

# Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



## Georgia Bio Legislative Report March 15, 2021

*Legislative Days 29 - 31*

### **GENERAL UPDATE:**

After Monday's hectic Crossover Day, this week was mostly spent assigning crossed-over bills in their new chamber and planning committee meetings. The Senate Appropriations Committee began subcommittee meetings on Tuesday to go over the changes made to House Bill 81, the FY 2022 budget, in the House. The Education Appropriations Subcommittee met on Thursday morning to discuss their budget items including the restored Rural Teacher Training Initiative funds. We expect to see a final draft agenda sometime this week or next, after which we anticipate a vote in the Senate followed by a conference committee.

House Bill 587, containing language for the Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act, was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee where we expect it will have a hearing this week. While there has been some concern that this measure could be subject to language in the most recent federal relief package restricting tax cuts or incentives, we will continue to have conversations and work to pass the bill until that language is clarified.

The House and Senate will be in session Monday – Thursday of this week marking legislative days 32 – 35.

### **VACCINE UPDATE:**

On Thursday, Governor Kemp announced vaccine expansion to adults 55+ and adults with qualifying comorbidities beginning **today, March 15<sup>th</sup>**. He also announced that if the state continues to see vaccine supply increases as we have the past few weeks that vaccine eligibility would be expanded to all adults by the first half of April. With these expansions also comes the opening of five new mass vaccination sites across the state. For more information on eligibility and the new mass vaccination sites, click [HERE](#).

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](#)

### 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

**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.

[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](#)