

Legislative Watch

presented by

GEORGIA BIO™

policy & advocacy committee



Georgia Bio Legislative Report April 7, 2021

Legislative Days 39 - 40

GENERAL UPDATE:

Last week, the Georgia General Assembly met for two days and concluded the 2021 Legislative Session on Wednesday, March 31st. After a unique legislative session, we are pleased to announce that Georgia Bio was incredibly successful and we know the legislation passed this year will have a positive impact on our state's economy for years to come.

Below you will find updates on the legislation that Georgia Bio tracked this session that passed as well as a few pieces of legislation that did not and will still be active for the 2022 session. We will host a Post-session Legislative Update via Zoom on Tuesday, April 20th from 8-8:30 a.m. to give a more robust overview of this session and what we expect going forward.

[Click here to register for the Post-session Legislative Update](#)

GEORGIA MADE MEDICAL MANUFACTURING ACT:

The Georgia Made Medical Manufacturing Act was a priority of Gov. Brian Kemp and addressed in his State of the State earlier this year. This legislation would add an additional \$1250 tax credit to each new qualifying pharmaceutical and medical device/supply manufacturing job beginning July 1, 2021.

The act originally started as a standalone bill on HB 304 and saw several iterations throughout the legislative session before finally landing as an amendment to [SB 6](#). The bill ended up in a conference committee where an agreement was reached on the evening of day 40 and subsequently adopted by both chambers with about one hour left of the 2021 legislative session. The bill now awaits the signature of Gov. Kemp and we expect no issues with this signing.

RURAL TEACHER TRAINING INITIATIVE:

[HB 81](#), the FY2022 budget, contained the funding for Georgia BioEd's Rural Teacher Training Initiative. After last year's round of budget cuts, we were pleased to see this funding fully restored to pre-COVID levels. We also spent a great deal of this session working on the funding stream for the program, eventually moving the funding to the Curriculum Division of the Department of Education where we know the program will continue to thrive.

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

The restored funding and new funding “home” will allow our staff to reach more teachers in the rural and underserved school districts in our state, and, in turn, impact more students to help fill the workforce pipeline. The budget awaits Gov. Kemp’s signature and will go into effect on July 1st of this year.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION:

While the budget and GMMMA were the top priorities, Georgia Bio tracked more than 50 pieces of legislation this session with a few other notable bills that passed. First, [HB 112](#), the COVID liability legislation, extended the liability shield to protect businesses and healthcare workers as we continue to grapple with the pandemic and vaccinations. The original bill was set to expire on July 14, 2021, so HB 112 provides for an additional year to July 14, 2022.

[SB 46](#) outlined additional qualified personnel to administer vaccines during a public health state of emergency in addition to establishing a statewide vaccine registry. This legislation will allow for Georgia to provide updated information (with an opt-out provision for those who do not wish for their information to be included) through the Department of Public Health to ensure timely delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. Finally, this bill allows for the sharing of de-identified data from the Low THC registry with government and other specified entities for research and educational purposes.

There were also several pieces of legislation that did not pass this legislative session but will still be active for the 2022 Legislative Session as it is the second year of a biennial. As such, we will continue to watch the following bills next year:

- [HB 3](#) & [SB 180](#) (Ethylene Oxide regulations)
- [SB 1](#) (All-payer claims status for ERISA plans)
- [HB 73](#) & [SB 181](#) (Out-of-pocket insulin caps)
- [HB 164](#) & [HB 823](#) (80% minimum rebate pass-thru)

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](#)

SAVE THE DATE:

GEORGIA BIO™ www.gabio.org



Patient Advocacy Alliance Roundtable

April 21, 2021 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM | Virtual Event

 Mapillar Dahn President & Founder MTS Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.	 Dr. Jessica Morison Director of Medical Affairs CRISPR Therapeutics	 Dorothy Leone-Glasser, RN, HHC Executive Director, ARx
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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](#)

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](#).