accredited, nonproprietary, public or private educational institution of higher learning located in this state.

**House Bill 1184 – Entrance Exam** by Rep. Al Williams (D – Midway) would provide up to three administrations of a nationally recognized college entrance exam to public school students in grade 11, who choose to participate.

**House Bill 1192 – HIV DCH Waiver** by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta) would require DCH to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to CMS for a demonstration project to provide treatment services under Medicaid to people living with HIV.

**House Bill 1319 – Georgia LEO Scholarship - Georgia Law Enforcement Officer Scholarship** by Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R- Glennville) would allow each eligible student attending an approved school would receive a grant for a maximum of four years in the sum of \$2,000.00 per award year. 'Approved school' means a school which is a unit of the University System of Georgia or a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia or a private independent nonprofit postsecondary institution eligible for HOPE Scholarships or grants. Additionally, HB 1319 addresses loan forgiveness for full-time medical examiners.

**House Bill 1348 – Georgia Smoke-free Air Act** by Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee) would create parity between smoking and vaping laws by prohibiting vaping in designated smoke-free areas.

**House Bill 1351 – PBMs** by Rep. David Knight (R – Griffin) would require the Department of Community Health to take over the management of pharmacy benefits for a care management organization and its enrollees starting on July 1, 2024. Additionally, the department is required to address future contract term payments and program implementation costs.

**House Bill 1371 – Rural Workforce** by Rep. Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper) would create the 13-member Rural Health Advancement Commission.

**House Bill 1404 – IMD Waivers** by Rep. Robert Pruitt (R – Eastman) would direct the Department of Community Health to apply for federal approval to allow institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) in this state to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement for mental health and substance abuse care.

**House bill 1464 – Elections** by Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross) would have made several changes to Georgia’s election laws.

**House Bill 1484 – PANDAS** by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville) subject to available funding, would require DCH to conduct a three-year pilot program beginning January 1, 2024, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the state health benefit plan.

**House Bill 1520 – Workforce Initiative** by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville) would create the 27-member Georgian Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges. This Council has a sunset date in 2025. *(The Governor issued an Executive Order instead.)*

**House Bill 1533 – Fatigue in Healthcare Workforce** by Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta) would enable the establishment of external professional programs to address career fatigue and wellness in healthcare. The programs would have to adhere to rules and requirements established under HB 1533.

**House Bill 1547 – CON Repeal** by Rep. Matt Hatchett (R – Dublin) would make numerous changes to the Certificate of Need (CON) statute and completely repeals the program by Jan. 1, 2025. *(This bill did not make it past the Crossover Day deadline.)*

**Senate Bill 339 – Green Call Act** by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R- Marietta) would establish a green alert program to notify the public when a veteran or military service member known to have a physical or mental health condition, or who is at imminent risk of self-harm, is missing.

**Senate Bill 352 – Expedited Licensure** by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) would allow for specific expedited licenses, by endorsement, for spouses of firefighters, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers who relocate to the State of Georgia.

**Senate Bill 378 – Hazing** by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) would increase jail time for anyone convicted of hazing a college student and strengthens the requirements for colleges to report hazing violations.

**Senate Bill 456 – Women's Health and Safety Act** by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) would address the administration and use of abortion-inducing drugs. Under this legislation, abortion-inducing drugs (as defined in the legislation) would only be provided or prescribed by a qualified physician following procedures outlined in SB 456. Abortion-inducing drugs would not be provided in any school facility or on state grounds, including but not limited to, elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

# Appendix A

Following is a summary of House Bill 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act.

## **Insurance Coverage and Parity**

- Establishes parity between Georgia's mental health coverage and the federal 'Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.'
- Requires that health care insurance plans that provide coverage for mental health treatment or substance use disorders follow the federal law.
- Defines "generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care."
- Prohibits health insurers from denying same-day reimbursement for someone who sees separate mental health and primary care providers in the same day.
- Updates the following to include behavioral health services that screen, prevent, diagnose, manage, or treat an illness:
  - "medical necessity," "medically-necessary care," or "medically necessary and appropriate"
- Insurance Plans:
  - Must provide an annual comparative analysis report, a fine will be imposed if not.
  - The Department of Insurance will oversee compliance and administer fines if necessary.
- State Health Insurance Plans:
  - Must provide an annual comparative analysis report which will be posted on the Department of Community (DCH) website.
  - DCH will oversee compliance and will establish a process to address any complaints regarding mental health care by these plans.

## **1. Workforce and System Development**

- Includes cancelable educational loans for primary care, psychiatry, mental health, substance use, clinical nurse specialist in mental health and other licenses clinicians and specialists.
- Instructs the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to create and maintain data for mental and behavioral health professionals. The data will be gathered through a survey during the application process.

## **2. Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

- Establishes a three-year assisted outpatient treatment grant program opportunity for private and community providers. The purpose is to address efficacy of the assisted outpatient treatment model in Georgia.
- Defines "assisted outpatient treatment" as involuntary outpatient care provided by community service boards or private providers working with community partners.
- The grant will be administered under the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.
- The application process and requirements for applicants are defined and outlined under HB 1013.
- A third party will evaluate the applications for the grants.

- Transportation:
  - Law enforcement can transport to a receiving facility if there is probable cause.
  - Law enforcement must consult with a physician who approves transportation for evaluation.
  - Law enforcement must complete a detailed report – the patient’s clinical record will be included in the report.
  - This process applies to those arrested/hospitalized for penal substance abuse disorder offenses.
  - Transportation must be initiated by local governing authority based on the patient’s location.
  - The transport must go to a receiving facility.
  - The Sheriff will handle further transport at the request of the mental health center. Friends and family can also transport.
  - Females must have another female present with them or a male family member.

### 3. Courts and Corrections

- Subject to appropriations.
- The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will create a grant program to fund accountability courts and establish a mental health/trauma treatment process.
- The grant will fund emergency transportation costs for local governing authorities charged with initiating patient transfers.
- The Office of Health Strategy and Coordination will partner with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections to address wraparound services.
- Funds at least five new co-responder programs. (*Senate Bill 403 addresses the creation of these programs*)

### 4. Child and Adolescents

- The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will gather specific data and provide an annual report to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination on the specific issues below:
  - complaints made by individuals receiving behavioral health services;
  - status of housing placements and needs;
  - programs designed to serve disabled infants, children, and youth;
  - and performance and fiscal status of each community service board.
- Clarifies that community services boards provide mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive services to both adults and kids.
- Instructs all agencies providing care for children to gather and share data before October 1, 2024.
- Establishes the Multi-Agency Treatment for Children (MATCH) team within DBHDD.

### 5. Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

- Extends the commission until June 30, 2025.
- Instructs the Department of Community Health (DCH) to submit a report for all programs related to mental health service reimbursements by December 31, 2022.
- Ensures that DCH provides Medicaid coverage for any medically necessary prescriptions.