

DATE: March 7, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Eight of the 2014 Legislative Session



It's crunch time under the Gold Dome as Crossover Day has passed and Day 40 is approaching in less than ten days. Any bill that did not pass through its chamber of origin by Day 30 (Monday of this week) will not be considered this session, unless it can attached itself to another bill that has made its way through the legislative process. Here are the bills that made the cut as well as some additional highlights from a very busy week of the 2014 legislative session.

FY15 Budget: The Senate passed their version of the 2015 Budget on Thursday of this week with a few changes from the proposed House Budget. The supplemental rebate portion of the budget was decreased to \$1.9 million from the \$3.8 million the House proposed. Our team will work to get this completely taken out in conference committee. There was also money put into the Invest Georgia Fund in the amount of \$10 million. The Senate's version will now be sent back to the House for agreement/disagreement and a conference committee will be created. The full document can be accessed [here](#) or via the Georgia General Assembly website.

SB 167: Georgia Bio team members rallied together and spoke out against SB 167 on Wednesday of this week. This piece of legislation seeks to establish independence from federal guidelines regarding what schools should teach students. Among other things, the legislation would establish independence from Common Core State Standards as well as Next Generation Science Standards, the National Health Education Standards, and the National Sexuality Standards. Our team submitted a letter to the House Education Committee in opposition of this bill and Robert McNally gave testimony on behalf of Georgia Bio. Changes are expected to be made to this bill and we should receive additional information next week.

Legislative Tracking Sheet:

Bill	Sponsor	Analysis
HB809	(1) Williamson, Bruce 115th (2) Duncan, Geoff 26th (3) Nix, Randy 69th (4) Caldwell, Jr., Johnnie 131st (5) Fludd, Virgil 64th (6) Dickey, Robert 140th	HB 809 address reforms for patent assertion entities and has been dubbed the Patent Troll Legislation. Georgia Bio and other team members were successfully able to get language adopted into this bill that would exempt biosciences from these regulations. If this bill moves forward and passes this year, our industry will be protected. It passed out of the House by committee substitute with a vote of 48-4 and has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Banks and Banking.
HB885	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Watson, Ben 166th (3) Channell, Mickey 120th (4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) McCall, Tom 33rd	Sponsored by Representative Peak (R - Macon), HB 885 is known as "Haliagh's Hope Act." It would allow the General Assembly to permit research on the therapeutic and treatment applications of cannabis with regards to such disorders as cancer, glaucoma and seizure disorder patients. The cannabis would be delivered in a nonsmoking form, such as a liquid, pill, vaporization, or injection. This bill does not encourage or sanction the recreational use of marijuana. This bill passed out of the House by committee substitute with a vote of 171-4 on Crossover Day.

SB167	<p>(1) Ligon, Jr., William 3rd (2) Loudermilk, Barry 14th (3) Albers, John 56th (4) Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd (5) Hill, Hunter 6th (6) Williams, Tommie 19th</p>	<p>Sponsored by Senator William Ligon (R - Brunswick), this legislation seeks to establish independence from federal guidelines on what schools should teach students. Among other things, the legislation would establish independence from Common Core State Standards. It passed out of the Senate Floor with a vote of 34-16 a few days before Day 30 without much debate. It has been assigned to the House Education Committee.</p>
SB370	<p>(1) Carter, Buddy 1st</p>	<p>SB 370, sponsored by Buddy Carter, would change the current code relating to pharmacists and pharmacies to add the terms "biological product" and "interchangeable biological product." It has been held in the 2014 session, which allows Georgia Bio to continue education legislators on bioscience principals. There will be a 15-minute educational hearing on SB 370 next week.</p>
HR1038	<p>(1) Stephens, Ron 164th</p>	<p>HR 1038, sponsored by Representative Stephens of the 164th, proposes to encourage the Georgia Deptment of Education, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Department of Community Affairs, and the private sector to work together and collaborate to assist in the return of manufacturing to the United States. These groups are key in continuing to develop and train our current and future workforce to meet the challenges of an ever-changing manufacturing environment. Ultimately, this collaboration and continued innovation will increase the economic stability of our state and strengthen the global economy. This bill passed out of the House with a vote of 165-1.</p>

Notes