



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
February 2, 2018
Days 11-14 of 40 Day Session**

General Update:

The General Assembly was in this week for days 11-14 and will be in next week Monday through Thursday for legislative days 15-18. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

Bill Action

[SB 357](#) and [SB 352](#) both passed Senate Health and Human Services by substitute this week. SB 357, known as the Health Act, 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. SB 352 would create the Commission on Substance Abuse and Recovery to help combat the issue of opioid addiction in Georgia. We expect both of those bills to be on the Senate floor in the next week.

Rick Jasperse (R Jasper) filed [HB 769](#) which is a result of recommendations made by the House Rural Development Council, which met monthly throughout the 2017 calendar year. 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. The bill has many moving parts to it and we will continue to watch it as it unfolds through the process.

Budget Update

The amended FY 2018 supplemental budget, [HB 683](#), passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. The bill is currently in House Rules.

- \$750K addition (total of \$1.5M with federal matching funds) to the Department of Community Health's administrative budget to provide an **analysis of the Medicaid delivery system** for the purposes of identifying efficiencies and service delivery improvement opportunities. This analysis would enable the Department of Community Health to develop an 1115 Medicaid Waiver for a five-year demonstration project to shift from a fee-for-service to a capitated, value-based delivery model (block grant) with care coordination at 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

Bills for Committee Consideration

HB 519 (Rep. Cooper-R Marietta) 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 has

been referred to the House Insurance committee. On Monday's call, we will discuss taking a position of support on HB 519.

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.

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