



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report  
February 22, 2019  
Days 17-20 of 40 Day Session**

**GENERAL UPDATE:**

The General Assembly met this week for days 17-20. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

**BUDGET UPDATE:**

On Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup> the Senate passed the amended FY 2019 supplemental budget and the House agreed on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> to the Senate Substitute as Amended. With the passage of [HB 30](#), the House and Senate are now turning their attention to the FY 2020 budget.

**BILL MOVEMENT**

This week the Senate Health and Human Services Committee passed **SB 106** the Patients First Act. The bill is now headed to rules and then the Senate floor. This bill authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit a Section 1115 wavier request to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. **HB 99** passed by the Insurance Committee on was passed/adopted by the House on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. **HB 158 & HB 166** were passed/adopted by the House earlier this week and are on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee agenda on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see below for more details.

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

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

**Bill Status:** Passed/Adopted by House on February 22, 2019

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

**Importance:** Monitoring

**[HB 158 - Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs](#)**

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted on February 19, 2019 and introduced in the Senate

**Summary:** HB 158 provides Medicaid recipients the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drug Assistance Program, prohibit utilization management tools for such regimens, and allows the submission of a state plan waiver if necessary.

**Importance: Monitoring**

**[HB 166 – Genetic Counselors Act](#)**

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted on February 15, 2019 and introduced in the Senate

**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**

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

**Bill Author:** Senator Blake Tillery (R - Vidalia)

**Bill Status:** Passed by Health and Human Services Committee February 19, 2019

**Summary:** Governor Kemp set aside \$1 million in the state health department's budget to develop a waiver that would drive competition and improve quality while encouraging innovation. HB 106 "Patients First Act" was introduced this week to authorize 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**

**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](mailto:jsantoro@gabio.org).

**[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)**

**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

If you would like to participate on a Georgia Bio Policy Committee call, please contact [jsantoro@gabio.org](mailto:jsantoro@gabio.org).