

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report January 31, 2020

Days 5-9 of 40 Day Session

GENERAL UPDATE:

Each January the governor proposes two distinct budgets. The amended budget for FY 2020 adjusts spending levels for the current fiscal year and the full budget for FY 2021 laying out a new spending plan. The FY 2021 budget proposes \$1.1 billion in new spending above the state's current obligations and \$300 million in budget cuts.

[Major Budget Provision Highlights for FY 2021 and Amended FY 2020](#)

RURAL TEACHER TRAINING INITIATIVE (RTTI) UPDATE:

To support the growth of the life science workforce and improve opportunities for young people in rural communities the Georgia General Assembly appropriated \$323,000.00 in the FY2020 general appropriations budget to Georgia BioEd.

[Georgia BioEd is pleased to discover the same amount of funds are in the FY2021 general appropriations budget to continue providing Georgia graduates the skills to successfully compete for jobs in the life science workforce and grow the life science industry in Georgia.](#)

RTTI is a collaboration among the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, the Georgia BioEd Institute, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech, as well as the Georgia life science industry. RTTI delivered cutting edge, hands-on training and equipment for secondary science teachers January 13-14, 2020 at the UGA Griffin campus. The training provided educators with laboratory experiences that enable them to return to the classroom and offer instruction that aligns with the Georgia Standards of Excellence and prepares and inspires students to enter a career in life sciences.

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](#)

GEORGIA BIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2019 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

~~Wed. January 22nd at 11am~~
Mon. February 3rd at 11am
Mon. February 17th at 11am
Mon. March 2nd at 11am
Mon. March 16th at 11am
Mon. March 30th at 11am

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

RTTI YEAR 1 IMPACT

- Teacher Attendance – 72
- Rural Districts Participated – 23
- Total Districts Impacted – 65+
- Anticipated Students Impacted – 11,500+
- Courses Impacted – 43
- Industry Donations – \$271,048

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SHEET:

Georgia Bio will provide updates on specific legislation of interest to the Georgia Bio membership. Please see below for legislation that has been added to our legislative tracker this week.

[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 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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[SB 313 - Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions](#)

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.

[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.

[Click here to view our 2020 Legislative Tracker](#)