



January 22, 2016

Georgia Association of Health Underwriters – Week 2 Report

The Legislature met four days this week, concluding Friday's business early due to possible inclement weather. The calendar has run through the 8th legislative day. Speaking of calendars, the Legislature has set the calendar for the session through Day 40 ending on March 24th. The schedule is aggressive and sets up for a fast and furious session. The current schedule is as follows:

Monday, January 25 – Thursday, January 28: Days 9-12
Monday, February 1 – Thursday, February 4: Days 13-16
Monday, February 8 – Thursday, February 11: Days 17-20
Tuesday, February 16 – Friday, February 19: Days 21-24
Monday, February 22 – Friday, February 26: Days 25-29
Monday, February 29: Day 30 – Crossover Day
Wednesday, March 2: Day 31
Monday, March 7 – Tuesday, March 8: Days 32-33
Thursday, March 10 – Friday, March 11: Days 34-35
Monday, March 14 – Wednesday, March 16: Days 36-38
Tuesday, March 22: Day 39
Thursday, March 24: Day 40

As we reported last week, the Governor released his amended FY2016 and FY2017 budgets. This led to this week being dominated by budget hearings and state agency presentations. The \$23.7 billion dollar budget is a 9% increase over FY2016 with a majority of new revenue generated by last year's transportation funding legislation, HB 170. Governor Deal proposed a 3% pay raise for teachers and state employees. It appears Governor Deal will continue studying potential changes to the QBE funding formula for schools and merit pay for teachers and not push those reforms in 2016.

Day on the Hill:

Please remember GAHU's Day on the Hill is scheduled for February 9th! We have already had an impressive number of legislators RSVP. The event is from 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. in the Empire Room of the Sloppy Floyd Building. We look forward to having you at the Capitol!

Committee meetings:

There have not been any Insurance Committee meetings at this point. The Senate has an Insurance and Labor Committee meetings scheduled for Monday at 2:00 P.M. There is no agenda posted. The House has not scheduled a meeting.

PEO issue:

We have been working with the Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia (IIAG) on PEO legislation that would regulate PEO's that have employees providing advice on Health and P&C policies. After meeting with Chairman Smith this week, he suggested a study committee on the issue. This will give us a chance to do more research on the bad actors and begin filing complaints so the DOI will have concrete data to point to. This is a satisfactory solution for the time being. We have begun drawing up legislation to create the study committee. We look forward to being a part of this committee and process.

Commissions:

This week, you received a memo prepared by Russ Childers giving an overview of where we stand in dealing with cutting commissions. We are working with the DOI to learn where they stand and what can legally be done in Georgia to stop the practice of rolling back commissions mid-year. We have a call scheduled tomorrow with the DOI where we will be able to ask these questions.

We will provide you with answers as soon as we have them.

In addition to our talks with the DOI, we await anticipated legislation from Chairman John Meadows who plans to sponsor (or co-sponsor) a NAIFA bill requiring health carriers in Georgia to pay a minimum 5% commission to agents on coverage placed. This bill has not dropped yet.

Legislation:

SB 265 by Senator Judson Hill seeks to clarify that a "physician agreement" is not considered to be an insurance arrangement or agreement and is not subject to state insurance laws so long as the direct financial relationship with the patient does not exceed a fee of \$6,000. It further states that physicians who enter into such an agreement would not be required to obtain a certificate of authority or license other than to maintain a current license to practice medicine in Georgia. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee.

Below you can find a tracking spreadsheet with all the bills we are currently watching. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Bill #	Title	Date	Status	Sponsor	H. Com.	S. Com.
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HB 0047	Prescription drugs; certain refills of topical ophthalmic products under certain conditions; authorize	2/12/15 10:04	Senate Read and Referred House	Cooper, Sharon 43rd	H&HS	H&HS
HB 0193	Life Insurance Consumer Disclosure Model Act; enact	2/4/15 10:49	Second Readers House	Rogers, Carl 29th	Ins	
HB 0703	Georgia Captive Insurance Company Act; enact Insurance; no health benefit plan shall refuse to pay or reimburse for a peroral	1/12/16 10:34	Second Readers	Shaw, Jason 176th	Ins	
HB 0776	endoscopic myotomy procedure; provide Controlled substances;	1/20/16 10:20	House First Readers	Beasley- Teague, Sharon 65th	Ins	
HB 0783	Schedules I and IV; change certain provisions Insurance; advertising and promotional items not exceeding \$100 will not be	1/20/16 10:20	House First Readers	Broadrick, Bruce 4th	H&HS	
HB 0784	considered an unfair trade practice; provide House Study Committee on	1/20/16 10:44	House Hopper	Carson, John 46th Kendrick,		
HR 1054	Policing and Mental Health; create Controlled Substances	1/20/16 10:47	House Hopper	Dar'shun 93rd		
SB 0007	Therapeutic Relief ; repeal provisions; provide for medical use of marijuana; definitions Medicaid; authorization of appropriations; medical assistance payments to	2/11/15 10:07	Senate Read and Referred	Thompson, Curt 5th		JUDYNC
SB 0038	providers of Medicaid expansion	1/26/15 9:57	Senate Read and Referred Senate	Fort, Vincent 39th		APPROP
SB 0086	Patient Compensation ; establish Insurance; require insurer providing services under state health benefit plan to include	2/9/15 11:05	Read and Referred	Beach, Brandon 21st		H&HS
SB 0143	certain trauma centers in provider network Consumer and Provider Protection Act"; provide certain consumer and	3/19/15 9:47	House Second Readers	Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd	Ins	I&L
SB 0158	provider protections regarding health insurance provide physician agreements are not insurance; exempt	2/24/15 10:10	Senate Read and Referred	Burke, Dean 11th		I&L
SB 0265	agreements from regulations as insurance	1/13/16 10:45	Senate Read and Referred	Hill, Judson 32nd		I&L

SR 0722	Mental Illness, Initiative, Reform, Public Health, and Safety; create Joint Study Committee	1/20/16 11:47	Senate Hopper	James, Donzella 35th
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