



## House and Senate Calendar

**The House and Senate will reconvene for the 10th Legislative Day on Monday February 4th, 2013 at 10:00 am and 1pm.**

The General Assembly has published its calendar through day 29:

Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> – Day 10	Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> – Day 20
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> – Day 11	Feb 21 <sup>st</sup> – Day 21
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> – Day 12	Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Day 22
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> – Day 13	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> – Day 23
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> – Day 14	Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> – Day 24
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> – Day 15	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> – Day 25
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> – Day 16	Feb 28 <sup>th</sup> – Day 26
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> – Day 17	March 1 <sup>st</sup> – Day 27
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> – Day 18	March 4 <sup>th</sup> – Day 28
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> – Day 19	March 5 <sup>th</sup> – Day 29

Check <http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx> for times (typically 10:00am). The schedule is always subject to change.

# Senior Issues Newsletter

## Budget Updates

Governor Deal's Amended FY2013 Budget and FY2014 Budget proposals were reviewed in the Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Senior Issues Newsletter. These Budget proposals can be found in their entirety by selecting "Governor's Budget Report – AFY 2012" and "Governor's Budget Report – FY 2013" at <http://opb.georgia.gov>.

The House and Senate appropriations subcommittees held budget hearings the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup> the Joint House and Senate Appropriation Committee led by Senator Jack Hill heard presentations on the Department of Human Services ("DHS") budget and the Department of Community Health's ("DCH") budget. Aging advocates attended both meetings to monitor the presentations. DHS Commissioner Clyde Reese and DCH Commissioner David Cook explained the Governor's budget recommendations in detail with the recommended cuts to aging services.

Discussions continued last week on the State Amended FY 2013 Budget in the House subcommittees with presentations by Department Commissioners. Budget tracking documents can be found on both the Senate and House web pages at [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov). These documents allow the reader to track original appropriations, the Governor's recommendations, the House decisions, the Senate recommendations, as well as the recommendations which will be agreed upon in conference as the budget makes its way through the process. We are unsure at this time whether there will be opportunity for testimony on the FY 2013 Amended budget.

## BE THERE 4 SENIORS RALLY Thursday - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 11am



Aging services is facing big budget cuts for both AFY 2013 and FY2014; so it is extremely important that seniors and their advocates stand together & remind our legislators that healthy people cost less and we want to see the cuts restored to the aging services budgets! Please join us on the Washington Street steps of the Capitol for this very important rally!!

Cuts which must be restored in Fiscal Year 2013 Amended:

CCSP state fund to match Federal Medicaid funding:	\$2,638,656
Adult Protective Services – 2 Family Service Workers:	\$55,819

Cuts which must be restored in Fiscal Year 2014:

Alzheimer's respite and HCBS respite care services:	\$484,559
Adult Protective Services – 17 Family Service Workers:	\$528,871

## Federal SSBG Funding Threatened

Also on January 24<sup>th</sup>, Representative Katie Dempsey led the annual public hearing on the allocation of funding for federal block grants, including the Social Services Block Grant (“SSBG”). SSBG provides funding for aging services including home delivered meals, homemaker services, deinstitutionalization, adult care and respite for their caregivers. Aging advocates, Ann Williams, the legislative chair for the Georgia Council on Aging and Nancy Pitra, the coordinator of the Senior Citizens Advocacy Project testified at the SSBG hearing requesting that SSBG funds for aging services not only be maintained but that SSBG funding be increased given the rise in the number of older adults being served in Georgia by this funding.

It is anticipated that the federal block grant funding may not be in the federal budget at all or if included, Georgia may be facing a reduction in SSBG funding from the federal level. Aging services cannot afford to take a cut in the SSBG funding.

