

Welcome to the Georgia Bio Legislative Watch, a weekly update on the 2013 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly provided by Brock Clay Attorneys exclusively for Georgia Bio members.

Bio Similar Legislation

Brock Clay continues to track all potential legislation related to the bio similar issue. Currently, no discussions are currently taking place to push such legislation. However, we are planning to meet with Rep. Lynn Riley (R – Johns Creek) next week to further explore her plans for the issue.

[HB 198 - Licensing Health Navigators](#)

House Insurance Chairman Richard Smith (R - Columbus), introduced [HB 198](#) in order to comply with provisions of the Affordable Care Act, which will allow up to 850,000 Georgians to shop for health insurance via online health exchanges. The new healthcare navigators will help potential customers determine whether they're eligible for Medicaid, commercial plans, or tax subsidies. Such navigators will go through 35 hours of training and be required to submit to continuing education requirements. HB 198 passed the House on Wednesday by a vote of 154-16.

[HB 57 - Synthetic Marijuana](#)

In recent years, the General Assembly has enacted legislation to add synthetic marijuana and narcotic drugs known as bath salts to the list of Schedule I Controlled Substances. However, manufacturers of these substances have changed their formulas so as to avoid the legal effects of these provisions. This bill seeks to once again ban these substances by adding to the definition of Schedule I controlled substances. Rick Allen, Director of the Georgia Drug and Narcotic Agency, testified in favor of the legislation and it passed committee unanimously.

[Governor Nathan Deal Signs SB 24](#)

Wednesday, Governor Deal signed SB 24, which authorizes the Georgia Department of Community Health to plug a \$700 million hole in Georgia's Medicaid budget by extending the levy of the controversial hospital bed tax, or Medicaid financing fee. Passed two years ago, the 1.45% fee is levied upon the gross receipts of hospitals in the state of Georgia.

[State Revenues Increase 10% in January](#)

The week began on a positive note as Governor Nathan Deal announced that state revenues were up 10.4% for the month of January. This represents an increase of \$164 million over January of 2012, and a total increase in state revenues of 5.7% for FY2013. Individual income tax collections increase almost 18% for this period, while corporate income tax collections soared by almost 710%.

[HB 285 - Invest Georgia](#)

[HB 285, the Invest Georgia Act, establishes a new component of Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Center under the University System of Georgia.](#) As \$.92 of every investment dollar in Georgia comes from other states, Georgia lags grossly behind her neighboring states in the area of technology investment. Under this legislation, Georgia, over the next five years, would sell insurance premium tax credits to insurance companies. The system would begin with \$10 million in 2014 and extend to \$35 million in 2018. The system will be overseen by a 5-member appointed board. The Board will hire a third party administrator who will select venture capital funds to manage investment activities in Georgia. 100% of the investment tax dollars will be returned to InvestGeorgia, as well as 80% of the investment profit.

The legislation has been endorsed by the Georgia Chamber as a scorecard issue, and is being carried by Representatives Allen Peake (R - Macon) and Ed Lindsey (R - Atlanta). It has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

[HB 280 - Updates to Pharmacy Code](#)

This legislation is sponsored by House Economic Development Chairman Ron Stephens (R - Savannah). The bill makes several changes to the code section dealing with the board of pharmacy and makes several housekeeping changes and updates.

Legislative Schedule

Friday - Monday February 15-18	In adjournment
Tuesday, February 19	Legislative day 19
Wednesday, February 20	Legislative day 20
Thursday, February 21	Legislative day 21
Friday, February 22	Legislative day 22
Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24	In adjournment
Monday, February 25	Legislative day 23
Tuesday, February 26	Legislative day 24
Wednesday, February 27	Legislative day 25
Thursday, February 28	Legislative day 26
Friday, March 1	Legislative day 27
Saturday-Sunday March 2-3	In adjournment
Monday, March 4	Legislative day 28
Tuesday, March 5	Legislative day 29

Legislation Georgia Bio is Tracking

HB285	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 10 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Seed-Capital Fund, so as to create the Invest Georgia Fund; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for a fund administrator; to provide for reports; to provide for conditions, procedures, and limitations; to provide for the issuance of premium tax credits to insurance companies that purchase such credits to offset liability for state insurance premium taxes; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Lindsey, Edward 54th (3) Williamson, Bruce 115th (4) Stephens, Ron 164th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Hamilton, Mark 24th	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Feb/12/2013 - House Second Readers	(Monitor) HB 285, the Invest Georgia Act, establishes a new component of Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Center under the University System of Georgia. As \$.92 of every investment dollar in Georgia comes from other states, Georgia lags grossly behind her neighboring states in the area of technology investment. Under this legislation, Georgia, over the next five years, would sell insurance premium tax credits to insurance companies. The system would begin with \$10 million in 2014 and extend to \$35 million in 2018. The system will be overseen by a 5-member appointed board. The Board will hire a third party administrator who will select venture capital funds to manage investment activities in Georgia. 100% of the investment tax dollars will be returned to InvestGeorgia, as well as 80% of the investment profit. The legislation has been endorsed by the Georgia Chamber as a scorecard issue, and is being carried by Representatives Allen Peake (R - Macon) and Ed Lindsey (R - Atlanta). It has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.
HB57	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 16-13-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Schedule	(1) Ramsey, Matt 72nd (2) Golick, Rich 40th	HC: Judiciary Non-Civil SC: Health and Human	Summary Feb/13/2013 - Senate Committee	(Monitor) In recent years, the General Assembly has enacted legislation to add synthetic marijuana and narcotic drugs

	I controlled substances, so as to expand the definition of Schedule I controlled substances; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(3) Cooke, Kevin 18th (4) Hightower, Dustin 68th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) Cooper, Sharon 43rd	Services	Favorably Reported	known as bath salts to the list of Schedule I Controlled Substances. However, manufacturers of these substances have changed their formulas so as to avoid the legal effects of these provisions. This bill seeks to once again ban these substances by adding to the definition of Schedule I controlled substances. Rick Allen, Director of the Georgia Drug and Narcotic Agency, testified in favor of the legislation and it passed committee unanimously.
HB81	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-7-40.30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to an income tax credit for certain qualified investments for a limited period of time, so as to extend such income tax credit; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(1) Dudgeon, Mike 25th (2) Williamson, Bruce 115th (3) Peake, Allen 141st (4) Lindsey, Edward 54th (5) Abrams, Stacey 89th (6) Stephens, Ron 164th	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/28/2013 - House Second Readers	(Support) Sponsored by Rep. Mike Dudgeon (R - Johns Creek), this legislation authorizes an extension of the popular angel tax credit passed several years ago.
SB37	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to abortion, so as to change certain provisions relating to criminal abortion; to change certain provisions relating to when abortion is legal; to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to repeal provisions relating to a physician's obligation in the performance of abortions; to change certain provisions relating to civil and professional penalties for violations of the "Woman's Right to Know Act"; to change certain provisions relating to definitions relative to the "Woman's Right to Know Act"; to provide for other related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(1) Orrock, Nan 36th (2) Tate, Horacena 38th (3) Davenport, Gail 44th (4) Sims, Freddie Powell 12th (5) Butler, Gloria 55th (6) Thompson, Curt 5th	HC: SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Jan/15/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	(Monitor) This legislation repeals the mandates of 2012's fetal pain legislation.