



**Georgia Bio Legislative Watch
January 31, 2022
Legislative Days 5 - 8**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

General business resumed this week at the State Capitol with legislative days 5 – 8 of the 40-day legislative session. A new adjournment resolution was also passed taking us through the remainder of the Legislative Session. Key dates include Crossover Day, scheduled for March 15th, and Sine Die, the last day of the session, scheduled for April 4th.

[Click here to view the new adjournment resolution](#)

House Bill 867, the Truth in Prescription Pricing for Patients Act, was heard in the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare on Wednesday. In its original form, the bill called for more transparency for the pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) in the way of disclosing the true net cost and final cost of drugs to customers while also requiring them to pass along any manufacturers rebate at the counter. A substitute for the bill was offered at the meeting and will be updated [HERE](#) once available. The bill now goes to the House Rules committee to be considered for a full House vote.

Speaker Ralston and members of House leadership also held a press conference this week to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Day in Georgia and also to announce the omnibus [Mental Health Parity Act, House Bill 1013](#). During his remarks, Speaker Ralston commented, “For much too long, our mental health care delivery system has been inadequate. The accessibility and availability of treatment has been woefully limited. For a state that is rated number one in the nation in which to do business, this is not acceptable.” HB 1013 seeks to implement the recommendations of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission by addressing mental health issues with regards to the courts, education, health, insurance, mental health, public officers and employees, and social services. We will continue to follow this legislation and keep you updated on its progress.

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

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 963; Change certain provisions of Schedule I and IV controlled substances

Bill Author: Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)

Bill Status: House Health & Human Services

Summary: HB 963 is the annual update for Schedule I and Schedule IV controlled substances.

HB 1013; Mental Health Parity Act

Bill Author: David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 1013 is the omnibus mental health bill reflecting the recommendations of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission.

SB 372; provide that certain requirements relating to vaccination status or possession of immunity passport are unlawful discriminatory practices

Bill Author: Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: SB 372 would designate the requirement of vaccine status or vaccine passport in certain circumstances as an unlawful, discriminatory practice. Specific examples identified in bill text.

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

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

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.

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.