

Georgia Assn. of Health Underwriters- Weekly report, February 28-March 4

This week, the Legislature worked all 5 days to complete days 20-24. There are now 6 days left until the critical day 30.

The Insurance Committees in both the House and the Senate continue to move bills faster than any of the other committees so far.

Some highlights are below:

HB 167- Steve Davis' prompt pay bill passed the full House Insurance Committee and then was recommitted to the Committee by the Rules Committee. With necessary changes, the bill was voted out of the Insurance Committee again on Thursday and sent back to Rules.

HB 47- Matt Ramsey's across state lines bill passed the full House Insurance Committee on February 24th and remains on the General calendar for the time being.

HB 66- Howard Maxwell's insurance certificate bill which had tipped off debate in subcommittee over the reliability of the certificate some businesses use as proof of insurance passed the House on 3/3 and was read in the Senate the following day.

HB 156 / SB 58- These similar bills passed their respective chambers on March 1st and 3rd, respectively. Both bills aim to revise the provisions to allow indemnification payments to include state highway employees.

We have been informed that a bill to create a governance board for insurance exchanges has been dropped in the hopper today and should be read for the first time on Monday. The bill sponsors are Chairman John Meadows (Rules) and Chairman Richard Smith (Insurance). We have been working with both sponsors closely and will continue to work with them to refine the bill as it moves through the process.

These and other bills in the Insurance Committees can be found on the attached tracking sheet.

The full House Insurance Committee did not meet week but all the subcommittees did. The next House Insurance Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8th from 4:00 – 6:00 where they will take up the bills heard in subcommittee this week. The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Thursday this week and will reconvene on Tuesday at 3:00.

As we mentioned before, we are keeping a close eye on The Special Council for Tax Reform and anticipate they will drop their proposal prior to Day 30. Additionally, we will keep you informed as the debate over creating an Exchange in Georgia moves forward. GAHU is strongly represented in the process and has become a key player.

The Legislature will reconvene on Monday, March 7th at 1:00 PM for Day 25. They are planning to be in session on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of next week to complete day 28. For the full calendar, please visit-

<http://www.senate.ga.gov/sos/Documents/SessionCalendar.pdf> .