

## **Georgia Assn. of Health Underwriters- Weekly report, March 14-18**

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The General Assembly completed days 29 & 30 this week. Both days went into the late evening hours.

While quite a few bills were moved, there were some surprises throughout all industries in the bills that did not crossover. The attached tracking sheet contains all the bills we have been tracking and their current status. Bills of top concern are detailed below.

**HB 476-** Chairman Smith's exchange bill, which we have been working on for nearly a year now, was pulled from the debate calendar on Day 30 and recommitted to the Rules Committee. It would appear the underlined reasons for the recommitment of this bill is political pressure. We will keep you informed as the Exchange legislation moves forward.

**HB 167-** This prompt payment legislation was voted out of the House on Day 29 by a vote of 162-9. It crossed over to the Senate where it was read and sent to Senate Judiciary. This was a surprise as we expected it to be assigned to Insurance and Labor. The bill can be found here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20112012/113265.pdf>.

**HB 461-** Rick Jasperse's Health Care Compact bill passed the House with a vote of 108-63 on day 30. This bill addresses the issue of federal vs. state control of healthcare issues. The bill can be found here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20112012/113602.pdf>.

**HB 477-** Representative Jason Shaw's bill changing licensure renewals from annual to biennial passed the House and was placed in Senate Insurance. The vote for this legislation was 166-2. HB 477 can be found here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20112012/113525.pdf>.

**HB 413-** Representative Rich Golick's department bill which allows Georgia to determine whether it will or will not enter into multistate agreements without federal direction passed the House with a 191-1 vote. The bill can be found here: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20112012/113503.pdf>.

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The Insurance Committees will now be busy taking their assigned bills and tweaking them into their final form. The meetings have not been scheduled as of yet. The Senate Judiciary committee will meet on Tuesday at 4:00 at which time we suspect HB 167 (Prompt payment) will be debated.

The Legislature will meet next week on Monday, March 21 at 1:00 P.M. to complete day 31. They will meet Tuesday and Wednesday as well in order to complete through day 33. This is as far as the set calendar goes at this point. We are still hesitant to predict sine die but expect it to be near April 15<sup>th</sup>.