

DATE: February 13, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Five of the 2014 Legislative Session



The General Assembly met for two days during week five of the 2014 legislative session due to snow and ice storms all over the state. Legislators were quick to act on Tuesday, shutting the Capitol down and passing a [new adjournment resolution](#). As such, we will reconvene for week six and legislative day 22 on Monday, February 17th. Crossover Day will be March 3rd and Sine Die is March 20th. Here are some additional highlights from this week:

2015 Budget: The House Appropriations Committee [passed](#) the 2015 Budget. It should be heard on the House Floor on Monday. The full tracking document can be accessed [here](#).

SB 370: This proposed piece of legislation would change the current code relating to pharmacists and pharmacies to add the terms "biological product" and "interchangeable biological product." Under this bill, pharmacists would be obligated to disclose any changes to a patient's prescription via written label. This legislation does not require the pharmacist to disclose any changes verbally. It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 990: Dropped on Tuesday, this bill would essentially take the Governor's power to expand Georgia's Medicaid program and place it in the hands of the Legislature. It is sponsored by Speaker pro tem Jan Jones of Milton, Speaker David Ralston of Blue Ridge, and Majority Leader Larry O'Neal of Bonaire. It is important to note that this bill would only allow the Legislature to *expand* Medicaid, not reduce it. For the full story, click [here](#).

Schedule: The House and Senate are adjourned until 10:00 Monday morning for the 22nd legislative day.

Legislative Tracking Sheet

Bill	Sponsor	Committees	Current Status	Analysis
HB481	(1) Neal, Jay 2nd (2) Kirby, Tom 114th (3) Taylor, Darlene 173rd (4) England, Terry 116th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Nix,	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

	Randy 69th			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.”
HB644	(1) Taylor, Tom 79th (2) Brockway, Buzz 102nd	HC: Insurance SC:	Summary Mar/22/2013 - House Second Readers	(Support) HB 644, sponsored by Representative Tom Taylor of the 79th, would require insurance carriers to disclose any changes to drug formularies as well as notify the enrollee if there is a change to drug coverage. In addition, the insurer would not be able to increase the copayment or cost-sharing amount during the enrollee's contract period, about one year.
HB676	(1) Kidd, E. Culver "Rusty" 145th (2) Sharper, Dexter 177th (3) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (4) Clark, Valerie 101st (5) Jasperse, Rick 11th (6) Spencer, Jason 180th	HC: Health & Human Services SC:	Summary Jan/13/2014 - House Second Readers	This proposed bill, sponsored by Representative Kidd, proposes to authorize a physician to delegate to a physicians assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances. It will be required that physicians assistant's name be recorded for purposes of documenting care and treatment provided to a patient.
HB885	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Watson, Ben 166th (3) Channell, Mickey 120th	HC: Health & Human Services SC:	Summary Feb/03/2014 - House Second Readers	Sponsored by Representative Peak (R - Macon), HB 885 is known as "Haliiegh's Hope Act." It would allow the General Assembly to permit research on the therapeutic and treatment applications of cannabis with regards to such disorders as cancer, glaucoma and seizure disorder patients. The cannabis would be delivered in a nonsmoking form, such as a liquid, pill, vaporization, or injection. This bill does not

	<p>(4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th</p> <p>(5) Gravley, Micah 67th</p> <p>(6) McCall, Tom 33rd</p>			<p>encourage or sanction the recreational use of marijuana. It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.</p>
SB224	<p>(1) Golden, Tim 8th</p> <p>(2) Shafer, David 48th</p> <p>(3) Chance, Ronnie 16th</p>	<p>HC: Ways & Means</p> <p>SC: Insurance and Labor</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Mar/28/2013 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted</p>	<p>(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 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.</p>
SB370	<p>(1) Carter, Buddy 1st</p>	<p>HC: Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Feb/11/2014 - Senate Read and</p>	<p>SB 370, sponsored by Buddy Carter, would change the current code relating to pharmacists and pharmacies to add the terms "biological product" and</p>

			Referred	"interchangeable biological product." It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.
SB85	(1) Bethel, Charlie 54th (2) Mullis, Jeff 53rd (3) Golden, Tim 8th (4) Carter, Buddy 1st (5) Loudermilk, Barry 14th (6) Chance, Ronnie 16th	HC: Health & Human Services SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Mar/12/201 3 - House Second Readers	Allows pharmacists and nurses to give vaccinations to adults.
HB310	(1) Wilkinson, Joe 52nd	HC: Ethics SC: Ethics	Summary Jan/21/2014 - Act 343	HB 310 would move state and partisan county primaries to the same day, from July to May 20. That complies with a federal judge's order so that ballots from overseas members of the military have time to be counted in any runoff. The bill would also require all candidates to file a campaign finance report on March 31. That date, however, would appear to be mostly aimed at unelected challengers because incumbent state officials cannot raise money during the 40-day legislative session, according to the AJC. With little or no fundraising to report, incumbents would have little to disclose by March 31. This bill was the first bill to be passed and signed by the Governor in the 2014 legislative session.
HB688	(1) Kirby, Tom 114th (2) Lindsey, Edward 54th (3) Sheldon,	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/13/2014 - House Second Readers	HB 688, sponsored by Rep. Kirby, proposes to eliminate income taxes collected by the state, taking effect January 2015. The imposed tax will remain in retail purchases, retail sale, rental, storage, use or consumption on tangible personal property, among others. The percentage of tax will be determined by the General Assembly

