

Welcome to the Georgia Bio Legislative Watch, a weekly update on the 2013 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly provided by Brock Clay Attorneys exclusively for Georgia Bio members.

[Venture Capital Legislation](#)

In an effort to stimulate investment in high tech jobs, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle is pushing for legislation to stimulate over \$100 million in investment incentives over the next five years in Georgia. The legislation would draw on OneGeorgia funds and tax credits to create a venture capital fund overseen by an independent state Board. The Board would also recruit private money to be thrown into the pot. The fund would, after an initial investment, recoup it's original investment plus 80% of the profits.

This legislation will be carried by Representatives Ed Lindsey (R – Atlanta) and Allen Peake (R – Macon) and will be first read in the House on Monday.

House Ethics Legislation

Last week, Speaker David Ralston (R - Blue Ridge) [released his widely discussed ethics reform package](#). In short, [HB 142](#) and [HB 143](#) would ban most individual “gifts” from lobbyists, while broadening requirements for lobbyist registration and granted expanded authority to the State Ethics Commission. Three years ago, Speaker Ralston led the charge for ethics reform, but has recently come under fire for his verbal opposition to a “total gift ban,” arguing that it's insolvent. However, he recently accepted the results of a 2012 non-binding referendum in which Georgia voters indicated support for the proposal. The legislation was heard for the first time in a House Rules subcommittee last Thursday. As drafted, the legislation was strongly opposed by grassroots organizations on both sides of the aisle. The latest draft, however, exempts anyone who does not travel to the Capitol for more than five days each year. It also reduces the annual registration fee from \$300 to \$25. Finally, the new draft also exempts all local elected officials.

[House Votes on 2013 Amended Budget](#)

Today, the House passed the 2013 Amended budget. The “little” budget included an increase of \$172 million in K-12 education growth. The money was taken from the University System of Georgia and Technical College System. The budget passed by a vote of XX

Governor Nathan Deal's Bond Package

The Governor's bond package will be spent primarily on education and higher education priorities. The state will pay \$72.9 million in debt service. Before the House and Senate each add \$50 million in additional bonds, the current package includes:

- \$237.8 in bonds for K-12 Education Facilities including \$25 million for the purchasing of new school buses state-wide.
- \$193 million for the University System of Georgia, including funding for a new Cancer Research Building for Georgia Regents University, a new law school and humanities facility for Georgia State, as well as \$10 million for the Health Center at Georgia Southern University.
- \$57.9 million for Technical College System of Georgia, which includes \$28 million in new facilities for Altamaha Tech in Brunswick and Camden County.
- \$50 million to the Ports Authority for the deepening of the Savannah Harbor.
- \$26.5 million to the Department of Natural Resources for facility upgrades as well as the acquisition of new lands for wildlife management.
- \$10.7 million to the Juvenile Justice Department for the improvement of current facilities and new units at various YDC's.
- \$25.2 million for reservoir projects through the Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.

Special Legislative Elections

As the crazy election cycle of 2012 begins to draw to a close, two of the remaining three special elections in the Georgia General Assembly were resolved on Tuesday.

In Georgia's 11th Senate District, physician Dean Burke defeated former State Representative Mike Keown 58% - 41%.

In Georgia's 21st House District, to the relief of many, former State House candidate Scot Turner defeated unpopular political consultant Brian Laurens 60% - 40%.

The final runoff for Coweta County's House District 71 will take place between Thomas Crymes and David Stover, both Republicans.

Legislative Schedule

Saturday - Sunday February 9-10	In adjournment
Monday, February 11	Legislative day 15
Tuesday, February 12	Legislative day 16
Wednesday, February 13	Legislative day 17
Thursday, February 14	Legislative day 18
Friday - Monday February 15-18	In adjournment
Tuesday, February 19	Legislative day 19
Wednesday, February 20	Legislative day 20
Thursday, February 21	Legislative day 21
Friday, February 22	Legislative day 22
Saturday-Sunday, February 23-24	In adjournment
Monday, February 25	Legislative day 23
Tuesday, February 26	Legislative day 24
Wednesday, February 27	Legislative day 25
Thursday, February 28	Legislative day 26
Friday, March 1	Legislative day 27
Saturday-Sunday March 2-3	In adjournment
Monday, March 4	Legislative day 28
Tuesday, March 5	Legislative day 29

Legislation Georgia Bio is Tracking

GABIO	HB57	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 57 Controlled substances; definition of Schedule I; expand	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 16-13-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Schedule I controlled substances, so as to expand the definition of Schedule I controlled substances; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to	(1) Ramsey, Matt 72nd (2) Golick, Rich 40th (3) Cooke, Kevin 18th (4) Hightower, Dustin 68th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) Cooper, Sharon 43rd	HC: Judiciary Non-Civil SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Feb/01/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	(Monitor) Sponsored by Rep. Matt Ramsey, this legislation expands the definition of Schedule I controlled substances.
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			repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.				
GABIO	HB81	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 81 Income tax credit; certain qualified investments for a limited period of time; extend	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 48-7-40.30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to an income tax credit for certain qualified investments for a limited period of time, so as to extend such income tax credit; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.	(1) Dudgeon, Mike 25th (2) Williamson, Bruce 115th (3) Peake, Allen 141st (4) Lindsey, Edward 54th (5) Abrams, Stacey 89th (6) Stephens, Ron 164th	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Jan/28/2013 - House Second Readers	(Support) Sponsored by Rep. Mike Dudgeon (R - Johns Creek), this legislation authorizes an extension of the popular angel tax credit passed several years ago.
GABIO	SB37	2013-2014 Regular Session - SB 37 Abortion; change certain provisions relating to criminal abortion	A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 5 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to abortion, so as to change certain provisions relating to criminal abortion; to change certain provisions relating to when abortion is legal; to amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to repeal provisions relating	(1) Orrock, Nan 36th (2) Tate, Horacena 38th (3) Davenport, Gail 44th (4) Sims, Freddie Powell 12th (5) Butler, Gloria 55th (6) Thompson, Curt 5th	HC: SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Jan/15/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	(Monitor) This legislation repeals the mandates of 2012's fetal pain legislation.

			to a physician's obligation in the performance of abortions; to change certain provisions relating to civil and professional penalties for violations of the "Woman's Right to Know Act"; to change certain provisions relating to definitions relative to the "Woman's Right to Know Act"; to provide for other related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.				
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