



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
March 15, 2019
Days 30-32 of 40 Day Session**

GENERAL UPDATE:

The General Assembly met this week for days 30-32. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittees began meeting this week to consider the Governor's & House recommendations for the fiscal year 2020 General Appropriations budget.

BUDGET UPDATE

On Tuesday March 12th Governor Kemp signed the amended FY 2019 budget authorizing \$26.9 billion in spending for the current fiscal year. Governor Kemp outlined Georgia's budget priorities to strengthen school security, invest in healthcare and public safety, and spur job growth in every corner of the state.

BILL MOVEMENT

This week HB 63 dealing with step therapy protocols sponsored by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R - Marietta), passed out of the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee on March 14th. The bill is now headed to Senate Rules and eventually the Senate floor. The Genetic Counselors Act HB 166 sponsored by Rep. Deborah Silcox (R - Sandy Springs) was adopted by the Senate on March 11th and is now headed to the Governors desk.

[HB 30 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019](#)

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

Bill Status: Signed by Governor Kemp on March 12, 2019

Summary: HB 30 provides appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2029. 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 63 - Insurance; Health Benefit Plans to Establish Step Therapy Protocols](#)

Bill Author: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R - Marietta)

Bill Status: Senate Insurance & Labor Committee passed on March 14, 2019

Summary: HB 63 is the same bill from the 2018 session and is a compromise from all parties involved and establishes a process for when it is medically appropriate to override a step therapy protocol for patients.

Importance: **SUPPORT**

[HB 166 - Genetic Counselors Act](#)

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

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 11, 2019

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 118 - Insurance; Georgia Telemedicine Act; modernize; Telemedicine Act the Telehealth Act](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: House Insurance & Labor Committee Passed by Substitute on March 13, 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**

[SB 121 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase](#)

Bill Author: Senator Renee Unterman (R - Buford)

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute on March 7, 2019

Summary: SB 121 relates to the prescription drug monitoring program data base, to increase the length of time that prescription information is retained in the data base from two years to five years.

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.

[Legislative Tracking Sheet](#)

[GABIO POLICY & ADVOCACY COMM. MEETINGS/CALL SCHEDULE FOR 2019 GA LEGISLATIVE SESSION](#)

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.