

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report February 22, 2021

Legislative Days 17 - 19

GENERAL UPDATE:

As promised, we want to give a brief update on the progress of the Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act ([House Bill 304](#)). While HB 304 is still currently in the House Ways & Means Income Tax Subcommittee, the language from the bill was added to a new bill this week. The Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act ([House Bill 504](#)) was originally passed in 2017 and provided tax incentives to businesses supporting rural and agricultural operations. This new bill would renew these incentives and add the pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing operations to the list of eligible recipients.

The bill was assigned to the House Ways & Means Committee where we anticipate it will receive a hearing this week. We are continuing conversations with bill sponsors and committee members to ensure movement of either bill. We will keep you updated on both pieces of legislation and their progress as HB 304 is still active in subcommittee.

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 THIS 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 504; Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act

Bill Author: Rep. Bruce Williamson (R - Monroe)

Bill Status: House Ways & Means

Summary: HB 504 is an extension of the Rural Jobs Act from 2017. The Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act (HB 304) language was added to this bill. The portion we are following would implement a tax credit for pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing operations in Georgia.

[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.

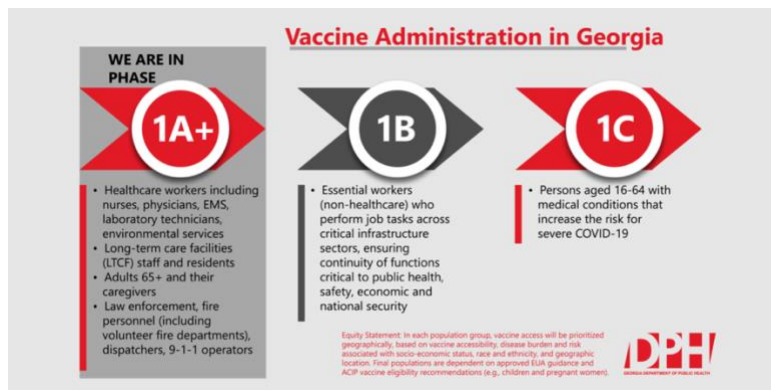
Walk ups are also welcome.

VACCINE UPDATE:

On Thursday, Governor Kemp announced that the state would be opening four mass-vaccination sites across the state to help increase vaccine distribution. He also mentioned that the state would be finalizing plans for Phase 1B in the next two weeks. We remain in frequent contact with the Governor's Office about the importance of including our pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing and distributing employees as essential workers in Phase 1B and hope to have an answer on the populations included in this phase soon.

A new website for vaccine registration was also launched this week allowing citizens to register (or pre-register if they are not eligible for a vaccine yet) for a vaccination time.

[Click here to visit the new My Vaccine Georgia website](#)



[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](#)