



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
January 26, 2018
Days 7-10 of 40 Day Session**

General Update:

The House and Senate have set the adjournment calendar for the rest of the 2018 legislative session with Crossover Day set for February 28 and Sine Die falling on March 29.

Mon, Jan 29	Legislative Day 11
Tue, Jan 30	Legislative Day 12
Wed, Jan 31	Legislative Day 13
Thu, Feb 1	Legislative Day 14
Mon, Feb 5	Legislative Day 15
Tue, Feb 6	Legislative Day 16
Wed, Feb 7	Legislative Day 17
Thu, Feb 8	Legislative Day 18
Mon, Feb 12	Legislative Day 19
Tue, Feb 13	Legislative Day 20
Wed, Feb 14	Legislative Day 21
Thu, Feb 15	Legislative Day 22
Tue, Feb 20	Legislative Day 23
Wed, Feb 21	Legislative Day 24
Thu, Feb 22	Legislative Day 25
Fri, Feb 23	Legislative Day 26
Mon, Feb 26	Legislative Day 27
Wed, Feb 28	Crossover Day
Thu, Mar 1	Legislative Day 29
Mon, Mar 5	Legislative Day 30
Tue, Mar 6	*Committee Work Day
Wed, Mar 7	Legislative Day 31
Thu, Mar 8	*Committee Work Day
Fri, Mar 9	Legislative Day 32
Mon, Mar 12	Legislative Day 33
Tue, Mar 13	*Committee Work Day
Wed, Mar 14	Legislative Day 34

Thu, Mar 15	Legislative Day 35
Mon, Mar 19	Legislative Day 36
Tue, Mar 20	*Committee Work Day
Wed, Mar 21	Legislative Day 37
Thu, Mar 22	*Committee Work Day
Fri, Mar 23	Legislative Day 38
Tue, Mar 27	Legislative Day 39
Thu, Mar 29	Legislative Day 40

Issue Spotlight

[SB 357](#) sponsored by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge) was introduced this week and is a product of the recommendations from the Lt. Governor's Georgia's Health Care Reform Task Force. SB 357 would establish a Health Coordination and Innovation Council comprised of Georgia's major health agencies, academic institutions and leaders from the public and private sector to serve as a permanent statewide coordinating platform. The bill would also establish a Health System Innovation Center to draw on and develop the technical expertise of the state's academic, health policy, data and workforce resources.

A continued focus in Georgia is combating the growing crisis of opioid addiction. As part of this continued focus, Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) filed [SB 352](#) which would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery with the director of the commission reporting directly to the Governor. The commission would serve as a coordinated and unified effort among state and 145 local agencies to confront the state-wide addiction and substance abuse crisis. The bill would also assess civil and criminal penalties for patient brokering, insurance and drug testing fraud.

Budget Update

Budget hearings on the amended FY18 and FY 19 budgets continued this week including the House Health subcommittee who heard budget proposals from the Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

DCH Highlights:

\$255,944,645 for Medicaid, including \$92.3 million to replace Tenet settlement funds, \$45.7 million in new funding for baseline expense growth, \$57.9 million increase in state funds to offset a reduction in the federal financial participation rate, and \$32.2 million for reinstatement of the Health Insurance Provider Fee.

DPH Highlights:

\$1,081,951 for public health including \$626,545 for the prescription drug monitoring program, \$355,406 to establish the Office of Cardiac Care, and \$100,000 to provide screening and therapy for children under 21 diagnosed as autistic.

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 mthacker@gabio.org.

Bill Number/Title	Sponsor	Status	Summary	Georgia Bio Position
HB 65 - Low THC Oil Patient Registry	Rep. Allen Peake (R-Macon)	Senate Health and Human Services	HB 65 would amend the Low THC Oil Patient Registry created in 2015 by adding additional medical conditions for which cannabis oil can be legally used. This bill passed the House in the 2017 legislative session and is in Senate Health and Human Services.	Monitoring
HB 71 - Insurance: consumer protections regarding health insurance	Rep. Richard Smith (R-Columbus)	House Tabled; House Insurance	HB 71 aims to provide consumer protections from unexpected out-of-network medical costs during an emergency or a planned procedure otherwise known as “surprise billing”. HB 71 passed House Insurance but was tabled on the House floor in 2017 and has been recommitted to House Insurance.	Monitoring
HB 213- Crimes and offenses: sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession of fentanyl within the prohibition of trafficking certain drugs	Rep. Rich Golick (R-Smyrna)	Senate Tabled; Senate Judiciary	HB 213 strengthens the penalties for fentanyl by adding it to the list of punishable trafficked substances. HB 213 passed the House last session and but was tabled in Senate Judiciary. It returns to Senate Judiciary this session.	Monitoring

