

# DKG Under the Gold Dome

*A Weekly Publication to Keep You Informed*

**TO:** All GSO Sisters  
**FROM:** Laura Croom,  
Chair, GSO Educational Law & Policy Committee  
**RE:** Upcoming 2022 Legislative Session  
**DATE:** January 18, 2022



Dear Sisters,

The Georgia General Assembly kicked off Monday, January 10, 2022 with an opening of “GO DAWGS!” Most of the legislature was out Tuesday to allow travel from Indianapolis. Wednesday legislators returned for Day 2 with the opportunity to wear their UGA gear and end every sentence with “Go Dawgs!”

The highlight of Week 1 was the annual State of the State Address by Governor Kemp, which began by sharing much praise for the educator workforce of Georgia and an acknowledgement that teachers are “required to do more than ever before.” He also focused on celebrating the successes in Georgia’s economy, especially during the pandemic. Kemp’s major topics were education, public health, and public safety.

1. Proposed budget, teachers, including PreK, support staff and administrators would receive a \$2000 “supplement” this fiscal year. Bus drivers, food service workers, nurses, and some part-time employees would receive \$1000.
2. Kemp proposed a \$2000 salary raise for FY23 for certified staff, hoping to complete his promise of a \$5000 dollar raise in total since 2019.
3. The Governor’s budget includes funds to eliminate austerity cuts in FY22 and FY23.
4. He mentioned support for legislation that prohibits “division ideologies” like Critical Race Theory, addresses fairness in school athletics, prevents students from being exposed to obscene materials at school, and provides guaranteed parental rights concerning their children’s education.
5. There will be funds in the budget to assist in the reduction of health care premiums.
6. Legislation and funding will be directed at increasing the number of medical doctors and medical support personnel. The goal is to increase by 1,300 the number of health care practitioners in Georgia.
7. The budget will include funds to extend the new mother health care program from six months to one year.

8. Funds are allocated in the budget to increase by 10% the funds available to foster care parents and the foster care program.
9. Kemp supports the constitutional carry concept that permits adults to carry concealed weapons without a permit.
10. An anti-gang unit will be funded for the Attorney General's office.
11. Additional funds will be directed to public safety, particularly the GBI crime lab.
12. The budget will be expanded sufficient to create an additional state trooper class each year.
13. Funds are to be made available to enable the technical college system to add programs in criminal justice, certificate, and associate degree level programs.
14. State employees other than teachers will receive a \$5,000 pay raise.
15. Legislation will be introduced that will require a superior court judge to set bail for those charged with human trafficking offenses.

One of the biggest influences on the 2022 General Assembly is the number of legislators who have announced they will not return to their seats. Election-year pressures and agendas clouding the Session are very common, but having a large number adds to the drama. Expect legislation to be dropped in the coming days on establishing a list of "Parental Rights" regarding public schools. If you are interested in looking up any bill visit <https://www.legis.ga.gov/>.

### **Prefiled Bills**

- **HB 861** (Scott) Increase access to menstrual products
- **HB 863** (Scott) Provides free menstrual products for University System students
- **SB 323** (Miller) Eliminates state income tax
- **SR 360/SB 327** (Miller) Creates substantial homestead exemption for districts that have been sanctioned by the State Board of Education for not teaching required curriculum

**Reassigned Bills** (These bills did not pass in 2021, but they have been given another chance.)

- **HB 455** (Barr) Permits vans to be used for student transportation in certain circumstances; reassigned to Senate Education and Youth. A similar bill (SB 159) has already been signed into law and took effect this July.
- **HB 681** (Yerta) Creates a financial literacy course required for all students; reassigned to Senate Education and Youth
- **SB 240** (Harrell) Creates an instructional program on elections; reassigned to Senate Education and Youth
- **SB 266** (Harbin) Prohibits transgender students identifying as males from participating in female sports; reassigned to Senate Education and Youth

### **2022 New Bills**

- **HB 885** (Belton) Allows military students to remain in the same school if parents are transferred; assigned to Education

- **HB 888** (Thomas, B) Prohibits instruction or instructional materials that propone or uphold certain views or historical interpretations of race or discrimination in the nation. Would require systems to post both primary AND ancillary instructional materials used or provided by individual teachers for public review. Would penalize school systems who violate this law by withholding a significant percentage of QBE funds, pending a corrective action plan. Assigned to Education.
- **HB 892** (Mitchell, R) Prohibits corporal punishment; assigned to Education
- **SB 316** (Anavitarte) Requires LBOE to notify parents and students that bullying may be considered a criminal act; assigned to Education and Youth
- **SB 328** (Mullis) Creates a new, non-profit organization to govern high school athletics; assigned to Education and Youth
- **SB 334** (Mullis) Requires private schools to be placed in a separate region for high school athletics; assigned to Education and Youth

The General Assembly will be in recess January 17-21, 2022, for MLK Holiday and to conduct hearings on the FY 2023 Budget.

Sincerely,

*Laura Croom*

Laura Croom

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