



In-Session Newsletter

February 11th, 2022

PROGRESS

DV/SA Funding

After 14 (non-consecutive) days into a 40-day Session, Legislators are listening and hearing your calls for support to help with the VOCA cuts coming this October. Several legislators are looking to write a letter to the Governor signed by other legislators to request funding support to offset the deep impact of VOCA cuts.

Address Confidentiality

GCADV continues to work with our partners from the GA Women's Policy Institute (GWPI). Legislation has been drafted to create an Address Confidentiality Program which will provide for a mail forwarding service to those who participate in the program while keeping their address of residence private from those who would cause harm. The bill has not yet been received from legislative council, but Chairman Houston Gaines (District 117/Athens) is working with our team.

“Georgia Safe Workplaces Act” HB549 Sponsored by Rep. Nguyen (89th District/Atlanta)

This bill was sent to House Judiciary Committee. It has not yet had a committee hearing. If passed, this bill would give workers (FT,PT, contractor, etc.), a right of action for workplace harassment –meaning they can sue their employer. It also protects workers from retaliation by employers.

ON THE LOOKOUT

SB319/HB2 – “Constitutional Carry”

These bills would remove some of the requirements currently in place for carrying guns in the state of GA. The bill language allows “lawful” weapons carriers to carry a gun without a license.

SB319 – Sponsored by Sen. Anavitarte (31st District/Dallas)

Hearing held on 2/2/22. Was reported favorably out of committee (passed 6 to3), but not without hearing from GA Commission on Family Violence Executive Director, April Ross, who made a compelling case for amending bill language to provide protections for survivors. Some members of the Stand With Survivors Coalition met with the Chair of Senate Judiciary Committee, Brian Strickland, to discuss possible amendments.

SB316 – Sponsored by Sen. Anavitarte (31st District/Dallas)

Hearing held on 2/8/22. Was reported favorably out of committee by substitute. This bill would make stalking against a minor (by a person over 18) a high and aggravated misdemeanor. And would provide notice to students and parents that some acts of bullying/cyberbullying can constitute criminal violations.



ACTION ALERT

Do you know who your legislators are?

Check out openstates.org to find the legislators for where you live AND where your program is located.

If you need guidance on what to say or to whom it should be said, please reach out Karimah at kdillard@gcadv.org.