

# Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



## Georgia Bio Legislative Report March 13, 2020

*Days 26-29 of 40 Day Session*

### GENERAL UPDATE:

This week the General Assembly convened on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with “crossover day” on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> for legislative day 28. Crossover day is the last day bills can pass their chamber of origin to be further considered this year.

With public health concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Speaker of the Georgia House and Lt. Governor on behalf of the Georgia Senate mutually agreed that the Georgia General Assembly would proceed through the morning of March 13, 2020. After today the Georgia General Assembly will reconvene for Legislative Day 30 at a to-be-determined date.

Governor Kemp indicated that all state agencies would move to telework except for essential services. Governor Kemp encouraged local schools to close if local districts believed it to be in the best interest of their students and communities but left that to local decisions.

### BILL MOVEMENT:

The House and Senate passed/adopted several bills this week relating to pharmacies, healthcare transparency and accountability, and ethylene oxide emissions.

[HB 791](#) sponsored by Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah), would allow a pharmacist to dispense up to a 90-day supply of a maintenance medication using his/her professional judgment and in consultation with the patient. The bill passed the House with a 164-0 vote.

[HB 792](#) sponsored by House Speaker Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge), is the amended fiscal year 2020 budget. The measure includes \$100 million pulled from the state’s Revenue Shortfall Reserve to go into the Governor’s emergency fund to aid the states response to COVID-19. The bill passed the Senate and House with a 53-1 and 166-1 vote.

### 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](mailto:jsantoro@gabio.org).

[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)

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

Wed. January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am  
Mon. February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am  
Mon. February 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am  
Mon. March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am  
Mon. March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am

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

[HB 927](#) sponsored by Rep. Don Parsons (R-Marietta), requires companies to tell the state and public when there's an ethylene oxide leak. Under this bill companies are required to report any ethylene oxide release within 24 hours to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the EPD is required to post that information on their website. The bill passed the House with a 162-0 vote.

[HB 991](#) sponsored by Rep. Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), creates the Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Oversight Committee to review and exercise oversight over state contractors regarding state healthcare plans. The bill passed the House with a 166-1 vote.

[SB 391](#) sponsored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), requires health insurers to provide coverage for early refills of a 30-day supply of certain prescription medications under certain emergency situations. The bill passed the Senate with a 55-0 vote.

[SB 426](#) sponsored by Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough), requires that any facility that emits ethylene oxide to report a spill or release to EPD within 24 hours, as a condition for receiving a permit. The bill also requires EPD to publicly post information about any spill or emissions. The bill passed the Senate with a 55-0 vote.

[SB 484](#) sponsored by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R-Marietta), provides entry of the state into a multistate compact to incentivize the development of cures for diseases through substantial financial rewards. The bill passed the Senate with a 50-0 vote.

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

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