HB 360 - Prescription drugs; expedited partner therapy for patients with venereal diseases	Sen. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta)	Senate Health and Human Services	HB 360 was introduced by Rep. Cooper last session. This bill implements an expedited partner therapy protocol, which would allow prescriptions for gonorrhea or chlamydia to be prescribed to infected patients for their partners. According to Rep. Cooper and other co-signers, this would allow potential infected partners to receive treatment more quickly. HB 360 passed out of the House and is currently sitting in Senate Health and Human Services.	Monitoring
HB 519 - Insurance; health benefit plans; utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols	Sen. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta)	House Insurance	HB 519 establishes a basic framework for when it is medically appropriate to implement a step therapy protocol for patients. The step therapy guidelines in the legislation indicate that the order in which pharmaceutical drugs will be prescribed will be developed by independent experts not affiliated with health plans. The protocol can be overridden through a process. HB 519 was first read in the House in the 2017 legislative session and is referred to the House Insurance committee.	Monitoring
HB 678 - Insurance; consumer protections regarding health insurance	Rep. Richard Smith (R-Columbus)	House Insurance	HB 678 but Rep. Smith aims to provide consumer protections from unexpected out-	Monitoring

			<p>of-network medical costs during an emergency or a planned procedure otherwise known as “surprise billing”. HB678 currently is sitting in House Insurance until the committee decides to take it up. This bill is another rendition of HB 71, which passed House Insurance but was tabled on the House floor. Sen. Unterman also has a similar bill in the Senate (SB 8).</p>	
<p>SB 8 – “Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act”</p>	<p>Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford)</p>	<p>House Insurance</p>	<p>While SB 8 differs from HB 71, it also aims to provide consumer protections from unexpected out-of-network medical costs. Both HB 71 and SB 8 would require providers, hospitals and insurers to take certain actions and provide certain information to patients. SB 8 passed the Senate and is currently in House Insurance. With no movement on HB 71 or SB 8, the House and Senate pass HR 745 which created a study committee to examine surprise billing gaps. We anticipate possibly seeing a compromise on future bill proposals for the 2018 legislative session.</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>
<p>SB 328 – Income Tax; expiration of certain income tax credits</p>	<p>Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell)</p>	<p>Passed Senate Finance 1/24/2018</p>	<p>This legislation is a result of Sen. Albers’ study committee</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>

			<p>examining the current tax credits in Georgia. This study committee met numerous times in 2017 and issued its final report in December '17. The report suggested that the General Assembly repeal three tax credits for Federal Qualified Transportation Fringe benefits, private driver education, and diesel particulate emission reduction technology equipment. SB 328 aims to repeal all three of these credits. Revenue related bills have to originate in the House but we anticipate the Senate attaching the repeal of these tax credits to another tax bill.</p>	
<p>SB 352-Health; general provisions; patient brokering; prohibit; Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery; establish; fraudulent insurance act</p>	<p>Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford)</p>	<p>Referred to Senate Health and Human Services</p>	<p>SB 352 would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery with the director of the commission reporting directly to the Governor. The commission would serve as a coordinated and unified effort among state and 145 local agencies to confront the state-wide addiction and substance abuse crisis. The bill would also assess civil and criminal penalties for patient brokering, insurance and drug testing fraud.</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>

SB 357 Health Coordination and Innovation Council of the State of Georgia	Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge)	Referred to Senate Health and Human Services	SB 357 would establish a Health Coordination and Innovation Council comprised of Georgia's major health agencies, academic institutions and leaders from the public and private sector to serve as a permanent statewide coordinating platform.	Monitoring
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GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2018 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Mon. Jan. 8th at 12pm
- ~~Mon. Jan. 22nd at 12pm~~
- Mon. Feb. 5 at 12pm
- Mon. Feb. 19 at 12pm
- Mon. Mar. 5 at 12pm
- Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm
- Mon. April 2 at 12pm