



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
March 22, 2019
Days 33-35 of 40 Day Session**

GENERAL UPDATE:

Friday March 22nd marks the end of week 9 of the Georgia legislative session. The General Assembly met this week for days 33-35 of the 40-day session with April 2nd being Since Die or the last day of session. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

BUDGET UPDATE

On Thursday March 21st, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed HB 31, the General Appropriations Budget for FY 2020. Georgia Bio is happy to report that our total asking amount of \$323,000 for our rural teacher training program is still in the budget and we're continuing to work on securing those funds as the Senate and House begin balancing the budget.

BILL MOVEMENT

Other bill movement this week includes HB 63, the step therapy protocol bill and HB 323 relating to insurance claims by pharmacy benefit managers passed out of the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee. HB 63 also passed Senate Rules and will be on the Senate floor next week. Governor Kemp's Medicaid Waiver bill, SB 106 the Patients First Act passed out of the House Special Health Committee this week and is headed to the House Rules Committee. Finally, HB 514 that creates the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission passed out of the Senate Chamber and is on its way to the Governor's desk.

[HB 31 - General Appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute on March 21, 2019

Summary: HB 31 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. These appropriations fund the operation of the State government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, and for all government activities.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 63 - Insurance; Health Benefit Plans to Establish Step Therapy Protocols](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on March 18, 2019

Summary: HB 63 is the same bill from the 2018 session and 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.

Importance: **SUPPORT**

[HB 514 - Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Kevin Tanner (R - Dawsonville)

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute on March 21, 2019

Summary: HB 514 creates the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission.

Importance: **Monitoring**

[SB 106 - "Patients First Act"](#)

Bill Author: Senator Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)

Bill Status: House Committee Favorably Reported on March 21, 2019

Summary: SB 106 authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Patients First Act is a step toward lowering insurance premiums, enhancing access to quality care, and improving health outcomes in every part of our state.

Importance: **Monitoring**

[SB 121 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted on March 21, 2019

Summary: SB 121 relates to the prescription drug monitoring program data base, to increase the length of time that prescription information is retained in the data base from two years to five years.

Importance: **Monitoring**

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](#)

GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2019 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mon. Jan. 28th at 11am

Mon. Feb. 11 at 11am

Mon. Feb. 25 at 11am

Mon. Mar. 11th at 11am

Mon. Mar. 25th at 11am

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