

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.

Legislative Schedule

Friday-Tuesday, March 15-19
Wednesday, March 20

In adjournment
Legislative Day 35

Legislative Tracking Grid

HB105	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 105 Supplemental appropriation; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) Jones, Jan 47th (3) O'Neal, Larry 146th (4) England, Terry 116th	HC: Appropriations SC: Appropriations	Summary Mar/05/2013 - House Conference Committee Report Adopted	(Monitor) New coverage of the final passage of the 2013 amended budget can be found here: http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/general-assembly-approves-midyear-budget/nWhhc/
HB106	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 106 General appropriation; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) Jones, Jan 47th (3) O'Neal, Larry 146th (4) England, Terry 116th	HC: Appropriations SC: Appropriations	Summary Mar/13/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	<p>This is the general appropriations act for the Fiscal year 2014.</p> <p>Last week, Governor Nathan Deal's office reported that revenue collections for February increased by \$31 million or 4%. Year to date, the state's revenue has increased 5.2%.</p> <p>This week, the House opened the week by taking quick action on the budget, passing it out of the Appropriations Committee on Monday and the House floor on Tuesday. Among the changes:</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Cuts to agricultural education, career/technical education, school nutrition, and RESAs were reduced from the Governor's recommendations.</p> <p>All sparsity grants were maintained separately</p> <p>Eliminated the planning grants for charter schools</p> <p>Increased the amount to implement changes recommended by the Education Finance Study Commission to fund counselors, nurses, and professional development.</p>

					<p>Bonds including \$25 million for buses, \$7 million for technology infrastructure upgrades, \$3.6 million for vocational equipment, and the capital outlay categories.</p> <p>Healthcare</p> <p>The much discussed Medicaid rate cut of .74% has been restored. Please follow this link (http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2014_FiscalYear/FY_2014_Tracking_Sheet_House_Version.pdf) and see lines 17.6.4 and 17.7.6.</p> <p>The budget passed the House 159-15.</p>
HB142	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 142 Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission; change certain provisions	<p>(1) Ralston, David 7th 146th</p> <p>(2) O'Neal, Larry 135th</p> <p>(3) Smyre, Calvin 47th</p> <p>(4) Jones, Jan 54th</p> <p>(5) Lindsey, Edward 134th</p> <p>(6) Smith, Richard</p>	<p>HC: Rules</p> <p>SC: Rules</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Feb/26/2013 - Senate Read and Referred</p>	<p>(Monitor) Several weeks ago, Speaker David Ralston (R - Blue Ridge) released his widely discussed ethics reform package. In short, HB 142 and HB 143 would ban most individual "gifts" from lobbyists, while broadening requirements for lobbyist registration and granted expanded authority to the State Ethics Commission. As drafted, the legislation did exempt legislative committees, sub-committees, and caucuses. As the committee process continued, Speaker Ralston introduced several amendments to his legislation. Those amendments include: - Reducing the lobbyist registration fee from \$300 to \$25 for all registrants - Restricts spending on legislator travel and travel for legislative spouses - Allows the waiver of reporting requirements if individual advocates swear an affidavit not to spend on legislators - Allows advocates to bypass the lobbyist registration process if they aren't at the Capitol more than five days each year. The legislation was passed by the House and assigned by the Lt. Governor to the powerful Senate Rules Committee. It is widely expected to become a political bargaining chip as the session progresses.</p>

<p>HB143</p>	<p>2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 143 Campaign contributions ; disclosure reports; change certain provisions</p>	<p>(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) O'Neal, Larry 146th (3) Smyre, Calvin 135th (4) Jones, Jan 47th (5) Lindsey, Edward 54th (6) Smith, Richard 134th</p>	<p>HC: Rules SC: Rules</p>	<p>Summary Feb/26/2013 - Senate Read and Referred</p>	<p>(Monitor) This is the second of Speaker Ralston's two ethics bills.</p>
<p>HB266</p>	<p>2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 266 Internal Revenue Code; certain provisions of federal law into Georgia law; incorporate</p>	<p>(1) Peake, Allen 141st</p>	<p>HC: Ways & Means SC: Finance</p>	<p>Summary Mar/05/2013 - Act 8</p>	<p>(Monitor) Last week, a potential breakdown began with an attempted fix to the state's car tax law that was passed in 2012. The legislature previously overhauled the state's "birthday tax" and created a new system for a title transfer fee, the proceeds of which would be distributed between state and local government authorities. Last week, the House passed the legislative fix aimed at the double taxation of leased cars without a fiscal note, and the legislation quickly ran into problems in the Senate as the Senate discovered the fiscal note would cost the taxpayers \$140 million. Several legislators protested as the Senate shifted operations this week in an effort to fix the legal challenges by the March 1 deadline. The Senate proposed to fix the penalty by adjusting the state rental car tax slightly upward. After several days of political maneuvering and conference committee meetings, the legislature arrived at a compromise. News coverage can be found here: http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/fix-found-for-new-car-tax/nWhmJ/</p>
<p>HR548</p>	<p>2013-2014 Regular Session - HR 548 Adjournment ; relative to</p>	<p>(1) O'Neal, Larry 146th</p>	<p>HC: SC:</p>	<p>Summary Mar/01/2013 - Senate Passed/Adopted</p>	<p>The current legislative schedule is as follows: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 - LEGISLATIVE DAY 35 THURSDAY, MARCH 21 - LEGISLATIVE DAY 36 FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - LEGISLATIVE DAY 37 SATURDAY – Sunday March 23-24 - IN ADJOURNMENT MONDAY, MARCH 25 - LEGISLATIVE DAY 38 TUESDAY, MARCH 26 -</p>