	Donna 104th (4) Williamson, Bruce 115th (5) Ballinger, Mandi 23rd (6) Gravley, Micah 67th			
HB707	(1) Spencer, Jason 180th (2) Stover, David 71st (3) Turner, Scot 21st (4) Caldwell, Michael 20th (5) Cooke, Kevin 18th (6) Lindsey, Edward 54th	HC: Judiciary SC:	Summary Jan/15/2014 - House Second Readers	HB 707 is to be known as "The Georgia Health Care Freedom and ACA Noncompliance Act." This bill proposes to prohibit the implementation of the Affordable Care Act by any local municipality, State Agency or political subdivision of the State of Georgia. It has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary. For more information, refer to this recent article from the AJC: http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/political-insider/2013/dec/18/dialing-rhetoric-obamacare-georgia/
HB729	(1) Rice, Tom 95th (2) Geisinger, Harry 48th (3) Oliver, Mary Margaret 82nd	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/15/2014 - House Second Readers	Sponsored by Representative Rice (R - Norcross), HB 729 would change the way in which the fair market value of motor vehicles subject to the tax are determined. It has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee.
HB875	(1) Jasperse,	HC: Public Safety and	Summary Feb/07/2014	HB 875, sponsored by Representative Jasperse (R - Jasper) would change

	Rick 11th (2) Meadows, John 5th (3) Powell, Alan 32nd (4) Ballinger, Mandi 23rd (5) Hightower , Dustin 68th (6) Roberts, Jay 155th	Homeland Security SC:	- House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute	provisions relating to carrying weapons and the issuance of weapons. Under this proposed law, it would be legal for an individual to carry a weapon in a government building, on a college campus. It would also allow individuals to carry a gun in a school and on a school bus, given that it has been approved by the board of education and the school administrator. It would also allow an individual to obtain a carry permit if they are 18 years of age and can prove that they have completed basic training and are either currently serving in the armed forces or have been honorably discharged. It has been referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and has been passed to full committee.
HB981	(1) Jacobs, Mike 80th (2) Kendrick, Dar'shun 93rd (3) Mayo, Rahn 84th (4) Taylor, Tom 79th	HC: Governmenta l Affairs SC:	Summary Feb/11/2014 - House First Readers	HB 981 would allow members of a governing authority to appoint a temporary replacement to represent his or her district in the event that the Governor suspends a public official due to an official investigation. It has been referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.
HB990	(1) Jones, Jan 47th (2) Ralston, David 7th (3) O'Neal, Larry 146th (4) Nimmer, Chad 178th (5) Ramsey, Matt 72nd	HC: SC:	Summary Feb/11/2014 - House Hopper	HB 990 would would take the power to expand Georgia's Medicaid program and place it in the hands of the Legislature. The bill would not give the Legislature the power to reduce Medicaid coverage in Georgia, only expand.
HR1038	(1) Stephens,	HC: Economic	Summary Jan/14/2014	HR 1038, sponsored by Representative Stephens of the 164th, proposes to

	Ron 164th	Development & Tourism SC:	- House Second Readers	encourage the Georgia Department of Education, the Technical College System of Georgia, the University System of Georgia, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Department of Community Affairs, and the private sector to work together and collaborate to assist in the return of manufacturing to the United States. These groups are key in continuing to develop and train our current and future workforce to meet the challenges of an ever-changing manufacturing environment. Ultimately, this collaboration and continued innovation will increase the economic stability of our state and strengthen the global economy.
SB308	(1) Fort, Vincent 39th (2) Jones, Emanuel 10th (3) Tate, Horacena 38th (4) Henson, Steve 41st (5) Seay, Valencia 34th (6) Thompson, Curt 5th	HC: SC: Appropriations	Summary Jan/24/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	This bill, SB 308, would allow for appropriations to be used for Medicaid under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee.
SB316	(1) Henson, Steve 41st (2) Ramsey, Sr., Ronald 43rd (3) James, Donzella 35th (4) Butler, Gloria 55th	HC: SC: Government Oversight	Summary Jan/24/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	SB 316 would create a Whistleblower hotline for people to call and report abuse of funds by public officers and employees. It was referred to the Committee on Government Oversight.

	(5) Davenport, Gail 44th (6) Carter, Jason 42nd			
SB328	(1) Fort, Vincent 39th (2) Henson, Steve 41st (3) Tate, Horacena 38th (4) Davenport, Gail 44th (5) Sims, Freddie Powell 12th (6) Butler, Gloria 55th	HC: SC: Insurance and Labor	Summary Jan/27/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	SB 328 refers to state employees' health insurance plans. It would require the board to contract with at least two health provider vendors. It was referred to Insurance and Labor Committee.
SB334	(1) Carter, Buddy 1st	HC: SC: Insurance and Labor	Summary Jan/31/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	SB 334, sponsored by Senator Buddy Carter, is the Senate's version of HB 707 or "The Georgia Health Care Freedom and ACA Noncompliance Act." It proposes to prohibit the implementation of the Affordable Care Act by any local municipality, State Agency or political subdivision of the State of Georgia. It has been referred to the Insurance and Labor Committee.
SR734	(1) Dugan, Mike 30th	HC: SC: Ethics	Summary Jan/14/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	Sponsored by Senator Dugan of the 30th, this resolution proposes to amend the Constitution to allow members of the Senate to serve four-year terms of office.

Notes

