



GNA Legislative Summary

The following is a summary of GNA's legislative activities this session:

HB 935 was the initial APRN prescribing bill. The language in this bill changed several times and it even got a Senate version in the form of SB 603 before this legislation finally passed as an amendment to SB 480.

HB 1008 was introduced to expand the palliative care services offered by a hospice beyond the traditional six months of care. The bill passed both chambers, but at the last minute due to complaints from the Department of Human Resources, a funding amendment was added to postpone enactment until a future appropriation cycle can identify specific funds to trigger this language.

HB 1066 was approved by both chambers. This bill expands the current metabolic newborn screening tests from the current 13 to 29.

HB 1178 establishes a new program to capture certain kinds of unused prescription drugs turned by a nursing home and hospice from a deceased patient's supply. This program will be coordinated by the Pharmacy Board and the Departments of Human Resources and Community Health.

HR 1684 creates a study committee to look into DHR's Division of Public Health. The House Appropriations Committee initiated this study group at the prompting of GNA's testimony which alerted legislators of the low salaries for public health nurses during a public hearing on health issues.

SB 109 was the pain management bill from last year. It would have created a standard for physicians to prescribe medications at end-of-life situations and related treatments to manage pain. This bill passed the Senate and was ready to be voted on by the full House but failed to get a vote on the last day due to House-Senate politics similar to what derailed SB 423.

SB 423 was designed to regulate dialysis technicians but this bill failed to get to the House floor for a final vote. It fell victim to House-Senate politics during the final hours of the session and was blocked by House leaders to retaliate against the Senate's failure to act on a House bill.

SB 442 requires hospital personnel to report cases of suspected child abuse within 24 hours. It passed both bodies and is expected to be signed by the Governor.



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SB 480 originally was a bill to regulate medication aides but was amended to add the APRN language. This bill passed the House and Senate during the last week of the session and is on its way to the Governor. The APRN language in this bill is similar to the original HB 935 but adds some additional duties for the medical board to regulate the MD who is the delegating physician in the nurse protocol agreement. This bill was a significant victory for GNA and a culmination of a 10 year battle to get prescriptive authority for the APRN in Georgia.

SR 785 was the only one of several bills to be approved regarding the state's trauma system. It creates a 10 person study committee to look into and report on the state's current system, the way to maintain it, and the need, if any, to improve/expand the system.

SR 853 would have created a hospital infection control standards committee with at least two RNs to be appointed to this group to study hospital cleanliness and infection rates. It passed the Senate but failed to get a vote in the House.