

Deal Issues Five Veto Statements

May 7, 2013

Gov. Nathan Deal today issued five veto statements and two signing statements. There were no line-item vetoes in the budget.

House Bill 240 attempts to address concerns voiced by speech language pathologists that clinical fellows are not reimbursed by Georgia Medicaid. However, Georgia Medicaid only enrolls fully licensed providers for reimbursement. On close review, this legislation would expand the number of eligible providers that could bill for Medicaid reimbursement and open the door for additional providers, who are not yet fully licensed, to pursue similar legislation. The Georgia Medicaid budget has been under tremendous financial pressure and any additional expenses will increase the financial burden. In addition, the legislation would require Georgia Medicaid to reimburse Clinical Fellows at 100 percent of the Speech Language Pathologist rate which would create an inequity among other fully licensed provider types who are reimbursed at less than 100 percent. I am vetoing this legislation because I believe HB 240 creates an inequitable system of reimbursement among provider groups. I also find that this legislation would open the door for similarly situated non-licensed providers to seek Medicaid reimbursement. Accordingly, **I VETO HB 240.**