



**Georgia Bio Legislative Watch**  
**March 7, 2022**  
**Legislative Days 21 - 24**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Business at the State Capitol picked up last week and is expected to continue at a fast pace this week as we prepare for Legislative Day 28, Crossover Day, on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Most notably this week, any bill originating in the Senate must pass out of its assigned committee by Wednesday in order to be eligible for the Rules Calendar before Crossover Day.

Several pieces of legislation saw committee action last week. [House Bill 1013](#), the Mental Health Parity Act, was passed out of the House Health & Human Services Committee with minor changes from last week and has been placed on the Rules Calendar for Tuesday. [House Bill 1371](#), legislation creating the Rural Health Advancement Commission, passed out of the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare and now goes before the Rules Committee. The purpose of this commission would be to develop private-sector solutions to address short-term and long-term health care and long-term care workforce shortages, with an emphasis on rural areas. Additionally, [Senate Bill 379](#), which would establish a program to promote the creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in high-demand career fields, passed out of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee and is on the Senate Rules Calendar for Tuesday.

While there has been a lot of movement, several pieces of legislation that we are monitoring are still awaiting action in both Chambers. [House Bill 918](#), legislation to establish a Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC), is still in House Rules. We are monitoring the progress and following-up with bill sponsor Rep. Cheokas on possible action items. [Senate Bill 518](#), the "Prescription Drug Rebate Financial Protection Act," is in the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee pending a hearing. This legislation reflects the original language from last year's Share the Savings legislation that emerged in the House. Finally, [Senate Bill 487](#), which would require insurance coverage of diagnostic breast exams as preventative treatment, was heard in the Health & Workman's Comp Subcommittee of the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee last Wednesday, and while no action was taken on the bill, we anticipate it moving forward this week.

If you are following legislation that we have not mentioned or that you think we need to be made aware, please send a note to Ashley Haltom ([ahaltom@cghi.org](mailto:ahaltom@cghi.org)) so that we can assess.

**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).

### **[HB 1453; access to medical cannabis; revise provisions](#)**

**Bill Author:** Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

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

**Summary:** HB 1453 would revise provisions of access to medical cannabis relating to the Department of Community Health, so as to transfer the operation and maintenance of the Low THC Oil Patient Registry to the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

### **[HB 1484; pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS under Medicaid](#)**

**Bill Author:** Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville)

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

**Summary:** HB 1484 would provide for a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) under the Medicaid program.

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

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

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.