



**Georgia Bio Legislative Watch
January 18, 2022
Days 1-4 of 40 Day Session**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Georgia Legislature convened the 2022 Legislative Session on Monday, January 10th. The House and Senate approved the calendar for the first 7 days of the annual 40-day legislative session, taking us through January 26th.

Budget Week is scheduled for this week with Joint House and Senate appropriations meetings convening on the mornings of the 18th through the 21st. Those budget hearings will all be available for virtual viewing and will be devoted to the FY2022 continuation budget and the FY2023 General Appropriations Act. Georgia Bio will closely monitor these meetings to ensure funding for our Rural Teacher Training Initiative (RTTI) is secured for the program's fourth year.

[Current Adjournment Resolution \(HR 570\)](#)

[2022 Joint Budget Hearings Schedule](#)

Gov. Brian Kemp delivered his fourth State of the State address on Thursday, January 13th, outlining his vision for the coming year. One of his goals for the amended FY2021 and FY2022 budgets will be to adjust spending to pre-Covid budget cut levels, beginning with fully restoring funding for the Department of Education and issuing the final \$2,000 per teacher pay increase to fulfill his promise of \$5,000 raises to Georgia's teachers. Access to quality and affordable healthcare will also be a top priority with funding to add an additional 1,300 practitioners to Georgia's rural areas to support the workforce shortages.

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 to keep crowding in the halls to a minimum.

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. You can also view our 2022 Policy Priorities [HERE](#). If you have bills that you would like included in the weekly bill update, please email ahaltom@gabio.org.

HB 867; Truth in Prescription Pricing for Patients Act

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

Bill Status: House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare

Summary: HB 867 would require increased transparency in pricing and cost sharing options from pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs).

HB 869; Prohibit state and local governments requiring vaccinations as a condition to certain actions

Bill Author: Charlice Byrd (R - Woodstock)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 869 would prohibit state or local governments from requiring vaccines, issuing vaccine passports, or requiring masks as a condition to certain actions.

HB 902; Reduce out-of-pocket costs for consumers requiring insulin

Bill Author: Kim Schofield (D - Atlanta)

Bill Status: House Insurance

Summary: HB 902 would limit out-of-pocket costs for consumers requiring insulin to \$100 per 30-day supply.

HB 910; Supplemental Appropriations Act FY2022

Bill Author: David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: House Appropriations

Summary: HB 910 addresses adjustments in revenue and subsequent spending for the remainder of the FY2022 budget year.

HB 911; General Appropriations Act FY2023

Bill Author: David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: House Appropriations

Summary: HB 911 outlines budget items and funding for the State's FY2023 budget, including funds within the Department of Education to support the Rural Teacher Training Initiative (RTTI).

HB 918; Establish the Georgia Rare Disease Advisory Council

Bill Author: Mike Cheokas (R – Americus)

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services

Summary: HB 918 would establish a Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) in Georgia to advise on policy and provide insight for legislators on the rare disease community and its more than 7,000 rare diseases.

[SB 345; Prohibit vaccine passports](#)

Bill Author: Jeff Mullis (R – Chicamauga)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: SB 345 would prohibit state and local government from requiring vaccine passports.

[Click here to view the full 2022 Tracking Document](#)

GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2022 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Tue. January 25
Tue. February 8
Tue. February 22
Tue. March 8
Tue. March 22
Tue. April 5

All calls will be conducted via Zoom and will begin at 10 a.m. EST. If you or someone from your team would like to participate on a call, please contact ahaltom@gabio.org for access information.