

Welcome to the Georgia Bio Legislative Watch, a weekly update on the 2012 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly provided by Brock Clay Attorneys exclusively for Georgia Bio members.

Legislature Approves Mid - Year Budget

Last week, the General Assembly gave final approval to the mid - year budget totaling almost \$18.6 billion. The budget includes \$982 million in prior year motor fuel funds for various transportation projects, in which the largest amount (\$300 million) is designated to the Northwest Corridor Project. The legislature also included \$200,000 in money for regional economic development through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Interestingly enough, the budget received unanimous votes in both chambers.

HB 868 - Quality Jobs Tax Credit

[HB 868](#), the most prominent part of the tax reform package proposed by Governor Nathan Deal's Competitiveness Initiative, passed the House on Crossover Day. The legislation would extend the popular jobs tax credit to the biomedical and alternative energy industries. However, the House Ways and Means Committee removed the provision that would have made the credit applicable to smaller businesses, moving the cap from 50 to 15. The legislation is currently in the Senate Economic Development Committee.

SB 402 - Alternative Investments

[SB 402](#) would allow for the investment of state employees retirement funds in a variety of different accounts including private investment funds, warrants, venture capital funds, leveraged buyouts, options, recapitalizations, privatizations, and mezzanine funds. The Teachers Retirement System is exempt from the provisions of the legislation. This legislation has been second read and assigned to the House Retirement Committee. There is currently widespread support on the legislation, and it can be expected to move next week. GaBio has sent a letter of support to both House Rules Chairman John Meadows (R - Calhoun) and Speaker David Ralston (R - Blue Ridge).

Legislative Schedule

The General Assembly set the following schedule until legislative day 37.

March 19, 20, 21, 22 - Legislative Days 34, 35, 36, and 37

Legislation Georgia Bio is Tracking

To view the complete report of the legislation that is being tracked, please [CLICK HERE](#). ***MEMBERS ONLY*** Once you have entered the Members Only Site, click on Advocacy to find the Legislative Watch.

To find out how Georgia Bio's advocacy efforts can assist your organization, contact Georgia Bio President Charles Craig.

HB1068	HB 1068 - Prescription drugs; reference product license holder shall have immunity from liability from claims for loss from use of biosimilar biological products; pr	Weldon, Tom 3r	HC: Judy SC:	Summary 02/21/12 - House Second Readers	
HB1124	HB 1124 - Pharmacists and pharmacies; prescription biologic product and biosimilar product; d	Jerguson, Sean 22n	HC: H&HS SC:	Summary 02/23/12 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION)
HB132	HB 132 - Medical Food Equity Act;	Watson, Ben 163r	HC: Ins SC:	Summary 02/03/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
HB182	HB 182 - Insurance; diagnosis and treatment of infertility; require health cov	Marin, Pedro 96t	HC: Ins SC:	Summary 02/09/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
HB184	HB 184 - Controlled substances; Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee; establish provi	Weldon, Tom 3r	HC: JudyNC SC:	Summary 02/09/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: SUPPORT)
HB385	HB 385 - Revenue and taxation; revenue structure; comprehensive rev	Channell, Mickey 116t	HC: SJCGRS SC:	Summary 03/01/11 - House Second Readers	This was the tax reform vehicle in 2011.
HB386	HB 386 - Revenue and taxation; revenue structure; comprehensive rev	Channell, Mickey 116t	HC: SJCGRS SC:	Summary 03/01/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)

