

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report February 1, 2021

Legislative Days 5 – 9 of 40

GENERAL UPDATE:

General business resumed this week at the State Capitol with legislative days 5 – 9 of the 40-day legislative session and committee meetings beginning. A new adjournment resolution was also passed taking us to February 8th and outlining days 6 – 13. We will continue to update you as this calendar is confirmed, including the important dates of Crossover Day (Day 28) and Sine Die (Day 40).

[Click here to view the new adjournment resolution](#)

After last week's Budget Week meetings, the House passed [House Bill 80](#), the supplemental appropriations bill for FY2021, addressing adjustments to last year's general appropriations bill for this year. The Senate began considering this budget in subcommittee meetings on Friday and we can expect to see this taken up by them either later this week or next.

We will follow the progress and continue to update you on HB 80 as well as [House Bill 81](#), the general appropriations bill for FY2022, which we expect the House Appropriations Subcommittees to begin considering this week.

VACCINE UPDATE:

Governor Kemp announced this week that Georgia would begin receiving an additional 25,000 vaccine doses each week, bringing our weekly total to 145,900 doses.

As of last week, almost 800,000 Georgians had received the vaccine in Phase 1A+ (frontline healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents and employees, first responders, and those 65+). We will continue to provide updates on the progress of distribution, including movement to subsequent phases as received.

[Click here to view the press release from Gov. Kemp's office](#)

[Click here to view Ga Dept. of Public Health COVID Vaccine Dashboard](#)

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 ahaltom@gabio.org.

[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)

GEORGIA BIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2021 GEORGIA 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

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 49; Mental Health Parity Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Shelly Hutchinson (D - Snellville)

Bill Status: House Insurance Committee

Summary: HB 49 would require that insurer treatment of mental health and substance use disorder claims be treated in parity with other health insurance claims.

[HB 72; New Mothers Medicaid Expansion Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Carolyn Hugley (D - Columbus)

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services Committee

Summary: HB 49 would require the Department of Community Health to allow mothers giving birth to newborns to retain Medicaid eligibility for one year following birth.

[HB 93; eliminate duplicative state licensure and regulation of clinical laboratories](#)

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

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services Committee

Summary: HB 93 would eliminate duplicative state licensure and regulation of clinical laboratories, including amending requirements under the “Nuclear Pharmacy Act.”

[HB 115; prohibit certain insurers from using information derived from genetic testing for any nontherapeutic purpose in the absence of a diagnosis of a condition related to such information](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Mike Wilensky (D - Dunwoody)

Bill Status: House Insurance Committee

Summary: HB 115 would put restrictions on how insurers can use results from genetic testing without a diagnosis in determining coverage in addition to updated definitions and qualifications of insurers.

[HB 117; Low THC Oil Patient Registry](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Mike Wilensky (D - Dunwoody)

Bill Status: House Regulated Industries Committee

Summary: HB 117 would add ulcerative colitis to the list of approved conditions on the Low THC Oil Patient Registry for treatment with Low THC oil.

[HB 125: creation of missing persons DNA database](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Rick Williams (R - Milledgeville)

Bill Status: House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Summary: HB 125 would provide for the establishment and oversight of a missing persons database by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

[HB 126: collection of biological specimens for DNA testing of missing persons](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Rick Williams (R - Milledgeville)

Bill Status: House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Summary: HB 126 would provide regulations for law enforcement officers and agencies to collect biological specimens for DNA testing of missing children and adults.

[Click here to view our 2021 Legislative Tracker](#)

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TEXT ALERT SYSTEM:

In an attempt to keep our members and partners updated throughout the legislative session, Georgia Bio has purchased a text alert system through Mozeo. This system is free for members and will allow us to provide instant updates and calls-to-action as they arise especially given the remote work due to COVID protocols.

[Click here to opt-in to our text alert system](#)

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.

CAPITOL COVID-19 TESTING FOR LOBBYISTS

Testing in the Sloppy Floyd building is now available to lobbyists, elected officials, staff and the public. Tests will be administered in room 404 on the balcony level of the west tower of the Floyd building (up the escalator to your left). This site will be open from 10am-2pm Monday-Friday. This testing site will be available throughout session.

Pre-register for an appointment... <https://idtech-patient.limsabc.com>

Site Code: GASTATEC

This system allows for both pre-registration and results access. Once registration is complete, a form will be emailed and can be printed. Registrants should bring the form, a copy of their ID/Driver's License and insurance card if they have insurance. If the registrant is uninsured, they can select uninsured as a payment option. These uninsured claims will be billed to the CARES Act. Once results have been finalized and released, an email will be sent to registrant notifying that results are ready. They can then log in using the site code and confirmation number generated after successful registration.

Walk ups are also welcome.

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

Below you will find a list of helpful links for viewing House and Senate floor sessions, committee meetings, calendars, and legislation search.

[House Floor Stream](#)

[House Committee Calendar](#)

[Senate Floor Stream](#)

[Senate Committee Calendar](#)

[Legislation Search](#)