



Georgia Bio Legislative Report April 5, 2019 Session Recap

GENERAL UPDATE:

The 2019 legislative session concluded with Sine Die on Tuesday, April 2. All bills that successfully made it through this year will now head to the Governor's desk for his approval. Governor Kemp has 40 days to sign or veto legislation. Those bills that failed to make it through this year are still alive for passage in the 2020 session.

This legislative session was characterized by new leadership in the Governor and Lt. Governor's office, as well as 40 freshman legislators. Georgia Bio will continue to monitor legislation over the next 40 days and keep members informed as bills are signed into law. Georgia Bio will also be working with our members this year on our legislative priorities going into the 2020 session.

BUDGET UPDATE

On Thursday March 28th, the Senate and House adopted the Conference Committee report for HB 31, the General Appropriations budget for FY 2020. Georgia Bio is happy to report that our total asking amount of \$323,000 for our rural teacher training program made it through the legislative process. The bill is now headed to the Governor's desk.

BILL MOVEMENT

This session the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation that would establish step therapy protocols for patients, provisions for the licensure of genetic counselors, pharmacy anti-steering and transparency act, regulations and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers, the authorization to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and modernizing telemedicine policy in Georgia. Please see below for more details on bills that passed out of the 2019 Georgia Legislative Session.

[HB 30 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 30 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. These appropriations fund the operation of the State government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all government activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 31 - General Appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 31 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. These appropriations fund the operation of the State government and its departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, institutions, and other agencies, for the university system, common schools, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions, for all government activities, projects, and undertakings authorized by law.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 63 - Insurance; Health Benefit Plans to Establish Step Therapy Protocols](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 63 is the same bill from the 2018 session and is a compromise from all parties involved and establishes a process for when it is medically appropriate to override a step therapy protocol for patients.

Importance: SUPPORT

[HB 99 - Insurance; Provide for Modernization and Updates](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Richard Smith (R - Columbus)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 99 purposes to modernization and update provisions regarding health insurance for purposes of conformity.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 166 - Genetic Counselors Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 166 provides provisions for the licensure of genetic counselors, continuing education requirements, renewal requirements and duties and powers of the Georgia Composite Medical Board with respect to genetic counselors.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 233 - Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Knight (R - Griffin)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 233 prohibits pharmacies from engaging in certain practices, requires pharmacies to file an annual disclosure statement among other requirements.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 321 - Health; hospital Medicaid financing program; extend sunset provision](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Jodi Lott (R - Evans)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 321 aims to extend the sunset provision for hospital Medicaid financing program to June 30, 2025.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 323 - Insurance; Administration of Claims by Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#)

Bill Author: Rep. David Knight (R - Griffin)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 323 relates to the regulation and licensure of pharmacy benefits managers for purposes of administration of claims, prohibiting certain activities, and to provide an effective date and applicability.

Importance: Monitoring

[HB 514 - Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Kevin Tanner (R - Dawsonville)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: HB 514 creates the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission.

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 106 - "Patients First Act"](#)

Bill Author: Senator Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)

Bill Status: Senate Date Signed by Governor on March 27, 2019

Summary: SB 106 authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Patients First Act is a step toward lowering insurance premiums, enhancing access to quality care, and improving health outcomes in every part of our state.

Importance: Monitoring

[SB 115 - "Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia"; telemedicine licenses for physicians in other states; engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 115 relating to the Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia, aims to provide telemedicine licenses for physicians licensed in other states to engage in the practice of medicine with patients in this state through telemedicine.

Importance: Monitoring

SB 118 - Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 118 aims to modernize the Georgia Telemedicine Act, to rename it to the Telehealth Act. The bill provides the definitions of telemedicine and telehealth and prohibits insurers from requiring insureds to use telemedicine and for pay equity for health care providers using telemedicine.

Importance: Monitoring

SB 121 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase

Bill Author: Senator Larry Walker (R - Perry)

Bill Status: PASSED

Summary: SB 121 relates to the prescription drug monitoring program data base, to increase the length of time that prescription information is retained in the data base from two years to five years.

Importance: Monitoring

SB 195 - "Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act"

Bill Author: Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R - Rome)

Bill Status: House Receded from Amend or Sub on April 2, 2019

Summary: SB 195 provides consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits.

Importance: Monitoring

GEORGIA BIO LEGISLATIVE TRACKING SHEET

Georgia Bio will provide updates on specific legislation of interest to the Georgia Bio membership. If you have bills that you would like included in the weekly bill update, please email jsantoro@gabio.org.

Legislative Tracking Sheet

GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2019 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mon. Jan. 28th at 11am

Mon. Feb. 11 at 11am

Mon. Feb. 25 at 11am

Mon. Mar. 11th at 11am

Mon. Mar. 25th at 11am

If you would like to participate on a Georgia Bio Policy Committee call, please contact jsantoro@gabio.org.