HB437	HB 437 - Controlled substances; possession of and sale of pseudoephedrine drugs; change provi	Neal,Jay 1s	HC: JudyNC SC:	Summary 03/03/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION)
HB476	HB 476 - Georgia Health Exchange Authority; esta	Smith,Richard 131s	HC: Ins SC:	Summary 03/16/11 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted	GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION.
HB718	HB 718 - Economic Development, Department of; Georgia Capital Acceleration Authority; c	Peake,Allen 137t	HC: Ins SC:	Summary 01/12/12 - House Second Readers	
HB845	HB 845 - Early care and education programs; influenza vaccine; provide inform	Watson,Ben 163r	HC: H&HS SC: ED&Y	Summary 02/29/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR) Requires early childhood facilities to provide information on influenza vaccine.
HB86	HB 86 - Sales and use tax; energy for manufacturing; provide exem	Williams,Roger 4t	HC: W&M SC:	Summary 01/31/11 - House Second Readers	
HB868	HB 868 - Income tax credits; business enterprises located in less developed areas designated by tiers; pr	Collins,Doug 27t	HC: W&M SC: ECD	Summary 03/07/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: SUPPORT) Section 3 increases the amount of the R&D credit that can be taken against a company's payroll withholding if they have little or no corporate income tax liability – giving it cash value.
HB89	HB 89 - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act;	Peake,Allen 137t	HC: H&HS SC:	Summary 01/31/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
HB952	HB 952 - Pharmacists and pharmacies; definitions of certain opioid drugs; pr	Neal,Jay 1s	HC: H&HS SC:	Summary 02/28/12 - House Committee Favorably Reported	(GABIO STATUS: MONITORING)
HB954	HB 954 - Abortion; criminal abortion; change certain provi	McKillip,Doug 115t	HC: JudyNC SC: H&HS	Summary 03/05/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO POSITION: MONITOR)
HR153	HR 153 - House Study Committee on Tenth Amendment Enforcement; c	Setzler,Ed 35t	HC: GAff SC:	Summary 04/14/11 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted	GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION.
SB111	SB 111 - Pharmacists; electronic data prescription drug order; provide certain requirements for any electronic transmission mech	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC:	Summary 02/22/11 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
SB111	SB 111 - Pharmacists; electronic data prescription drug order; provide certain requirements for any electronic transmission mech	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC:	Summary 02/22/11 - Senate Read and Referred	
SB165	SB 165 - Juvenile Proceedings; maintenance of forensic samples from abortions performed on children under 16 years o	McKoon,Joshua 29t	SC: JUDY HC:	Summary 02/28/11 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION)
SB177	SB 177 - Health Care Compact;	Bethel,Charlie 54t	SC: I&L HC: Ins	Summary 04/12/11 - House Passed/Adopted	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)

SB180	SB 180 - Controlled Substances; authorize the use of remote automated medication systems; definitions; require	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC:	Summary 03/02/11 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
SB209	SB 209 - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act; enact; regulate the performance of abor	Loudermilk,Barry 52n	SC: RULES HC:	Summary 03/04/11 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
SB210	SB 210 - Torts; provide for liability for violations of laws relating to abortion; definitions; wrongful death of an unborn	Loudermilk,Barry 52n	SC: RULES HC: Judy	Summary 03/22/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: CONSIDERATION)
SB215	SB 215 - Medicaid/PeachCare; convert program funds to premium assistance to allow low-income families to participate in private sector health insurance	Hill,Judson 32n	SC: H&HS HC:	Summary 03/07/11 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO STATUS: UNDER CONSIDERATION)
SB219	SB 219 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; adopt; provide for purpose/policy of said i	Harbison,Ed 15t	SC: VM&HSH C: Ed	Summary 03/22/11 - House Second Readers	(GABIO STATUS: MONITOR)
SB346	SB 346 - State Board of Pharmacy; prescription drugs by mail/other common carriers; provi	Balfour,Don 9t	SC: H&HS HC: H&HS	Summary 03/07/12 - House Second Readers	
SB370	SB 370 - Controlled Substances; Schedule I and V controlled substance; "dangerous drug"; provi	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC: JudyNC	Summary 02/24/12 - House Second Readers	This legislation passed the Senate on Tuesday of this week.
SB378	SB 378 - Controlled Substances; changes to definition of written prescriptions for dangerous drugs; revise a defin	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC: JudyNC	Summary 02/27/12 - House Second Readers	This legislation passed the Senate on Thursday of this week.
SB401	SB 401 - "The Georgia Cogeneration and Distributed Generation Act of 2001"; change provisions; provide declaration of p	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: NR&E HC:	Summary 02/08/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO POSITION: MONITORING)
SB417	SB 417 - Pharmacists and Pharmacies; electronic transmission mechanism; provide certain require	Carter,Earl Buddy 1s	SC: H&HS HC:	Summary 02/15/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO POSITION: MONITOR)
SB418	SB 418 - Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace Authority; establish; legislative intent; definitions; board of directors; composition, terms and off	Orrock,Nan 36t	SC: I&L HC:	Summary 02/15/12 - Senate Read and Referred	(GABIO POSITION: MONITOR)
SB488	SB 488 - Prescription Drugs; reference product license holder; immunity from liability; use of a biosimilar biological pr	Bethel,Charlie 54t	SC: JUDY HC:	Summary 02/27/12 - Senate Read and Referred	
SR1053	SR 1053 - Senate Science and Technologies Innovation Study Commission; c	Loudermilk,Barry 52n	SC: RULES HC:	Summary 02/27/12 - Senate Read and Referred	