

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report February 15, 2021

Legislative Days 13 - 16

GENERAL UPDATE:

Week 5 of the legislative session saw the final passage of the amended FY 2021 budget (House Bill 80), making it one of the quickest passed amended budgets in Georgia history. The bill now goes to Governor Kemp for his signature. A new adjournment resolution (SR 82) was also passed, taking us through legislative day 25 on March 1.

[Click here to view Senate Resolution 82](#)

[House Bill 304](#), Governor Kemp's Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act, dropped last Friday and was assigned to the House Ways & Means Committee. On Wednesday, the bill had a hearing before the Income Tax Subcommittee of W&M where Georgia Bio President and CEO, Maria Thacker-Goethe, testified on the importance of growing our industry in Georgia and our support for HB 304. We have already had several discussions with members of the committee about how we can be a resource for them and plan to be actively involved as the bill moves. We will let you know of any updates or changes the bill experiences.

[Click here to view Maria Thacker-Goethe's February 10th testimony](#)

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 Life Sciences
VIRTUAL
Day at the Capitol

February 24, 2021
8:00 - 9:30 AM

GEORGIA BIO™
www.gabio.org

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.

Additional speakers will be updated as they are confirmed, so be sure to check the event page for updates!

[Click here to register for the 2021 Virtual Life Sciences Day at the Capitol](#)

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 307; Revise Georgia Telehealth Act

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

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services Committee

Summary: HB 307 would revise provisions of the Georgia Telehealth Act, including the authorization of health care providers to provide telemedicine services from home and authorize patients to receive telehealth services from home, work or school.

HB 413; Prohibit local governments from requiring individuals to submit to vaccinations unless they meet certain criteria

Bill Author: Rep. Beth Camp (R - Concord)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 413 would prohibit local governments from requiring individuals to submit to vaccinations unless they meet certain criteria, including full FDA authorization (not just emergency use authorization) and long-term safety evaluations.

HB 450; Revise Low THC Oil Patient Registry

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

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 450 would authorize the Department of Public Health to release deidentified data from the Low THC Oil Patient Registry to government entities for research.

SB 180; Ethylene Oxide permit conditions

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

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: SB 180 relates to certain conditions required for permitting of facilities that emit ethylene oxide. This is a companion bill to Rep. Allen's House Bill 3.

[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.

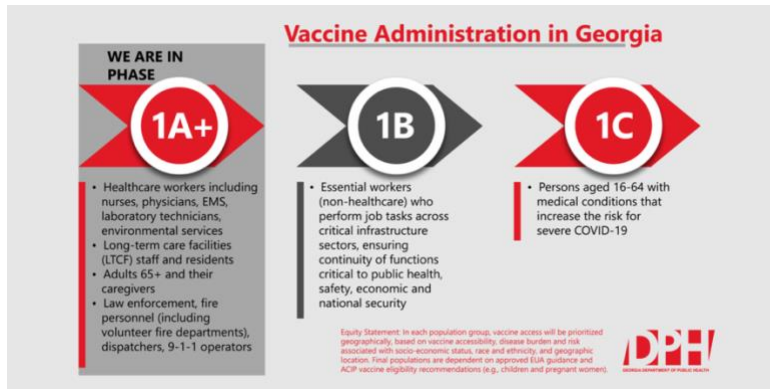
Walk ups are also welcome.

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: 2,186**

- **Total Allocated: 1,835,775**
- **Total Vaccines Shipped: 1,835,775**
- **Total Vaccines Administered: 1,353,978**



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

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](#)