



**Georgia Bio Legislative Report
February 9, 2018
Days 15-18 of 40 Day Session**

General Update:

The General Assembly met this week for days 15-18. Please [click here](#) for a copy of the adjournment resolution.

Georgia Bio Legislative Action

This week the Georgia Bio Legislative Affairs committee voted to **SUPPORT** the following bills:

[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.

Georgia Bio Position: **SUPPORT**

[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**

Budget Update

This week the House passed the amended FY 2018 supplemental budget. With the passage of [HB 683](#), the House Appropriation Committee is now turning their attention to the FY 2019 budget while Senate Appropriations will take up HB 683.

Bills of Interest

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

Bill Author: David Knight-R Griffin

Bill Status: House Hopper

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.

Bill Movement

The following bills passed the Senate this week and will move over to the House for consideration.

SB 357-The Health Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Dean Burke-R Bainbridge

Bill Status: Passed Senate 2/7/2018

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

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

Georgia Bio Legislative Dinners

Georgia Bio will hold a **House Legislative Dinner on Monday, February 19** and a **Senate Legislative Dinner on Tuesday, March 6**.

House Legislative Guests

Monday, February 19

Butch Parrish-Chairman of Health Appropriations

Ron Stephens-House Economic Development Chairman and member of Health Appropriations Committee

Bruce Williamson-Majority Caucus Secretary and Member of the Ways and Means Committee

Darlene Taylor-Chairman on Information and Audits and member of Health Appropriations Committee

Alan Powell-Chairman of Public Safety and member of the House Appropriations Committee

Rick Williams-Member of House Higher Education Committee

Senate Legislative Guests

Tuesday, March 6

Mike Dugan-Senate Chairman of Economic Development

Dean Burke-Senate Ethics Chairman and Vice Chairman of Health and Human Services

John Wilkinson-Senate Agriculture Chairman and Vice Chairman of Senate Education

Steve Gooch-Senate Majority Whip

If you are interested in joining us for one of these dinners, please email mthacker@gabio.org.

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

Mon. Feb. 19 at 12pm

Mon. Mar. 5 at 12pm

Mon. Mar. 19 at 12pm

Mon. April 2 at 12pm