

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report March 29, 2021

Legislative Days 36 - 38

GENERAL UPDATE:

The Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act saw a lot of movement last week, first in House Ways & Means where it was added to [SB 6](#) as a committee substitute and also in Senate Finance where it passed out of that committee on [HB 587](#). While the House passed the new version of SB 6 Thursday afternoon, the Senate ultimately disagreed to the House Substitute. As of this afternoon, both chambers have insisted on their position and a conference committee is being appointed for SB 6.

[HB 81](#), the FY2022 budget, was passed by Senate Substitute and a conference committee assigned last week. This committee consists of House Speaker Pro-Tem Jan Jones, House Majority Leader Jon Burns, House Appropriations Chairman Terry England, Senate President Pro-Tem Butch Miller, Senate Majority Leader Mike Dugan, and Senate Appropriations Chairman Blake Tillery. We expect to see a Conference Committee Report today before Wednesday's deadline of Sine Die.

As a reminder, Sen. Dean Burke and Rep. David Knight were chosen to receive the Georgia Bio Legislator of the Year Award for their work last session on the PBM legislation. We are thankful for their efforts to bring more transparency to the system and hope you will join us virtually THIS Thursday, April 1 as we celebrate them and all of our Golden Helix Award Winners. Link to register available [HERE](#).

The House and Senate will be in session Monday and Wednesday of this week for legislative days 39 and 40 with a committee work day on Tuesday. Sine Die, the last day of the legislative session, will be on Wednesday, March 31.

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 823; Prescription Drug Rebate Financial Protection Act](#)

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

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

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 823 would require all health insurers to pass along no less than 80 percent of all third-party prescription drug rebates to enrollees.

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

VACCINE UPDATE:

As of last Thursday, all Georgians 16 years old and up are eligible to receive vaccines. Appointments can be made online through the [Georgia Vaccine Locator](#).

SAVE THE DATE:

Please join Georgia Bio on Wednesday, April 21st from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. for the inaugural Patient Advocacy Alliance Roundtable discussion. This will be the first of several events this year aimed at amplifying the patient voice while connecting advocates and industry partners in policy and innovation discussions. In light of the continued state of public health, we will hold this event virtually with the option for hybrid in-person meetings later in the year.

Audience: Patient Groups (**targeted focus**), Legislators, Core Industry Companies, HR, Insurance Companies (other payers of healthcare), Health Care Providers, Academic Institutions

[Registration available here](#)

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](#)