

DATE: February 21, 2014
SUBJECT: Week Six of the 2014 Legislative Session



It was a hectic week under the Gold Dome, as legislators and lobbyists scrambled to get their bills moving through the legislative process. With Day 30 coming up on March 3rd, bills must move through their Chamber of origin in order to have the opportunity to become law. All bills failing to do so by Day 30 will be considered “dead.” Here are some highlights from a frenzied week six of the 2014 legislative session:

2015 Budget: The FY15 Budget passed out of the House on Monday with a vote of 169-4. The supplemental rebate line item that our team worked so hard to get taken out last session reappeared in the House Budget, as it was secretly dropped in at the last minute. Our team is once again working to educate key legislators to ensure that this is removed again. The full tracking document can be accessed [here](#), with this line item on page 26.

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. Our Georgia Bio team is currently working together to meet with members of the Health and Human Services Committee (both House and Senate) to get this bill held during the 2014 session. We are committed to the education of our legislators and believe this bill is premature. We need more time to make sure the General Assembly understands biologics and biosimilars before we endorse or propose any legislation.

HB 809: This piece of legislation 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 bio sciences from these regulations. If this bill moves forward and passes this year, our industry will be protected. It passed out of full committee as amended and is currently in Rules.

Schedule: The House and Senate are adjourned until 10:00 Monday morning for the 27th legislative day. We will be adjourned on Thursday and Friday of next week, although committee meetings are expected to be held on both days. March 3rd is Day 30 and Sine Die is March 20th.

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, Randy 69th	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 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 3 - 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	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.

	<p>(4) Clark, Valerie 101st</p> <p>(5) Jasperse, Rick 11th</p> <p>(6) Spencer, Jason 180th</p>			
HB809	<p>(1) Williamson, Bruce 115th</p> <p>(2) Duncan, Geoff 26th</p> <p>(3) Nix, Randy 69th</p> <p>(4) Caldwell, Jr., Johnnie 131st</p> <p>(5) Fludd, Virgil 64th</p> <p>(6) Dickey, Robert 140th</p>	<p>HC: Banks & Banking</p> <p>SC: Banking and Financial Institutions</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Feb/20/2014</p> <p>- Senate Read Second Time</p>	<p>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 bio sciences from these regulations. If this bill moves forward and passes this year, our industry will be protected. It passed out of full committee and is currently in Rules.</p>
HB885	<p>(1) Peake, Allen 141st</p> <p>(2) Watson, Ben 166th</p> <p>(3) Channell, Mickey 120th</p> <p>(4) Kaiser, Margaret 59th</p> <p>(5) Gravley,</p>	<p>HC: Health & Human Services</p> <p>SC:</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Feb/03/2014</p> <p>- House Second Readers</p>	<p>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 encourage or sanction the recreational use of marijuana. It has been referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.</p>

	Micah 67th (6) McCall, Tom 33rd			
SB224	(1) Golden, Tim 8th (2) Shafer, David 48th (3) Chance, Ronnie 16th	HC: Ways & Means SC: Insurance and Labor	Summary Mar/28/2013 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted	(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.
SB370	(1) Carter, Buddy 1st	HC: SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Feb/11/2014 - Senate Read and Referred	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.

Notes

