

DATE: February 28, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Seven of the 2014 Legislative Session



Monday, March 3rd is Crossover Day under the Gold Dome. All bills that fail to pass through their chamber of origin will ultimately die in the 2014 legislative session. Where do our bills stand?

Bill	Sponsor	Analysis
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	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. It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.
HB809	(1) Williamson, Bruce 115th (2) Duncan, Geoff 26th (3) Nix, Randy 69th (4) Caldwell, Jr., Johnnie 131st (5) Fludd, Virgil 64th (6) Dickey, Robert 140th	HB 809 address reforms for patent assertion entities and has been dubbed the Patent Troll Legislation. Georgia Bio and other team members were successfully able to get language adopted into this bill that would exempt biosciences from these regulations. If this bill moves forward and passes this year, our industry will be protected. It passed out of the Senate by committee substitute with a vote of 48-4 and has been assigned to the Committee on Banks and Banking.
HB885	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Watson, Ben 166th (3) Channell, Mickey 120th (4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) McCall, Tom 33rd	Sponsored by Representative Peak (R - Macon), HB 885 is known as "Haliagh'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 encourage or sanction the recreational use of marijuana. It passed full committee and is currently in House Rules.
SB224	(1) Golden, Tim 8th (2) Shafer, David 48th (3) Chance, Ronnie 16th	(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. This bill has not been addressed in this session.
SB370	(1) Carter, Buddy 1st	SB 370, sponsored by Buddy Carter, would change the current code relating to pharmacists and pharmacies to add the terms "biological product" and "interchangeable biological product." It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.
HR1038	(1) Stephens, Ron 164th	HR 1038, sponsored by Representative Stephens of the 164th, proposes to 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. It is currently in the Rules Committee.
SB167	(1) Ligon, Jr., William 3rd (2) Loudermilk, Barry 14th (3) Albers, John 56th (4) Hufstetler, Chuck 52nd (5) Hill, Hunter 6th (6) Williams, Tommie 19th	(Monitor) Sponsored by Senator William Ligon (R - Brunswick), this legislation seeks to establish independence from federal guidelines on what schools should teach students. Among other things, the legislation would establish independence from Common Core State Standards. It passed out of the Senate Floor with a vote of 34-16 a few days before Day 30 without much debate. It has been assigned to the House Education Committee.

Notes

