



**Georgia Bio Legislative Watch
January 15, 2021
Days 1-4 of 40 Day Session**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Georgia Legislature convened the 2021 Legislative Session on Monday, January 11th. The House and Senate approved the calendar for the first 6 days of the annual 40-day legislative session.

Budget Week is scheduled for the week of January 18th with Joint House and Senate appropriations meetings convening on the mornings of the 19th through the 22nd. Those budget hearings will all be available for virtual viewing and will be devoted to the FY2021 continuation budget and the FY2022 General Appropriations Act. Georgia Bio will closely monitor these meetings to ensure funding for our Rural Teacher Training Initiative (RTTI) is secured for the program's third year.

[Current Adjournment Resolution \(HR 10\)](#)

[2021 Joint Budget Hearings Schedule](#)

Gov. Brian Kemp delivered his third State of the State address on Thursday, January 14th, outlining his vision for the coming year. One of his goals for the amended FY2021 and FY2022 budgets will be to adjust spending to pre-Covid budget cut levels, beginning with a combined total of \$1.2 billion added back to the state's K-12 education funding. Transportation, resources for rural Georgians, and affordable healthcare will be among the top priorities for his office. Finally, the Governor included a tax credit for pharmaceuticals in his proposed budget to help expand the industry in Georgia. We have reached out to the Governor's office to request a meeting on this subject and will give you updates with additional information when we have them.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES:

With the election cycle came caucus elections in both the House and Senate. Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) was re-elected as House Speaker as was Rep. Jan Jones (R-Alpharetta) for Speaker Pro-Tem. Additionally, Rep. James Beverly (D-Macon) was elected to serve as the House Minority Leader, replacing Rep. Bob Trammell (D-Luthersville), who lost his bid for re-election in November's general election.

In the Senate, Sen. Gloria Butler (D-Stone Mountain) was elected by her caucus to serve as the Senate Minority Leader, replacing Sen. Steve Henson (D-Stone Mountain) who did not seek re-election in 2020.

NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS:

Our contract lobbying staff at Cornerstone Government Affairs has put together an excellent resource for familiarizing yourself with the newly-elected members of the General Assembly. Follow the links below to view photos and information on all new members.

[New Faces in Georgia House of Representatives](#)
[New Faces in Georgia Senate](#)

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR VISITING THE STATE CAPITOL:

To ensure the safety of those working and visiting the State Capitol, the following safety protocols have been implemented:

- Thermal temperature checks at public entrances
- Sanitizing stations throughout building
- Directional guides to minimize crowd flow
- Masks strongly encouraged

Capitol staff has also requested that you only come to the building for specific business and do not linger so as to keep crowding in the halls to a minimum.

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. If you have bills that you would like included in the weekly bill update, please email ahaltom@gabio.org.

[HB 3 - Conservation and natural resources; certain conditions for permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide; provide](#)

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

Bill Status: No committee assignment yet

Summary: HB 3 relates to certain conditions required for permitting of facilities that emit ethylene oxide

[SB 1 - Georgia All-Payer Claims Database; entities that receive certain tax credits; self-funded, employer sponsored health insurance plans are submitting entities; provide](#)

Bill Author: Dean Burke (R - Bainbridge)

Bill Status: Senate Finance Committee

Summary: SB 1 provides that entities who provide self-funded or employer-sponsored health insurance plans and receive certain tax credits be considered "submitting entities" with the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database.

GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2021 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Tue. January 19th at 10am

Tue. February 2nd at 10am

Tue. February 16th at 10am

Tue. March 2nd at 10am

Tue. March 16th at 10am

Tue. March 30th at 10am

If you would like to participate on a call, please contact ahaltom@gabio.org for access information.