

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report February 8, 2021

Legislative Days 9 - 12

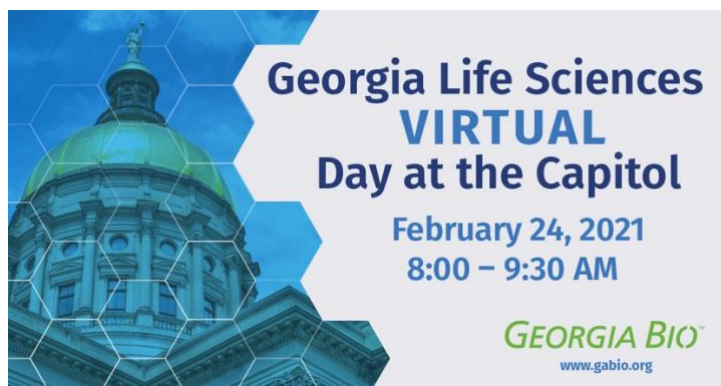
GENERAL UPDATE:

Week 4 of the legislative session saw an increase in committee meetings and legislation in both chambers. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Senate Sub to the amended FY2021 budget (House Bill 80) on Thursday and it is expected to be considered on the Senate floor this week.

[Click here to view budget documents for HB 80](#)

[House Bill 304](#) also dropped this week, which will offer a tax credit for pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing. Georgia Bio has been in close contact with the Governor Kemp's office to provide information and resources on this legislation, and we will be actively updating you on its progress.

[Click here to view Georgia Bio's statement of support for HB 304](#)



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

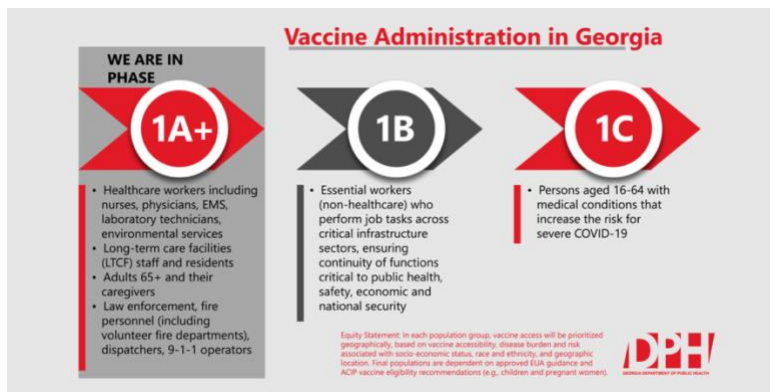
Mark your calendar to join us on Wednesday, February 24th from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. for the Georgia Life Sciences Virtual Day at the Capitol, featuring Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan! While we cannot gather in person, this event is still an excellent way to engage with legislators and highlight the great work of the pharma, biotech and medtech industries in our state.

[Click here for registration and additional information](#)

VACCINE UPDATE:

Georgia continues to see COVID vaccinations increase after the news from last week that the state would receive a higher weekly allotment. We will provide these numbers each week to keep you updated as the vaccination process continues and we move into subsequent phases:

- **Providers Enrolled: 2,026**
- **Total Allocated: 1,572,950**
- **Total Vaccines Shipped: 1,553,450**
- **Total Vaccines Administered: 1,073,482**



[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. Please see below for legislation that has been added to our legislative tracker this week.

HB 163; Medicaid express lane enrollment option

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

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services Committee

Summary: HB 163 would direct the Department of Community Health to submit a state plan amendment to implement express lane enrollment in Medicaid to direct the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll and renew eligible children.

HB 304; Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act

Bill Author: Rep. Jodi Lott (R - Evans)

Bill Status: House Ways & Means Committee

Summary: HB 304 would establish a tax incentive for pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing operations in Georgia.

[SB 46 – Authorize certain medical personnel to administer vaccines during public health emergencies](#)

Bill Author: Sen. Dean Burke (R - Bainbridge)

Bill Status: Senate Health & Human Services

Summary: SB 46 would authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines during public health emergencies after receiving proper public health training.

[SB 57 – Economic analyses of certain tax benefits by independent auditor](#)

Bill Author: Sen. Jen Jordan (D - Atlanta)

Bill Status: Senate Finance Committee

Summary: SB 57 would allow the chairs of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee to request an economic analyses for certain tax benefits by an independent auditor.

[SB 80 – Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act](#)

Bill Author: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

Summary: SB 80 provides standards and guidance on insurance utilization review and to whom these standards apply.

[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](#)