



Georgia Bio Legislative Watch
February 14, 2022
Legislative Days 12 - 15

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Business continued at the Capitol last week with a full committee schedule. A substitute to [House Bill 918](#), the bill to establish a Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) in Georgia, was heard in the House Health & Human Services Committee on Tuesday where it was unanimously voted out. The bill now goes before House Rules to be considered before a vote of the full House.

The Senate also passed Senate Bill 338 during Monday's floor session. This bill would extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for new mothers from six months to one year. SB 338 has been assigned to the House Health & Human Services Committee.

We anticipate this week being a busy committee week with [HB 1176](#), the Right to Repair legislation, expected to be in the House Agriculture Committee as well as [HB 1013](#), House leadership's Mental Health Parity bill, being heard in House Health & Human Services on Wednesday. We are preparing testimony to give on HB 1176 during Tuesday's Agriculture committee, so please send an email to Ashley Haltom (ahaltom@cghi.org) if you or someone from your company has input or would like to testify—this can also be submitted as written testimony.

Finally, we are working with Governor Kemp's office on a proclamation recognizing Monday, February 28th at Rare Disease Day in Georgia. We are planning a social media information campaign leading up to and on that day, so for those companies who are interested in participating, please reach out to Ashley Haltom (ahaltom@cghi.org) or Ryan Brooks (rbrooks@cghi.org) for more information.

2022 LIFE SCIENCES VIRTUAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL:



Join Georgia Bio on Wednesday, February 23rd for a VIRTUAL Day at the Capitol! While we cannot gather in-person, connecting with legislators is still vital to the growth of our industry. Join us from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for a virtual event featuring a keynote address from Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge), who will give us an update on the 2022 legislative session as well as his Mental Health Parity Act (House Bill 1013). Attendees will also receive an update from Georgia Bio on our legislative priorities as well as some exciting news on our development front!

Our event will also feature a conversation with Chairman Mike Cheokas (R-Americus) with Dorothy Leone-Glasser of ARxC on the effort to establish a Rare Disease Advisory Council in Georgia as well as the impact that this could have on the rare disease patient community. Additionally, Pete Pellerito and Patrick Plues from BIO will discuss the findings from BIO's new report on bioscience economic development best practices, including public policy strategies and programs across the country to highlight new and innovative initiatives that enhance the future of the bioscience industry.

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19, we are holding this event virtually; however, we are planning for an in-person legislative reception in conjunction with one of our signature events later this year, so stay tuned for information and updates as we are able to return to in-person events!

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. – Welcome and CGHI Development Updates, Maria Thacker-Goethe
10:15 a.m. – Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) – HB 918 Update, Chairman Mike Cheokas & Dorothy Leone-Glasser
10:30 a.m. – Legislative Updates, Ashley Haltom & Sally Kilpatrick
10:45 a.m. – BIO Industry Report Presentation, Pete Pellerito & Patrick Plues
11:00 a.m. – Keynote Address: Speaker David Ralston
11:15 a.m. – Questions and Final Thoughts
11:30 a.m. – Adjourn

Registration is free but is required for event access and can be found [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 1304; Georgia Caregivers Act

Bill Author: Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 1304 would allow for the identification of lay caregivers to assist with a patient's care post-discharge but who would not be considered primary caregivers.

HB 1324; clarify the prudent layperson standard for emergency services

Bill Author: Beth Camp (R – Concord)

Bill Status: N/A

Summary: HB 1324 would clarify that the prudent layperson standard is not affected by the diagnoses given as it relates to emergency services and insurance.

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

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

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.