



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report  
March 16, 2018  
Days 33-35 of 40 Day Session**

**General Update:**

The General Assembly met this week for days 33-35. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

**Bill Movement**

Language from HB 519 that establishes a process to override step therapy protocols was amended on to SB 325 in the House Health and Human Services Committee this week. The original HB 519 Step Therapy bill is currently in Senate Health and Human Services. Georgia Bio supports HB 519 and the language included in SB 325.

Senator Renee Unterman amended SB 532 which established the Commission on Substance Abuse & Recovery on the Governor's bill dealing with the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, HB 782. HB 782 passed out of Senate Health & Human Services and currently in Senate Rules.

The House passed Sen. Dean Burke's SB 357 known as the Health Act on Thursday. The Senate also passed Rep. Rick Jasperse's HB 769 this week. We anticipate that these two bills will eventually pass as one bill as the House and Senate work together to address the various challenges to providing access to healthcare in Georgia.

**Bills of Interest**

[HB 519- Insurance; health benefit plans; utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta

Bill Status: 2/28/2018 Passed House; 3/5/2018 Senate Health and Human Services

HB 519 passed by substitute both the Life and Health subcommittee of House Insurance and the full House Insurance Committee this week. The current version of HB 519 is a compromise from all parties involved and establishes a process for when it is medically appropriate to override a step therapy protocol for patients.

Georgia Bio Position: **SUPPORT**

[HB 747- Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients receive unrestricted access to hemophilia medications](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta

Bill Status: House Health and Human Services

HB 747 would provide that Medicaid recipients have unrestricted access to medications prescribed for hemophilia by prohibiting preferred drug list, prior 12 authorization, step edit, or other drug management requirements on any such medications approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. This bill did not make the Crossover deadline.

Georgia Bio Position: **SUPPORT**

### [HB 873- Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act](#)

Bill Author: David Knight-R Griffin

Bill Status: House Insurance

HB 873 would provide consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits. HB 873 was introduced on behalf of the Medical Association of Georgia and it requires that PBMs and insurers use a standard prior authorization form developed by the DOI with input from a committee of physicians and insurers. Further, it requires that PBMs/insurers include on their websites formulary information as well as processes for step therapy requirements. This bill did not make the Crossover deadline.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### [SB 357-The Health Act](#)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Dean Burke-R Bainbridge

Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018; 3/14/2018 Passed House

SB 357 would establish a new Health Coordination and Innovation Council made of public and private healthcare institutions that would be charged with advising on best practices in healthcare for the state.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### [SB 352-Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery](#)

Bill Sponsor: Renee Unterman-R Buford

Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018; House Health and Human Services

SB 352 would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery to help combat the issue of opioid addiction in Georgia.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### [SB 432 'Georgia Tax Credit Business Case Act'](#)

Sen. John Albers (R Roswell)

Bill Status: Passed Senate

Senate Bill 432 seeks to repeal thirty-five (35) separate exemptions from state sales and use taxes over a phased period ranging from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2025 including exemptions related to prescription drugs and medical equipment.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### [HB 769 Health; recommendations from the House Rural Development Council](#)

Rep. Rick Jasperse (R Jasper)

Bill Status: 2/21/2018-Passed House; 3/14/2018 Passed Senate

HB 769 is a product of recommendations made by the House Rural Development Council. This bill passed House on Wednesday and will move over to the Senate for consideration. It establishes the Rural Center for Health Care Innovation and Sustainability which will conduct research to identify a postsecondary institution to educate leadership in hospitals to conduct business better. It revises provisions that dictate how pharmacists distribute medications in rural Georgia. HB 769 also streamlines and expedites the billing process for state medical plans.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### **GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2018 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm

Mon. April 2 at 12pm