

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report January 17, 2020

Days 1-4 of 40 Day Session

GENERAL UPDATE:

The Georgia Legislature convened the 2020 Legislative Session on Monday, January 13th. The House and Senate approved the calendar for the first 14 days of the annual 40-day legislative session.

Budget Week is scheduled for the week of January 20th with Joint House and Senate appropriations meetings convening on the mornings of the 21st through the 23rd. Those budget hearings will be devoted to the FY2020 continuation budget and the FY2021 General Appropriations Act.

[Meetings and adjournments of the General Assembly](#)

[2020 Joint Budget Hearings Schedule](#)

Gov. Brian Kemp delivered his second State of the State address Thursday January 16th, outlining his vision for the coming year. Gov. Kemp said raising teacher pay is one of his top goals and his budget proposal includes a \$2,000 pay raise for public school teachers, at a projected cost of more than \$380 million. He also wants a \$1,000 pay raise for other state employees making less than \$40,000 a year, at a cost of \$45 million. In addition, Gov. Kemp plans to improve state adoption law, make reforms to medical billing and fight gangs and human trafficking.

CHAIRMAN CHANGES:

At the end of 2019 House Speaker David Ralston appointed a new leader for one of the most powerful committees in the Georgia General Assembly, naming state Rep. Richard Smith as chairman of the Rules Committee. Since 2011, Smith has served as the chairman of the Insurance Committee and was elected to the House in 2004.

State Rep. Eddie Lumsden, a Republican from Armuchee, will take over the chairmanship of the Insurance Committee. State Rep. Bonnie Rich, a Republican from Suwanee, will replace Lumsden as the head of the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Committee.

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SHEET

Georgia Bio will provide updates on specific legislation of interest to the Georgia Bio membership. If you have bills that you would like included in the weekly bill update, please email jsantoro@gabio.org.

[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)

GEORGIA BIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2020 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Wed. January 22nd at 11am
Mon. February 3rd at 11am
Mon. February 17th at 11am
Mon. March 2nd at 11am
Mon. March 16th at 11am
Mon. March 30th at 11am

If you would like to participate on a Georgia Bio Policy Committee call, please contact Joseph Santoro at jsantoro@gabio.org.

SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS POLICY PRIORITIES:

On Monday January 13th the Senate Majority Caucus outlined their priorities for the year. The Senate Majority Caucus plans to introduce legislation that includes fixes for marketplace facilitators' collection of tax revenue, limits for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and measures to curb surprise billing, as well as additional funding to improve infant and maternal mortality rates.

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SHEET:

Georgia Bio will provide updates on specific legislation of interest to the Georgia Bio membership. Please see below for legislation that has been added to our legislative tracker this week.

[HB 774 - Conservation and natural resources; reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Erick E. Allen (D - Smyrna)

Bill Status: Natural Resources & Environment

Summary: HB 774 relates to air quality reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division and public notification of such releases by the Environmental Protection Division.

[HR 895 - Joint Ethylene Oxide Study Committee; create](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Erick E. Allen (D - Smyrna)

Bill Status: Natural Resources & Environment

Summary: HR 895 creates a joint ethylene oxide study committee.

[SB 274 - Advisory Council on Rare Diseases; create](#)

Bill Author: Senator Nan Orrock (D - Atlanta)

Bill Status: Senate Read and Referred on March 29, 2019

Summary: SB 274 creates an advisory council on rare diseases to help address the needs of the rare disease community within the state by giving patients, families, caregivers and other stakeholders an opportunity to make formal recommendations to state leaders about the most important issues they face. The membership of the rare council includes a variety of stakeholders who represent the rare disease community.