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## A New Year, A New Legislative Term

The 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly kicked off January 9th with the ringing of the House and Senate chamber bells.

The National Championship game between the Georgia Bulldogs and the TCU Horned Frogs, sent legislators and lobbyists alike to So-Fi stadium in Los Angeles shortly after swearing in on Monday morning. The late night Georgia Bulldogs CFP National Championship win brought a new level of excitement to the Capitol mid-week.

Additionally, the annual Eggs and Issues breakfast hosted by the Georgia Chamber laid out legislative priorities and budgetary goals. Closing out the events of the week was the inauguration of Governor Brian Kemp, Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, and the Constitutional Officers. Thursday evening, the Governor hosted the Inaugural Gala joined by musician, Luke Bryan.

For the first time, legislators set the full legislative calendar for the 40 legislative days of the session.

- Monday, January 9th: Legislative Day 1
- Wednesday, January 11th: Legislative Day 2
- Thursday, January 12th: Legislative Day 3
- Friday, January 13th: Legislative Day 4
- Tuesday, January 17th - Friday, January 20th - Joint Budget Hearings ([CLICK HERE](#) to view schedule. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the hearings)\*
- Monday, January 23rd - Thursday, January 26th: Legislative Days 5-8
- Monday, January 30th - Thursday, February 2nd: Legislative Days 9-12
- Monday, February 6th - Thursday, February 9th: Legislative Days 13-16
- Monday, February 13th - Thursday, February 16th: Legislative Days 17-20
- Tuesday, February 21st - Thursday, February 23rd: Legislative Days 21-23
- Monday, February 27th- Thursday, March 2nd: Legislative Days 24-27
- Monday, March 6th (CROSSOVER DAY) - Thursday, March

9th: Legislative Days 28-31

- Monday, March 13th - Thursday, March 16th: Legislative Days 32-35
- Monday, March 20th: Legislative Day 36
- Tuesday, March 21st: Legislative Day 37
- Thursday, March 23rd: Legislative Day 38
- Monday, March 27th: Legislative Day 39
- Wednesday, March 29th: Legislative Day 40 (SINE DIE)

\*Georgia Departments of Community Health, Public Health and Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities all present their budgets on Tuesday, January 17th beginning at 2:30pm.

*The 2023 Legislative Session will reconvene at 10:00am Monday, January 23rd, 2023.*

### **Governor Brian Kemp Inaugural Address**

Governor Kemp gave his Inaugural Address at the Georgia State University Convocation Center on Thursday morning laying out his vision for the State of Georgia.

Some of the highlights of his address included:

- Continued workforce and economic development investment and \$2 billion in income and property tax rebates.
- Proposing a new \$2,000 pay raise for state employees and teachers.
- Fully fund public education again for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Proposed \$150 million one-time grants for school safety and security, learning loss, and for paraprofessionals becoming teachers.

To see a video of the speech, [CLICK HERE](#).

Additionally, the Office of Planning and Budget has posted Governor Kemp's Amended Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposals [HERE](#).

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### **Senate Leadership and Committee Chair's**

President Pro Tem - Sen. John F. Kennedy  
Majority Leader - Sen. Steve Gooch

The following Senators were names to chair standing committees:

Sen. Russ Goodman - Agriculture and Consumer Affairs  
Sen. Blake Tillery - Appropriations  
Sen. Carden Summers - Banking and Financial Institutions  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD - Children and Families Committee (NEW COMMITTEE)  
Sen. Brandon Beach - Economic Development and Tourism  
Sen. Clint Dixon - Education and Youth  
Sen. Max Burns - Ethics  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler - Finance  
Sen. Marty Harbin - Government Oversight  
Sen. Ben Watson - Health and Human Services

