



In-Session Newsletter

March 16th, 2022

Crossover Edition

FEDERAL PROGRESS

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION 2022

VAWA has been reauthorized and signed into law by President Biden! After 6 years, we finally have increased protections and supports for survivors.

LOCAL PROGRESS

SAFE @ HOME ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

The bill language has been officially drafted by legislative counsel but was not introduced as a stand-alone bill by Rep. Gaines (Athens). This is a substantial program, with many moving parts. We continue to support this bill and are discussing next steps with the YWCA's GA Women's Policy Institute.

HB847

The Safe Leave bill sponsored by Rep. Michael Smith (Marietta) did not get a committee hearing prior to Crossover Day. We are hearing that there is not much of an appetite from legislators to mandate that the business community comply with offering time off from work.

ON THE LOOKOUT

HB1390

This Anti-retaliation bill sponsored by Rep. Anulewicz (Smyrna) would give county, municipalities and consolidated government employees a right of action when their employer retaliates against them for opposing an act of sexual harassment. **This bill passed the full house and has not yet been assigned to committee.**

HB1452

This amendment to the Dating Violence TPO legislation that was passed last Session is also sponsored by Rep. Gaines (Athens), and would extend the amount of time a victim of dating violence has to currently be or have been in a romantic relationship with the abusive partner from 6 months to 12 months. **This bill passed the full House and has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee.**

HB689

This amendment to the Dating Violence TPO legislation that was passed last Session is also sponsored by Rep. Gaines (Athens), and would extend the amount of time a victim of dating violence has to currently be or have been in a romantic relationship with the abusive partner from



6months to 12 months. **This bill passed the full House and has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee.**

DV/SA FUNDING

The House passed their budget (HB911) on Friday with \$14,608,350 for CJCC's Family Violence Programs and an increase of \$53,598 for six partially funded sexual assault centers to match the funding with the other 22 sexual assault programs. This is a total of \$14,661,948. The bill is now in the Senate. Our letter signed by 55 House Representatives has been delivered to Gov. Kemp. We are still hearing that he wants to support us with ARPA funds. We are now looking to circulate a letter amongst our Senators.

UPDATES ON BILLS WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING

[SB359 Safe & Secure Georgia Act](#)

*corrected from HB359 in last week's edition.

This bill is sponsored by Sen. John Albers (Roswell) and would provide mandatory minimums for persons convicted of possession of a firearm by convicted felons when a person has been previously convicted of a forceful felony, domestic violence or been involved family violence. **This bill passed the full Senate and is assigned to House Judiciary.**

[HB1087 Undocumented Persons Family Violence Protection Act](#)

This bill is sponsored by Shelly Hutchinson (Snellville) and would protect undocumented survivors of domestic violence who seek assistance from law enforcement from being arrested, charged or prosecuted for being an undocumented person. **This bill did not get a committee hearing prior to Crossover Day.**

[SB319 Constitutional Carry Act](#)

This bill is sponsored by Sen. Anavitarte (Dallas) and would remove the requirement that license weapons carriers have to carry a firearms license. **This bill passed the full Senate and has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.**

[HB1517 Georgia Family Insurance Act](#)

This bill is sponsored by Rep Schofield (Atlanta) and would establish a funding mechanism for paid family and medical leave. **This bill did not get a committee hearing prior to Crossover Day.**

[SB316](#)

This bill is sponsored by Sen. Anavitarte (Dallas) and would make stalking of a minor by an individual 18yrs or older, a high and aggravated misdemeanor. This includes some acts of cyberbullying. **This bill passed the full senate and has been assigned to House Education committee.**



[HB1358 Chairman John Meadows Act](#)

This bill is sponsored by Rep. Ballinger (Canton) and would allow lawful weapons carriers to carry firearms- including hand guns and long guns- in parks, recreation centers, and any other place where it is not prohibited by Federal law.

**LESS THAN 3 WEEKS LEFT IN THE
LEGISLATIVE SESSION**