

## **GEORGIA BIO 2020 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).

### **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:** House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on March 7, 2020

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

**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 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:** House Second Readers January 16, 2020

**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 789 - Insurance; creation of a surprise bill rating system based upon the number of certain physician specialty groups contracted with a hospital within a health insurer's network; provide](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Mark Newton (R - Augusta)

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted By Substitute on March 3, 2020

**Summary:** HB 789 relates to accurate provider directories to provide for the creation of a surprise billing rating system based upon the number of certain physician specialty groups contracted with a hospital within a health insurer's network. The bill would require insurers include hospital surprise billing ratings online and in print provide directories.

**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 HHS Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute on March 2, 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 792 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

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

**Bill Status:** Governor Kemp Signed into law March 17, 2020

**Summary:** HB 792 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 793 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

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

**Bill Status:** Conference Committee Appointed on June 20, 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**

### **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**

### [HB 847 - Hemp farming; definitions, penalties and criminal background checks; provide](#)

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 5, 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**

### [HB 888 - Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; enact](#)

**Bill Author:** Rep. Lee Hawkins (R - Gainesville)

**Bill Status:** Senate Passed/Adopted on June 17, 2020

**Summary:** HB 888 provides for certain consumer protections against surprise billing, mechanisms to resolve payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers, maintenance of an all-payer health claims data base, and for in-network cost-sharing amounts in healthcare plan contracts.

**Importance: Monitoring**

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

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 4, 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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

### [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 Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute on March 5, 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 (EPD) and for the EPD to release those reports on their website.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

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

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 4, 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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[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 Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 4, 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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

[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 Postponed on March 10, 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.

**Importance:** Monitoring

[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.

**Importance:** Monitoring

[HB 991 - Healthcare Transparency and Accountability Act; enact](#)

**Bill Author:** Rep. Matt Hatchett (R - Dublin)

**Bill Status:** Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute on June 20, 2020

**Summary:** HB 991 provides transparency relating to state healthcare plans and its contractors.

**Importance:** Monitoring

**[HB 1027 - Insurance; rebates received from pharmaceutical manufacturers, provide requirements](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Lee Hawkins (R - Gainesville)

**Bill Status:** House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on March 12, 2020

**Summary:** HB 1027 relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers to provide certain requirements relating to rebates received from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[HB 1035 - Sales and use tax; certain tax exemptions; repeal sunset provisions](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Chuck Martin (R - Alpharetta)

**Bill Status:** Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on June 18, 2020

**Summary:** HB 1027 relating to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers to provide certain requirements relating to rebates received from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[HB 1079 - Social services; Section 1115 waiver request to the federal government with a state plan amendment to authorize Medicaid expansion; replace provisions](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Kim Schofield (D - Atlanta)

**Bill Status:** House Second Readers on March 3, 2020

**Summary:** HB 1079 relates to medical assistance and insurance to replace provisions to the submission of a Section 1115 waiver request to the federal government with a state plan to amendment to authorize Medicaid expansion.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[HB 1105 - Patient Protection Through Health Information Exchange Act; enact](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Mark Newton (R - Augusta)

**Bill Status:** House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on March 10, 2020

**Summary:** HB 1105 relates to health care data collection to require hospitals to participate in a survey disclosing whether such hospitals maintain technology allowing the electronic sharing of certain patient information with other hospitals.

**Importance: Monitoring**



**[HB 1128 - Insurance; pharmacy benefits managers; revise provisions relating to rules and regulations](#)**

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

**Bill Status:** House Hopper March 5, 2020

**Summary:** HB 1128 relates to regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers to revise provisions relating to rules and regulations, audits, reimbursement requirements, and to require reasonably adequate and accessible pharmacy benefits manager networks.

**Importance:** Monitoring

**[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

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

**Bill Author:** Rep. Robert Dickey (R - Musella)

**Bill Status:** House Read and Adopted February 3, 2020

**Summary:** A Resolution recognizing February 25, 2020, as Georgia Life Sciences Day at the state capitol and commending Georgia Bio; and for other purposes.

**Importance:** Support

**[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:** Support

### **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:** House Passed/Adopted By Substitute on June 19, 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:** House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on June 18, 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

[SB 359 - 'Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act'; certain consumer protections against surprise billing; provide](#)

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

**Bill Status:** House Withdrawn & Recommitted on June 17, 2020

**Summary:** SB 359 provides certain consumer protections against surprise billing, mechanisms to resolve payment disputes between insurers and out-of-network providers regarding the provision of healthcare services, maintenance of an all-payer health claims data base, and in-network cost-sharing amounts in healthcare plan contracts.

**Importance:** Monitoring

**[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:** House Passed/Adopted By Substitute on June 19, 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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[SB 415 - Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise](#)**

**Bill Author:** Senator Steve Gooch (R- Dahlonga)

**Bill Status:** Senate Tabled on March 12, 2020

**Summary:** SB 415 relates to a lawsuit reform package to streamline the process of litigation and reduce costs for Georgia's industries, small businesses, and citizens.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[SB 426 - Air Quality; reporting of any unpermitted release of ethylene oxide to the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; provide](#)**

**Bill Author:** Senator Brian Strickland (R - McDonough)

**Bill Status:** House Committee Favorably Reported on June 18, 2020

**Summary:** SB 426 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 within 24 hours.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[SB 427 - Medicaid; actuarial study of the fiscal impact of carving out pharmacy benefits; Department of Community Health; require](#)**

**Bill Author:** Senator Jeff Mullis (R - Chickamauga)

**Bill Status:** Senate Read and Referred February 25, 2020

**Summary:** SB 427 requires 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.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[SB 433 - 'Diabetes Drug Pricing Transparency Act of 2020'; disclosure of diabetes prescription drug pricing; require](#)**

**Bill Author:** Senator Burt Jones (R - Jackson)

**Bill Status:** Senate Read and Referred February 25, 2020

**Summary:** SB 433 requires the disclosure of diabetes prescription drug pricing to provide for a listing of diabetes prescription drugs, drug manufacturer and pharmacy benefits manager report forms and insurer pricing reports.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[SB 484 - Health; Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases; adopt](#)**

**Bill Author:** Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)

**Bill Status:** House Second Readers on June 15, 2020

**Summary:** SB 484 aims to adopt the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases, to provide entry of the state into a multistate compact to incentivize the development of cures for diseases through substantial financial rewards

**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**

**SR 674 - Georgia Life Sciences Day; recognize February 25, 2020**

**Bill Author:** Senator John Wilkinson (R - Toccoa)

**Bill Status:** Senate Read and Adopted January 31, 2020

**Summary:** A Resolution recognizing February 25, 2020, as Georgia Life Sciences Day at the state capitol and commending Georgia Bio; and for other purposes.

**Importance:** Support