Sen. Billy Hickman - Higher Education  
Sen. Larry Walker - Insurance and Labor  
Sen. Colton Moore - Interstate Cooperation  
Sen. Brian Strickland - Judiciary  
Sen. Lee Anderson - Natural Resources  
Sen. John Albers - Public Safety  
Sen. Shelly Echols - Reapportionment and Redistricting  
Sen. Bill Cowsert - Regulated Industries and Utilities  
Sen. Rick Williams - Retirement  
Sen. Matt Bass - Rules  
Sen. Chuck Payne - Science and Technology  
Sen. Ed Harbison - State Institutions and Property  
Sen. Frank Ginn - State and Local Government  
Sen. Greg Dolezal - Transportation  
Sen. Donzella James - Urban Affairs  
Sen. Mike Dugan - Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security

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### **House Leadership and Committee Chair's**

Speaker Burns announced plans to **create a new healthcare committee that will oversee the existing healthcare committees that are responsible for health policy and funding.**

Representative Butch Parrish (R-Swainsboro), who currently chairs the Health Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, will serve as chair of the new committee.

Speaker Burns also announced that the House's other committee assignments will be released next week.

At this point, we are awaiting details on how any and all health policy will operate at the legislature. We believe this will all be rolled out by Speaker Burns next week.

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### **New Notable Legislation**

#### **SB 1 - Sen. Greg Dolezal**

**COVID Vaccination Proof for Government Services** - Seeks to remove the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services

#### **SB 2 - Sen. Greg Dolezal**

**COVID Liability** - Seeks to provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19.

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### **The Rumors Begin...**

- CON reform legislation is being discussed by both the House and Senate Chambers. We will alert via email as we learn more.
  - Discussions of a multitude of tort reform legislation have circulated through both chambers.
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To find any bill, go to [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov) and use the search box at the top left of the page. There is also an advanced search option that allows you to find bills by keyword or sponsor.

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### **Physicians Day at the at the Capitol 2023**

The date is set for **Wednesday,  
February 8, 2023 from 9:00am -  
1:00pm**

Legislators and Constitutional Officers will be invited to attend the luncheon. We will be meeting with individual legislators throughout the morning hours on the House and Senate ropes.

Click [HERE](#) to register now!

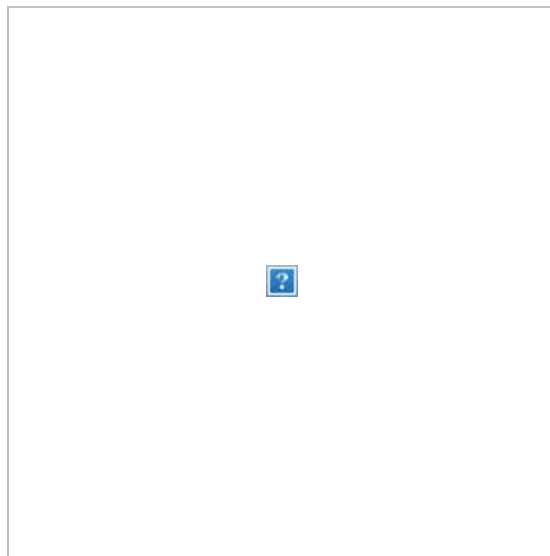
### **Doctor of the Day**

Be the "Doctor of the Day!" The Medical Association of Georgia sponsors the "Medical Aid Station" in the Capitol with a staff nurse and volunteer physician.

Each day the legislature is in session, a physician is needed to serve as the Doctor of the Day at the State Capitol. The physician is introduced in both the Senate and House Chambers. Take this opportunity to demonstrate that the House of Medicine is strong in Georgia and is willing to assist in the legislative process.

Please RSVP to Devin Krecl  
at [devin@associationstrategygroup.us](mailto:devin@associationstrategygroup.us) or  
call 770.655.9545

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For legislative highlights and review, watch ***Lawmakers***, which airs on **Georgia Public Broadcasting** at **7PM** every night the Georgia General Assembly is in session.

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**We will be sending out legislative updates regularly throughout the 2023 session, so keep an eye on your inbox to stay updated on all of the happenings from under the Gold Dome.**

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More information: Please reach out to our office at 770.435.5586 or reach out to us personally via our cell phones.

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