



GAHU

Under the Gold Dome Report

March 19, 2010

This was a very busy week for health care and health insurance legislation. The session started out focused on budgetary concerns, so it was surprising to many when the quantity of bills were introduced regarding our industry.

What happened this week:

- [House Bill 1268](#) was passed out of the House insurance sub-committee on March 17th. This is the ARRA “fix” bill for continuation for terminated employees that are not eligible for COBRA.
- [Senate Bill 310](#) was also passed out of the House insurance sub-committee on March 17th. This bill provides for licensure and oversight for pharmacy benefit managers.
- [House Bill 1184](#) was passed out of the House insurance sub-committee on March 17th. This is the cross-state lines selling bill. Extra wording was added that would provide that domiciled carriers may offer policies similar to the policies offered by out-of-state carriers – and that Georgia residents arbitrate in Georgia.
- [House Bill 1291](#) was also heard and passed out the sub-committee on March 17th. This bill provides for claims to be filed with private insurance companies for any inmate in state prison that has private insurance.
- [Senate Bill 50](#) was also heard in the House insurance sub-committee meeting on March 17th. This bill is about registering rental networks, providing they disclose payers in the network. This bill is very complicated and has caused quite a stir in the committee meeting.

Your GAHU leadership (Blake Watts, Robert Fitzgerald, Matt Holcomb and Lisa Wetherton) meet with Chairman Ralph Hudgens and Representative Tom Knox on Wednesday, March 17th.

I also met with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Robert Fitzgerald and I attended the Senate Insurance Committee dinner sponsored by Nelson and Mullins.

What's going on next week (fasten your seatbelts!):

Cross-over day is Thursday, March 25th. This is the day that each bill must pass from one body of the assembly to the other in order to be passed. There will be a flurry of activity this week to get bills moved from one body to the other. These are some of the bills that will be heard next Monday, March 22nd in committee meetings:

- High Risk Reinsurance Risk Pool - [Senate Bill 453](#) - will be heard again on March 22nd in the insurance committee meeting.
- [Senate Rule 1225](#) creates the provision for allocation of a percent of the premium taxes to fund the High Risk Reinsurance Pool (above).
- House Bill 1268 (discussed above).
- House Bill 1291 (discussed above).
- [House Bill 426](#) - This bill provides for very broad and comprehensive coverage for autism.
- [Senate Bill 245](#) provides for coverage of orally administered chemotherapy.
- [Senate Bill 378](#) is a bill that provides insurance coverage for non-formulary drugs for a limited supply in certain conditions.

There is a rumor floating around that the Assembly will adjourn on the 32nd day to leave 8 days somewhere down the road to finish work on the budget. The implementation of this plan will allow the Assembly to reconvene without additional cost to the state.

If you are interested in coming downtown to work with me, please let me know - I would love to have your support!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wetherton