

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report March 1, 2021

Legislative Days 20 - 24

GENERAL UPDATE:

The Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act (originally [House Bill 304](#)) made progress this week after being added to a third piece of legislation. [House Bill 587](#), the Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021 carried by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R – Monroe), was dropped last Monday including the language for the pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing tax incentive. This bill passed out of the House Ways & Means Income Tax Subcommittee on Wednesday before being passed out of full committee on Thursday.

The new legislative calendar that was adopted on Friday sets Crossover Day for next Monday, March 8th. This means that House Bill 587 will need to be passed on the House Floor by this day to still be considered for final passage this legislative session. We are very optimistic that the bill will be on the floor either Wednesday or Friday of this week but will not know for sure until the Rules Calendars for those days are set (always set the legislative day before). We will provide updates on our social media platforms and via email about the bill's progress and hopeful passage in the House before beginning the process over again in the Senate.

As mentioned above, a new adjournment resolution was also adopted on Friday outlining the remaining 16 legislative days of the 2021 session. This new resolution sets the date for Sine Die, the final day of the legislative session, on Wednesday, March 31st.

[Click here to view H.R. 264](#)

GOVERNOR KEMP ISSUES NEW COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDERS:

Last week, Governor Kemp signed [Executive Order 02.26.21.01](#) and [Executive Order 02.26.21.02](#). Executive Order 02.26.21.01 extends the Public Health State of Emergency through April 6, 2021, and Executive Order 02.26.21.02 extends the guidance for Empowering a Healthy Georgia in

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

response to COVID-19 from March 1 at 12:00 AM to March 15 at 11:59 PM with minor changes. Those changes are detailed below.

- Creates a definition for "organization."
- Updates quarantine protocol to reflect the CDC's latest guidance regarding individuals who have been fully vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19.
- Clarifies that entities that can be considered both a "bar" and "live performance venue" should adhere to the guidance for bars laid out in the Executive Order.
- Creates a definition for "organization."
- Updates quarantine protocol to reflect the CDC's latest guidance regarding individuals who have been fully vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19.
- Clarifies that entities that can be considered both a "bar" and "live performance venue" should adhere to the guidance for bars laid out in the Executive Order.

[Click here to read the full text of the Executive Orders](#)

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 587; Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021

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

Bill Status: House Rules

Summary: HB 587 is a tax incentive package containing the language from the Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act (HB 304). The portion we are following would implement a tax credit for pharmaceutical and medical supply manufacturing operations in Georgia.

HB 637; Require continued mask/facial protection for 12 months following conclusion of a public health emergency

Bill Author: Rep. Spencer Frye (D - Athens)

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services

Summary: HB 637 would authorize persons to wear masks, hoods, or other devices to prevent the spread of a contagious or infectious disease during and for 12 months following the conclusion of a public health emergency.

SB 181; Reduce out-of-pocket insulin costs

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

Bill Status: Senate Health & Human Services

Summary: SB 181 relates to insurance provisions to reduce out-of-pocket cost of consumers requiring insulin. This is a companion bill to House Bill 73.

[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 addition of pre-k – 12 educators and staff, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers, and parents of children with complex medical conditions to COVID vaccine distribution beginning March 8th. Gov. Kemp also announced that Georgia would no longer follow the original phased approach but would instead add groups as the supply increased and allowed. The next group expected to be added to this list are the medically fragile or immunocompromised under 65, however this has not been officially announced. We will continue to monitor the progress of supply and maintain our communications with the Governor's office.

The My Vaccine Georgia website will allow citizens to register (or pre-register if they are not eligible for a vaccine yet) for a vaccination time including those recently added to the distribution list and can be accessed below.

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

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](#)