



**Georgia Bio Legislative Watch
January 18, 2019
Days 1-4 of 40 Day Session**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Georgia Legislature convened the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, January 14. There was little activity on legislation this week except for organizational committee meetings.

Budget Week is scheduled for the week of January 21 with joint House and Senate appropriations meetings convening on the mornings of the 22 and 23. Those budget hearings will be devoted to the FY2019 continuation budget and the FY2020 General Appropriations Act.

Governor Brian Kemp presented his first State of the State address to members of the General Assembly, constitutional officers, members of the judiciary, and state administrators on Thursday, January 17. Governor Kemp's priorities include enhancing K-12 education by investing in teachers, school safety, and mental health services; working with the House on the Rural Development Council's proposal to provide quality healthcare and access to broadband; crafting state flexibility options for the Medicaid program; growing the rural hospital tax credit; and addressing Georgia's doctor shortage.

[Meetings and adjournments of the General Assembly](#)

[The Governor's Budget Report FY 2020](#)

CHAIRMAN AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES:

[House of Representatives Committees 2019](#)

[Senate Committees 2019](#)

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.

A Step Therapy bill, exact version from the previous session, is going to be available to view tomorrow with Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) as the sponsor. The bill passed unanimously in the House last session. This legislation will provide an "exception" process to ensure patients will receive the selected medication their provider knows the patient needs.

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

Thurs. Jan. 17th at 10am
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
Mon. Mar. 25th at 11am

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