					LEGISLATIVE DAY 39 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 - IN ADJOURNMENT THURSDAY, MARCH 28 - LEGISLATIVE DAY 40
HB318	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 318 Georgia Tourism Developmen t Act; revise certain definitions; provisions	(1) Stephens, Ron 164th (2) Hatchett, Matt 150th (3) Coomer, Christian 14th (4) Battles, Paul 15th (5) Dempsey, Katie 13th (6) Braddock, Paulette 19th	HC: Economic Development & Tourism SC: Finance	Summary Mar/11/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	(Support) HB 318, sponsored by House Economic Development Chairman Ron Stephens, makes select changes to Georgia's Tourism Development statute. Today, it was amended to include the renewal of the angel investor tax credit.
HB481	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 481 Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act; enact	(1) Neal, Jay 2nd (2) Kirby, Tom 114th (3) Taylor, Darlene 173rd (4) England, Terry 116th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Nix, Randy 69th	HC: Judiciary SC:	Summary Feb/27/2013 - House Second Readers	H.B. 481, sponsored by state Rep. Jay Neal, R-LaFayette, is titled the "Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act." SB 481 would make it illegal to: -- "Create or attempt to create a human- animal hybrid;" -- "Transfer or attempt to transfer a human embryo into a nonhuman womb;" -- "Transfer or attempt to transfer a nonhuman embryo into a human womb" -- Transport or receive for any purpose a human- animal hybrid or any product "derived from such a hybrid." Nothing in the bill would prohibit: - - "Research involving the use of transgenic animal models containing human genes; -- "Xenotransplantation of human organs, tissues or cells into recipient animals; -- "An individual from receiving nonhybrid organs, tissues or cells delivered from outside of this state..." The legislation also states that: "In disputes arising between any parties regarding the in vitro human embryo, the judicial standard for resolving such disputes shall be in the best interest of the in vitro human embryo."
SB224	2013-2014 Regular Session - SB 224 Invest Georgia Fund; create	(1) Golden, Tim 8th (2) Shafer, David 48th (3) Chance, Ronnie 16th	HC: Ways & Means SC: Insurance and Labor	Summary Mar/11/2013 - House Second Readers	(Support) Invest Georgia will be overseen by a five-member appointed board. Through a competitive bid process the board will select a third-party fund administrator, which will then competitively select venture capital funds to manage investment activities focused on

				<p>both Georgia early or seed stage and growth stage companies. The venture capital funds must have or establish a physical presence in Georgia in order to ensure that the investments are Georgia-focused. The State will contribute \$95 million over a five-year period into the Fund to serve as principal. The returns from the investments by the venture funds would be distributed in the following manner: the principal amounts of the investment will be retained by the Invest Georgia Fund as well as 80 percent of the profit, while the remaining 20 percent will be retained by the venture fund as profit. The Invest Georgia Fund is created as a separate fund maintained by the board and will be capitalized through grants from the existing Seed-Capital Fund, designated State appropriations to ATDC, and private contributions to the board. The capital raised will be periodically distributed to the venture capital funds selected by the fund administrator. State funding will be dispersed annually over a five-year period in the following amounts: \$10 million; \$10 million; \$15 million; \$25 million; and \$35 million. There are two types of businesses that can receive money from a venture capital firm: Qualified Early Stage or Seed Businesses and Qualified Growth Stage Businesses. Both types of companies must have their principal business operations in Georgia and intend to maintain operations in the state for at least three and five years respectively after receiving an investment from the venture capital fund, or risk losing the investment. The bill was assigned to the Public Finance Subcommittee on Tuesday.</p>
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