

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report February 21, 2020

Days 13-16 of 40 Day Session

GENERAL UPDATE:

Last week Georgia lawmakers primarily focused on working out the details of meeting Governor Kemp's request to trim the state's budget. Although there were no legislative days, last week proved to be a significant one for pharmacy. [SB 313](#) was heard by the full Senate Insurance & Labor Committee on Monday, February 10th. The subcommittee held its first meeting on Wednesday in which Senator Burke introduced a substitute to SB 313. It incorporated non-material changes requested by state agencies and also reinserted MAC pricing law protections, added a requirement that MAC methodologies be filed with the commissioner of insurance for use in investigating MAC appeals, deleted the requirement that PBMs utilize NADAC as a floor, and requires PBMs to file public reports of reimbursements below and above certain thresholds of NADAC, including a requirement that reimbursements to affiliates be identified.

This week the Georgia legislature started business as usual on Tuesday and introduced several bills relating to pharmacies, ethylene oxide permitting, and pharmacy benefit managers.

GEORGIA LIFE SCIENCES DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL:

Join Georgia Bio February 25, 2020 in room 230 of the state Capitol at 8:30am to celebrate the accomplishments and discoveries of the pharma, biotech and medtech industries in our state. This is an excellent opportunity for members to showcase their innovative products, services, and discoveries at the Georgia State Capitol.

To commend Georgia Bio and recognize February 25th as Georgia Life Sciences Day at the Capitol, Rep. Robert Dickey and Senator John Wilkinson sponsored resolutions in each chamber.

[HR 1056 - Georgia Life Sciences Day at the state capitol; February 25, 2020; Georgia Bio; recognize](#)

[SR 674 - Georgia Life Sciences Day; recognize February 25, 2020](#)

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.

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 918 - Pharmacies; various provisions relating to the practice of pharmacy; revise](#)

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

Bill Status: House Second Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 918 relates pharmacies, so as to revise various provisions relating to the practice of pharmacy, to repeal provisions relating to required licensure as a pharmacy by pharmacy benefits managers engaging in the practice of pharmacy, to revise provisions relating to "The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights"; and to revise pharmacy anti-steering provisions.

[HB 927 - Air quality; reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; provide](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Don Parsons (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: House Second Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 927 relates to air quality, to provide for the reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

[HB 938 - Air quality; permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide; provide for certain conditions](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Erick E. Allen (D - Smyrna)

Bill Status: House Second Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 938 relating to air quality, to provide for certain conditions for permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide.

[HB 946 - Insurance; extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers; provide](#)

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

Bill Status: House First Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 946 relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, so as to revise provisions relating to license requirements and filing fees, to provide additional authority for the Insurance Commissioner to regulate pharmacy benefits managers, rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, and to revise provisions relating to administration of claims.

[HB 947 - Community Health, Department of; engage an actuary to conduct a study of the fiscal impact of carving out pharmacy benefits from the state's current Medicaid care management organizations; require](#)

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

Bill Status: House First Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 947 relates to Medicaid generally, so as to require the Department of Community Health to engage an actuary to conduct an actuarial study of the fiscal impact of carving out pharmacy benefits from the state's current Medicaid care management organizations.

[HB 952 - Pharmacies; prohibit corporations that own and operate multiple pharmacies from implementing policies and procedures that restrict the quantity of controlled substances dispensed or restrict the prescriber](#)

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

Bill Status: House First Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 952 relating to pharmacies, to prohibit corporations that own and operate multiple pharmacies from implementing policies and procedures that restrict the quantity of controlled substances dispensed or restrict the prescriber.

[HB 961 - Health; identification of high-cost prescription drugs for which the state expends significant health care funds; provide](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sam Park (D - Lawrenceville)

Bill Status: House First Readers on February 20, 2020

Summary: HB 961 relating to health, so as to provide for the identification of high-cost prescription drugs for which the state expends significant health care funds, submission of a list of the identified drugs to the Attorney General, to authorize the Attorney General to require certain information from drug manufacturers, and to provide for an annual report to the General Assembly.

[SB 391 - "Early Prescription Refills During Emergencies Act"; health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply; require; enact](#)

Bill Author: Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: Senate Read and Referred February 20, 2020

Summary: SB 391 relating to general provisions regarding insurance, so as to require health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30 day supply of certain prescription medications under certain emergency situations; to amend Code Section 26-4-80 of the O.C.G.A., relating to license required for practice of pharmacy, dispensing of prescription drugs, prescription drug orders, electronically transmitted drug orders, refills, and schedule II controlled substance prescriptions, so as to allow pharmacists to dispense certain refill prescription medications under certain circumstances.

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