Please contact your U.S. congressional representatives and let them know how important this funding is for aging services in Georgia. Their websites with contact information for them and their staff are as follows:

Senator Johnny Isakson	<a href="http://www.Isakson.senate.gov">www.Isakson.senate.gov</a>
Senator Saxby Chambliss	<a href="http://www.Chambliss.senate.gov">www.Chambliss.senate.gov</a>
Rep Jack Kingston – 1 <sup>st</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Kingston.house.gov">www.Kingston.house.gov</a>
Rep Sanford Bishop, Jr. – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	<a href="http://www.bishop.house.gov">www.bishop.house.gov</a>
Rep Lynn Westmoreland – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	<a href="http://www.westmoreland.house.gov">www.westmoreland.house.gov</a>
Rep Henry “Hank” Johnson, Jr – 4 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Hankjohnson.house.gov">www.Hankjohnson.house.gov</a>
Rep John Lewis – 5 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Johnlewis.house.gov">www.Johnlewis.house.gov</a>
Rep Tom Price – 6 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.tomprice.house.gov">www.tomprice.house.gov</a>
Rep Rob Woodall – 7 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Woodall.house.gov">www.Woodall.house.gov</a>
Rep Austin Scott – 8 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.austinscott.house.gov">www.austinscott.house.gov</a>
Rep Doug Collins – 9 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.dougcollins.house.gov">www.dougcollins.house.gov</a>
Rep Paul Broun – 10 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Broun.house.gov">www.Broun.house.gov</a>
Rep Phil Gingrey – 11 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.gingrey.house.gov">www.gingrey.house.gov</a>
Rep John Barrow – 12 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.Barrow.house.gov">www.Barrow.house.gov</a>
Rep David Scott – 13 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.davidscott.house.gov">www.davidscott.house.gov</a>
Rep Tom Graves – 14 <sup>th</sup> District	<a href="http://www.tomgraves.house.gov">www.tomgraves.house.gov</a>

## CO-AGE and Other Legislative Updates

SB 14: Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementia State Plan Task Force passed unanimously out of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee this week.

SR 127: A resolution to recognize Feb 27<sup>th</sup> 2013 & Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 as Senior Week at the State Capitol was adopted by the Senate this week. The resolution was sponsored by Senator Unterman – 45<sup>th</sup>, Senator Crosby – 13<sup>th</sup>, Senator Tippins – 37<sup>th</sup>, and Senator Jackson – 24<sup>th</sup>.

SB 24: Hospital Medicaid Financing Program Act, better known as the hospital provider fee was passed by the House on Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The bill now awaits signature by the Governor.

HR 107: Resolution to create a Joint Study Committee on Medicaid Reform in Georgia was introduced this week and assigned to House Appropriations.

SB 62: A bill to establish a legislative committee to act in oversight capacity on health care funding in Georgia has been assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

**Watch the Georgia Council on Aging Website  
for alerts and regular legislative updates.**

[www.gcoa.org](http://www.gcoa.org)

**Department of Community Health Board: Next Meeting, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2013  
meets second Thursday of each month at 10:30 am on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor at 2 Peachtree.**

**Department of Human Services Board: Next Meeting, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
meets third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> Floor at 2 Peachtree.**



## **Advocacy in Action .... Make Your Voice Heard!**

**Come to the Capitol.** Join other aging advocates in person to support funding and services for older adults:

**Be There 4 Seniors Rally at the Capitol** February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
**Senior Week at the Capitol** February 27<sup>th</sup> & Feb 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the Capitol** February 27<sup>th</sup>

Call Eric Ryan in the GCoA office to register for Senior Week at 404-657-5343 or contact him at [joryan@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:joryan@dhr.state.ga.us).

**Come anytime!** Make an appointment with your legislators and come to meet them, view the General Assembly in session from the Gallery, and watch your government at work. If you need assistance from advocates who are at the Capitol daily, call the Georgia Council on Aging office at 404-657-5343 or meet us on the third floor of the Capitol in front of the double elevators.

### **Learn about Legislation that Impacts Seniors**

This newsletter will inform you each week the Legislature is in Session.

Ask about specific legislation: Georgia Council on Aging (404)657-5343.

Follow legislation or learn about the General Assembly: [www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx](http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx)

Get copies of bills: House Clerk's office (404)656-5015

Watch the General Assembly and some Committee Hearings at <http://www.gpb.org/lawmakers>.

Watch GPTV's "Lawmakers" each evening at 7:00 pm to see the events of the day at the Capitol.