

# Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



## Georgia Bio Legislative Report March 9, 2021

*Legislative Days 25 - 28*

### **GENERAL UPDATE:**

Yesterday was Legislative Day 28, or Crossover Day, in the Georgia General Assembly, meaning that it was the last legislative day for a bill to pass out of its chamber of origin and still be eligible for final passage this legislative session. We are pleased to report that all proactive pieces of legislation that Georgia Bio has been actively pushing were all passed prior to this deadline and all bills that we were actively fighting did not receive passage. Below are some highlights and next steps for notable pieces of legislation:

### **Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act**

Originally [House Bill 304](#), this bill language was added to [House Bill 587](#), the Georgia Economic Renewal Act of 2021. As a reminder, Section 1 of HB 587 would allow companies eligible for the existing Jobs Tax Credit to receive an additional \$1250 tax incentive for all new jobs/employees engaged in pharmaceutical manufacturing and medical supply manufacturing. The bill passed the House by a vote of 157 – 14 on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee on Friday. Georgia Bio has scheduled a meeting with Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) this week to discuss and will update next week.

### **Rural Teacher Training Initiative**

After several weeks of hearings, the FY2022 budget was passed out of the House on Friday by a vote of 136 – 31. After last year's budget cuts, we are thrilled that the House-passed budget fully restores the funding for the Rural Teacher Training Initiative (RTTI) to the original \$323,000 allocation. The Senate Appropriations Committee began hearings today on the FY2022 budget that will continue throughout this week, and Georgia Bio has already scheduled a meeting with Chairman Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) to outline the importance of this line-item to providing resources to rural teachers and students.

### **Ethylene Oxide Regulation**

[House Bill 3](#) and [Senate Bill 180](#), the companion pieces of legislation further regulating the use and reporting requirements for ethylene oxide did not receive committee hearings and therefore are no longer eligible for passage this legislative session. The bills will still be active for the 2022 Legislative Session and

### 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](mailto:ahaltom@gabio.org).

[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)

### GEORGIA BIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2021 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Tue. January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
Tue. February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am  
Tue. February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
Tue. March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am  
Tue. March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
Tue. March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am

could still be added as an amendment to active legislation this year, therefore we will continue to monitor these and bills in this code section for amendments.

**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 653; Revise the Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act](#)**

**Bill Author:** Rep. Rick Jasperse (R - Jasper)

**Bill Status:** Senate First Readers

**Summary:** HB 653 would revise the definition of “pharmacy care” to include at-home, FDA-approved tests and results as well as viral and serology COVID-19 tests.

**[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](#)