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 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 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 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, prohibits utilization management tools for such regimens, and allows the submission of a state plan waiver if necessary.

**Importance:** Monitoring

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**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

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**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 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.
Importance: Monitoring

HB 791 - Pharmacists; dispense up to a 90 day supply of a maintenance medication under certain conditions

Bill Author: Rep. Ron Stephens (R - Savannah)
Bill Status: House Second Readers on January 28, 2020
Summary: HB 791 relates to license required for practice of pharmacy, dispensing prescription drugs, prescription drug orders, electronically transmitting drug orders, refills, and Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions, so as to authorize a pharmacist to dispense up to a 90 day supply of a maintenance medication under certain conditions.
Importance: Monitoring

HB 795 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Bill Author: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Bill Status: House Second Readers on January 28, 2020
Summary: HB 795 known as the "General Appropriations Act," Act No. 319, approved May 10, 2019, so as to make, provide, and change certain appropriations for 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 other governmental activities.
Importance: Monitoring
**HB 797 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

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

**Bill Status:** House Second Readers on January 28, 2020

**Summary:** HB 797 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. The bill makes and provides such appropriations for 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 other governmental activities.

**Importance:** Monitoring

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**HB 813 - Public assistance; Medicaid Expansion Program; provide establishment**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Donna McLeod (D - Lawrenceville)

**Bill Status:** House Second Readers on January 29, 2020

**Summary:** HB 813 relating to public assistance, so as to provide for a Medicaid expansion program to provide health care coverage to uninsured individuals, establishment of the Medicaid Expansion Program; to provide for requirements, and the submission of a federal waiver request.

**Importance:** Monitoring

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**HB 847 - Hemp farming; definitions, penalties and criminal background checks; provide**

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

**Bill Status:** House First Readers on January 30, 2020

**Summary:** HB 847 relating to hemp farming, so as to provide criminal background checks, compliance with federal laws and regulations, hemp nursery licensees, license and permit fees, testing of hemp samples, destruction of noncompliant hemp, and for violations of the state hemp plan.

**Importance:** Monitoring

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**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.

**Importance:** Monitoring
SB 3 - Medical Assistance; program of premium assistance to enable eligible individuals to obtain health care coverage

Bill Author: Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett (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 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

**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.

**Importance:** Monitoring

**SB 303 - ‘Georgia Right to Shop Act’; greater transparency of prices for nonemergency healthcare services; provide**

**Bill Author:** Senator Ben Watson (R - Savannah)

**Bill Status:** Senate Read and Referred on January 27, 2020

**Summary:** SB 303 provide for greater transparency of prices for nonemergency health care services. The bill seeks to provide for the disclosure of certain pricing information through insurer websites to allow consumers to compare prices and that insurers may use third parties to comply with such requirements.

**Importance:** Monitoring
SB 313 - Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions; provide

**Bill Author:** Senator Dean Burke (R - Bainbridge)

**Bill Status:** Senate Read and Referred on January 28, 2020

**Summary:** SB 313 relates to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers. The bill seeks to revise provisions to license requirements and filing fees, prohibition on the practice of medicine, reimbursement requirements, rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, administration of claims, and prohibited activities by a pharmacy benefits manager.

**Importance:** Monitoring

SB 339 - Public Assistance; healthcare coverage to individuals not eligible; Medicaid public option network; provide

**Bill Author:** Senator Sally Harrell (D - Atlanta)

**Bill Status:** Senate Hopper January 30, 2020

**Summary:** SB 339 provides for a Medicaid public option network to provide health care coverage to individuals not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or the PeachCare for Kids Program. The bill aims to establish the Georgia Reliable Insurance Network.

**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