



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report  
February 16, 2018  
Days 19-22 of 40 Day Session**

**General Update:**

The General Assembly met this week for days 19-22. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

We will not be having a call this Monday. We have moved the meeting and call to Monday, February 26 at noon.

**Bill Watch**

[SB 432 'Georgia Tax Credit Business Case Act'](#)

Sen. John Albers (R Roswell)

Bill Status: 2/15/2018 Senate Read and Referred to Senate Finance

Senate Bill 432 seeks to repeal thirty-five (35) separate exemptions from state sales and use taxes over a phased period ranging from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2025 including exemptions related to prescription drugs and medical equipment.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

**Bill Movement**

[HB 769 Health; recommendations from the House Rural Development Council](#)

Rep. Rick Jasperse (R Jasper)

Bill Status: Passed House Health & Human Services; House Rules

HB 769 is a product of recommendations made by the House Rural Development Council. This bill passed Health and Human Services this week and we expect a vote on the House floor next week. It establishes the Rural Center for Health Care Innovation and Sustainability which will conduct research to identify a postsecondary institution to educate leadership in hospitals to conduct business better. It revises provisions that dictate how pharmacists distribute medications in rural Georgia. HB 769 also streamlines and expedites the billing process for state medical plans.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

**Bills in Committee Next Week**

[HB 519- Insurance; health benefit plans; utilize certain clinical review criteria to establish step therapy protocols](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta

Bill Status: 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. Insurance groups opposing the bill and advocacy groups supporting the bill have reached a

compromise on a new sub that will be heard on Tuesday afternoon in the Life & Health Subcommittee of Insurance.  
Georgia Bio Position: **SUPPORT**

### **Bills of Interest**

#### [HB 747- Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients receive unrestricted access to hemophilia medications](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper-R Marietta

Bill Status: House Health and Human Services

HB 747 would provide that Medicaid recipients have unrestricted access to medications prescribed for hemophilia by prohibiting preferred drug list, prior 12 authorization, step edit, or other drug management requirements on any such medications approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Georgia Bio Position: **SUPPORT**

#### [HB 873- Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act](#)

Bill Author: David Knight-R Griffin

Bill Status: House Insurance

HB 873 would provide consumer protections and freedom of information regarding prescription drug benefits. HB 873 was introduced on behalf of the Medical Association of Georgia and it requires that PBMs and insurers use a standard prior authorization form developed by the DOI with input from a committee of physicians and insurers. Further, it requires that PBMs/insurers include on their websites formulary information as well as processes for step therapy requirements.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

#### [SB 357-The Health Act](#)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Dean Burke-R Bainbridge

Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018; House Health and Human Services

SB 357 would establish a new Health Coordination and Innovation Council made of public and private healthcare institutions that would be charged with advising on best practices in healthcare for the state.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

#### [SB 352-Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery](#)

Bill Sponsor: Renee Unterman-R Buford

Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018; House Health and Human Services

SB 352 would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery to help combat the issue of opioid addiction in Georgia.

Georgia Bio Position: Monitoring

### **GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2018 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mon. Feb. 26 at 12 pm

Mon. Mar. 5 at 12pm

Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm

Mon. April 2 at 12pm