

GEORGIA BIO 2019 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.

BILLS

HB 30 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

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

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 30 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. 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, for all government activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law.

Importance: Monitoring

HB 31 - General Appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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

Bill Status: PASSED

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, for all government activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law.

Importance: Monitoring

HB 37 - Expand Medicaid Now Act

Bill Author: Rep. Robert Trammell (D - Luthersville)

Bill Status: House Appropriations

Summary: HB 37 provides authorization of appropriations for obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. With a maximum amount of 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

Importance: Monitoring

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

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

Bill Status: PASSED

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 84 - Insurance; Provide for Consumer Protections Regarding Health Insurance](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Richard Smith (R - Columbus)

Bill Status: Insurance

Summary: HB 84 provides consumer protections regarding health insurance for disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers. The bill also protects consumers regarding billing, reimbursement, and arbitration of certain service for healthcare goods or services.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 99 - Insurance; Provide for Modernization and Updates](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Richard Smith (R - Columbus)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 99 purposes to modernization and update provisions regarding health insurance for purposes of conformity.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 112 - Controlled Substances; Drug Products Containing Dextromethorphan; Prohibit Sales to Minors](#)

Bill Author: Rep. John LaHood (R - Valdosta)

Bill Status: Juvenile Justice

Summary: HB 112 prohibit the sale to and by minors of drug products containing dextromethorphan. Any person that violates this Code section shall receive a warning letter from local law enforcement for the first violation and shall thereafter be subject to a civil penalty by local law enforcement in an amount not to exceed \$50.00 for a second violation and each subsequent violation.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 158 - Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs)

Bill Status: House Passed/Adopted on February 19, 2019 and introduced in the Senate

Summary: HB 158 provides Medicaid recipients the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program, prohibit utilization management tools for such regimens, and allows the submission of a state plan waiver if necessary.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 166 - Genetic Counselors Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 166 provides provisions for the licensure of genetic counselors, continuing education requirements, renewal requirements and duties and powers of the Georgia Composite Medical Board with respect to genetic counselors.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 233 - Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Knight (R - Griffin)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 233 prohibits pharmacies from engaging in certain practices, requires pharmacies to file an annual disclosure statement among other requirements.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 321 - Health; hospital Medicaid financing program; extend sunset provision](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Jodi Lott (R - Evans)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 321 aims to extend the sunset provision for hospital Medicaid financing program to June 30, 2025.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 323 - Insurance; Administration of Claims by Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Knight (R - Griffin)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 323 relates to the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers for purposes of administration of claims, prohibiting certain activities, and to provide an effective date and applicability.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 333 - Income tax; Earning a Tax Credit for Creating Certain Jobs; Modify Conditions](#)

Bill Author: Rep. John Corbett (R - Lake Park)

Bill Status: Ways & Means

Summary: HB 333 relates to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax as to modify conditions for earning a tax credit for creating certain jobs. To increase the value of the tax credit by \$500.00 for certain counties.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 355 - Income tax; earning a tax credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs; modify conditions](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Clay Pirkle (R - Ashburn)

Bill Status: Ways & Means

Summary: HB 355 relates to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax as to modify conditions for earning a tax credit for establishing or relocating quality jobs.

Importance: Monitoring

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

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

Bill Status: PASSED

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

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 3 - Medical Assistance; program of premium assistance to enable eligible individuals to obtain health care coverage](#)

Bill Author: Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhettt (D - Marietta)

Bill Status: Health and Human Services

Summary: SB 3 provides a medical assistance program of premium assistance to enable eligible individuals to obtain health care coverage. Additionally, requires personal responsibility premiums from eligible individuals to provide for any necessary state plan amendments or federal waivers.

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 36 - Medical Assistance; Authorization of Appropriations for purposes of obtaining Federal Financial Participation; Medicaid expansion](#)

Bill Author: Senator Steve Henson (D - Stone Mountain)

Bill Status: Health and Human Services

Summary: SB 36 provides authorization of appropriations for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation for medical assistance payments to providers of Medicaid expansion under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 41 - Income Tax; Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

Bill Author: Senator Elena Parent (D - Atlanta)

Bill Status: Finance

Summary: SB 41 relates to the imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from income taxes to provide a refundable earned income tax credit. A taxpayer shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section 48-7-20 in an amount equal to 10 percent of the federal credit that such taxpayer is allowed under Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 90 - Insurance; certain health insurers to cover emergency medical care](#)

Bill Author: Senator Zahra Karinshak (D - Duluth)

Bill Status: Health and Human Services

Summary: SB 90 require certain health insurers to cover emergency medical care and provide written notices.

Importance: Monitoring

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

Bill Author: Senator Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)

Bill Status: PASSED

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 115 - "Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia"; telemedicine licenses for physicians in other states; engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 115 relating to the Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia, aims to provide telemedicine licenses for physicians licensed in other states to engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine.

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 118 - Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 118 aims to modernize the Georgia Telemedicine Act, to rename it to the Telehealth Act. The bill provides the definitions of telemedicine and telehealth and prohibits insurers from requiring insureds to use telemedicine and for pay equity for health care providers using telemedicine.

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 Larry Walker (R - Perry)

Bill Status: PASSED

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

[SB 195 - "Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act"](#)

Bill Author: Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R - Rome)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 195 provides consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits.

Importance: Monitoring

SB 232 - 'Controlled Substances Therapeutic Relief Act'

Bill Author: Senator Sheikh Rahman (D - Tucker)

Bill Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on February 28, 2019

Summary: SB 232 relates to physicians, acupuncture, physician assistants, cancer and glaucoma treatment, respiratory care, clinical perfusionists, and orthotics and prosthetics practice, to repeal provisions relating to use of marijuana for treatment of cancer and glaucoma and provide for medical use of marijuana.

Importance: Monitoring

SR 275 - Joint Innovation and Emerging Technologies Study Committee

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute on March 28, 2019

Summary: SR 275 is a resolution creating the Joint Innovation and Emerging Technologies Study Committee.

Importance: Monitoring