



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
March 2, 2018
Days 27-29 of 40 Day Session**

General Update:

The General Assembly met this week for days 27-29. Wednesday marked Crossover Day and was the last day a bill could pass from one chamber to the other. There are 11 legislative days remaining during session and things will move quickly as the legislature focuses on the measures that did make it over the Crossover deadline. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution

Bill Movement

Rep. Sharon Cooper's HB 519, which provides a process for when it is medically appropriate to override a step therapy protocol for patients, passed the House late Wednesday night with a strong vote of 173-0. This measure that Georgia Bio supported will move over to the Senate where we expect it to be assigned to Senate Health and Human Services.

Both the House and Senate passed an amended version of HB 918 this week enacting the largest tax cut in Georgia history. HB 918 combines the 2017 IRC bill (HB821) with 2018 IRC updates and also addresses increased state revenue projections stemming from federal tax reform by:

- Doubling the standard deduction effective January 1, 2018
- Reducing the income tax rate for individuals and businesses from 6% to 5.75% effective January 1, 2019
- Further reducing the income tax rate for individuals and businesses to 5.5% effective January 1, 2020

Budget

The budget continues to wind its way through the General Assembly. The House finished work on the amended FY18 budget on Thursday by passing the conference report. The Senate is expected to complete its work on that conference report on Monday. Attention will now turn to completing the FY19 budget.

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: 2/23/2018 Passed House Insurance Committee; House Rules

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; House Health and Human Services

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; Senate Health and Human Services

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. 5 at 12pm

Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm

Mon. April 2 at 12pm