



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report  
March 1, 2019  
Days 21-25 of 40 Day Session**

**GENERAL UPDATE:**

The General Assembly met this week for days 21-25. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

**TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM & BUDGET UPDATE:**

On Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> the Georgia House passed the General Appropriations [FY 2020 Budget](#). We are happy to report that the appropriations for the Georgia Bio teacher training program has been placed in the budget. This is a unique opportunity to grow Georgia's life science workforce and improve opportunities for young people in rural communities by investing in cutting-edge teacher training workshops that will provide them skills to successfully compete for jobs in the life science workforce and grow the life science industry in Georgia. The Senate is now turning their attention towards HB 31.

**BILL MOVEMENT**

This week the Senate passed/adopted **SB 106** the Patients First Act. The bill is now headed to House for consideration. This bill 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. Please see the bill status below for other bills that moved this week.

### **HB 31 - General Appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

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

**Bill Status:** House Passed/Adopted By Substitute on February 28, 2019

**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 84 - Insurance; Provide for Consumer Protections Regarding Health Insurance**

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

**Bill Status:** House Insurance Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on February 27, 2019

**Summary:** HB 84 provides consumer protections regarding health insurance for disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers. The bill also protects consumers regarding billing, reimbursement, and arbitration of certain service for healthcare goods or services.

**Importance: Monitoring**

### **HB 166 – Genetic Counselors Act**

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

**Bill Status:** Senate Health & Human Services Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

**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:** House Health & Human Services Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

**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:** House Passed/Adopted on February 28, 2019

**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:** House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute on February 27, 2019

**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**

### **SB 106 - "Patients First Act"**

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

**Bill Status:** Senate Passed/Adopted on February 26, 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**

### **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:** Senate Passed/Adopted on February 26, 2019

**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:** Senate Passed/Adopted on February 26, 2019

**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**

### **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).