

**Georgia Bio Key Legislation Update – Updated on 03/27/17**

There are only 2 legislative days remaining for this session. Rumors had been floating around the Capitol that lawmakers would end the session last Friday, however this was obviously wishful thinking. We are continuing to monitor legislative activity. It is common for pending legislation to be amended with the language from other bills that would not otherwise have passed. Remember to note that bills which did not cross-over before Day 28 are not necessarily dead. Their language could still be added via floor amendments or in a substitute. We will continue to monitor these bills until the General Assembly adjourns *Sine Die* on Thursday, March 30!

**Committee Update**

*Conference Committee on FY 2018 Budget*

Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville) and Chairman Terry England (R-Auburn) along with other Conferees met last week to discuss the FY 2018 Budget, HB 44, "differences," as passed by the House and Senate. This Conference Committee was formed after both chambers disagreed with the others' changes to the budget. After some deliberation, Chairman England noted that there was little disagreement and Chairman Hill indicated that there was a lot in the Budget to "feel good about." There are no great policy differences between the two chambers. Both indicated that there were a number of issues which were timely and needed to get to the Governor's desk for signature. The Chambers both agreed on the pay raises for law enforcement officers, Division of Family and Children's Services workers, teachers and State employees. Also, the Budget contains a substantial investment in the State's retirement system. Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones noted that there was progress being made to help Georgia's most vulnerable populations and Chairman Hill concurred with the new funding for human needs. Chairman England also highlighted the new funding for individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

**Legislation Tracking – Updated 03/27/2017**

<b>Bill ▲</b>	<b>Committees</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Analysis</b>
HB213	HC: Judiciary Non-Civil	Mar/15/2017 - Senate Tabled	Rep. Golick (R- Smryna), proposes to amend O.C.G.A. § 16-13-31 to prohibit the sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession of four grams or more of 'fentanyl.'
HB231	HC: Judiciary Non-Civil	Mar/20/2017 - Senate Read Second Time	Rep. Bruce Broadrick (R-Dalton), is Georgia's proposed annual dangerous drug update legislation. It adds new controlled substances in Chapter 13 of Title 16 which are Schedule I, II, IV and V controlled substances to this list. It includes a new "fentanyl analog structural

			class" of drugs and derivatives, salts, isomers or salts of isomers.
HB360	HC: Health & Human Services	Mar/01/2017 - Senate Read and Referred	Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), seeks an amendment to O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80(c)(2), concerning prescription drug orders and the control of venereal disease. It revisits a bill from 2016 in an effort to provide for "expedited partner therapy" for patients with Chlamydia or gonorrhea. A new Code Section is added in O.C.G.A. § 31-17-7.1 which defines "expedited partner therapy" and permits the licensed practitioner who diagnoses a patient to be infected with Chlamydia or gonorrhea the ability to utilize the expedited partner therapy in accordance with rules developed by the Department of Public Health.
HB61	HC: Ways & Means	Feb/16/2017 - Senate Read and Referred	Rep. Jay Powell (R-Camilla), amends O.C.G.A. § 48-8-30 to require delivery retailers (defined as a retailer that has a gross revenue exceeding \$250,000 for one calendar year or conducts more than 200 retail sales) to collect and remit the tax imposed by this Code section. The retailer must notify consumers that the tax collected on their purchases may be remitted to the State, and must send a statement to the Department of Revenue detailing the total amount of sales and use tax collected for each year. Failure to submit such documentation will result in a fine.
SB008	SC: Health and Human Services	Mar/20/2017 - House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute	Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) provides for: consumer protections regarding health insurance; disclosure requirements of providers, hospitals, and insurers; 4 billing and reimbursement of out-of-network services; procedures for dispute 5 resolution for surprise bills for nonemergency services; payment of emergency 6 services; out-of-network reimbursement rate workgroup.
SB070	SC: Finance	Feb/13/2017 - Act 4	Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) would amend O.C.G.A § 31-8-179.6 by extending the sunset provision relating to the hospital

			Medicaid financing program in order to extend the date of repeal to June 30, 2020 (it is currently June 30, 2017).
SB41	SC: Health and Human Services	Feb/16/2017 - House Second Readers	Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) would amend 26-4-5 to provide for the licensure of durable medical equipment suppliers and requirements for licensure for such suppliers.