

Georgia Assn. of Health Underwriters- Weekly report, January 31-February 4

The Legislature completed days 8,9 and 10 this week. There were a small number of GAHU relevant bills dropped this week. Some highlights include the following:

HB 107- Speaker Ralston's bill relating to the continuation of health coverage for a spouse or dependent of a deceased public employee. This bill was recommitted to the Rules calendar on February 3rd.

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display.aspx?Legislation=32267>

HB 47- Representative Matt Ramsey's bill to authorize policies in GA that have been approved in other states. This bill was committed to House Insurance on January 25th.

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display.aspx?Legislation=32050>

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

Both scheduled Insurance and Labor meetings in the Senate were cancelled this week. Laura Goss attended the House Insurance Committee on Tuesday, February 1 and Thursday, February 3.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Ralph Hudgens addressed the committee. Commissioner Hudgens emphasized his commitment to cutting the premium tax to encourage companies to come to and remain in Georgia. He cited AFLAC as the main example of a company that has left Georgia due to the unfavorable tax rate. Hudgens mentioned he would like to revisit tort reform and he also praised the decision in Florida regarding the healthcare bill.

We enjoyed a successful Day on the Hill on Thursday, February 3rd where we heard encouraging words from Representative Richard Smith, Chairman of Insurance; Representative John Meadows, Chairman of Rules; Blake Fulenwider, Health policy advisor for Governor Nathan Deal; and Ron Jackson of the Commissioner's office.

The Legislature will reconvene on Tuesday, February 8th for Day 11. The next House Insurance committee meeting has not been scheduled and the Senate Insurance committee will be held on Tuesday, February 8th at 3:00 PM.