



## **Georgia Bio Legislative Watch January 24, 2022 Budget Week Update**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Each January the governor proposes two distinct budgets. The amended budget for FY 2022 adjusts spending levels for the current fiscal year and the full budget for FY 2023 lays out a new spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Governor Kemp's FY 2023 budget proposal seeks to bring Georgia back to pre-COVID funding levels, including full restoration of the Department of Education budget.

[Click here to read Governor Kemp's full FY 2023 Budget Proposal](#)

The week after the first week of session is always reserved for Budget Week where representatives from the various state agencies present their proposed budgets before Joint Sessions of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Georgia Bio is closely following the House Education Subcommittee discussions as our Rural Teacher Training Initiative (RTTI) funding is housed in the Department of Education budget.

Finally, save the date for our Life Sciences Day at the Capitol, scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a virtual event and an agenda will be available soon. Updates and registration available [HERE](#).

### **RURAL TEACHER TRAINING INITIATIVE (RTTI) UPDATE:**

The Rural Teacher Training Initiative was created in 2019 to support the growth of the life science workforce and improve opportunities for young people in rural communities. After the 2020 round of budget cuts reduced our funding, we were thrilled to see our funding restored to the full \$323,000 in last year's FY 2022 budget.

In addition to the funding restoration, the program was moved within the Department of Education from the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) to the Innovative Programs and Research division.

RTTI is a collaboration among the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia BioEd Institute, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech, as well as the Georgia life science industry. Despite the necessary pivot due to COVID protocols, RTTI delivered cutting edge training and equipment for secondary science teachers in four virtual sessions led by master instructors. The training provides educators with laboratory experiences that they can replicate in the classroom and offer instruction that aligns with the Georgia Standards of Excellence and prepares and

inspires students to enter a career in life sciences.

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

#### **SB 317; Authorize physicians to delegate authority to dispense prepackaged medications**

**Bill Author:** Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome)

**Bill Status:** Senate Health & Human Services

**Summary:** SB 317 would authorize physicians to delegate to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants the authority to dispense prepackaged medications other than controlled substances as an agent or employee of a clinic.

#### **SB 338 – Extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from six months to one year**

**Bill Author:** Sen. Dean Burke (R - Bainbridge)

**Bill Status:** N/A

**Summary:** SB 338 would increase postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year following birth.

#### **SB 341; Revise prior-authorization of prescribed medication for chronic conditions requiring ongoing medication therapy**

**Bill Author:** Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

**Bill Status:** N/A

**Summary:** SB 341 would provide guidelines for the prior authorization of a prescribed medication for chronic conditions requiring ongoing medication therapy under certain circumstances.

#### **SB 342; Provide annual reporting regarding mental health parity in healthcare plans**

**Bill Author:** Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

**Bill Status:** N/A

**Summary:** SB 342 would provide for annual reporting regarding mental health parity in healthcare plans.

**[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](mailto:ahaltom@gabio.org) for access information.

## **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 & Senate Schedules \(Including Livestreams\)](#)

[Legislation Search](#)

## **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.