

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.

Legislative Schedule

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

Legislative Tracking Grid

HB105	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 105 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) Jones, Jan 47th (3) O'Neal, Larry 146th (4) England, Terry 116th	HC: Appropriations SC: Appropriations	Summary Feb/21/2013 - Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute	(Monitor) This week, the Senate passed their version of the 2013 amended budget, with slight modifications from the version passed by the House. The version passed by the Senate spends \$26 million less overall, and sends an extra \$167 million to local school districts. The budget will now go to a conference committee.
HB106	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 106 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) Jones, Jan 47th (3) O'Neal, Larry 146th (4) England, Terry 116th	HC: Appropriations SC:	Summary Jan/29/2013 - House Second Readers	General Approps, 2013-2014
HB142	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 142 Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission; change certain provisions	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) O'Neal, Larry 146th (3) Smyre, Calvin 135th (4) Jones, Jan 47th (5) Lindsey, Edward 54th (6) Smith, Richard 134th	HC: Rules SC:	Summary Feb/21/2013 - House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute	(Monitor) Several weeks ago, 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 Georgia referendum in which Georgia

					voters indicated support for the proposal. As drafted, the legislation did exempt legislative committees, sub-committees, and caucuses. As drafted, the legislation as currently drafted is being strongly opposed by members of Common Cause and the Tea Party. They said that the legislation would restrict their ability to petition their government. As the committee process continued, Speaker Ralston introduced several amendments to his legislation. Those amendments include: - Reducing the lobbyist registration fee from \$300 to \$25 for all registrants - Restricts spending on legislator travel and travel for legislative spouses - Allows the waiver of reporting requirements if individual advocates swear an affidavit not to spend on legislators - Allows advocates to bypass the lobbyist registration process if they aren't at the Capitol more than five days each year. Speaker Ralston's ethics legislation will be heard on the House floor Monday.
HB143	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 143 Campaign contributions; disclosure reports; change certain provisions	(1) Ralston, David 7th (2) O'Neal, Larry 146th (3) Smyre, Calvin 135th (4) Jones, Jan 47th (5) Lindsey, Edward 54th (6) Smith, Richard 134th	HC: Rules SC:	Summary Feb/21/2013 - House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute	(Monitor) This is the second of Speaker Ralston's two ethics bills.
HB178	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 178 Georgia Pain Management Clinic Act; enact	(1) Weldon, Tom 3rd (2) Cooper, Sharon 43rd (3) Taylor, Tom 79th (4) Channell, Mickey 120th (5) Parrish, Butch 158th	HC: Health & Human Services SC: Health and Human Services	Summary Feb/21/2013 - Senate Read and Referred	(Monitor) This legislation, sponsored by Rep. Tom Weldon, grants new power to the Composite Board of Medical Examiners whereby the Board can license and regulate pain management clinics. Specifically, the legislation would prevent ownership by convicted

		(6) Oliver, Mary Margaret 82nd			felons and require all owners to be license physicians in the state of Georgia. HB 178 passed the House 150-15.
HB272	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 272 Income tax credit; certain qualified investments for limited period of time; extend	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Lindsey, Edward 54th (3) Dudgeon, Mike 25th (4) Williamson, Bruce 115th (5) Abrams, Stacey 89th (6) Stephens, Ron 164th	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Feb/12/2013 - House Second Readers	(Monitor) This legislation renews Georgia's angel investor tax credit. The legislation was heard for a first hearing this week in committee and should move out of committee next week.
HB285	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 285 Seed-Capital Fund; create Invest Georgia Fund	(1) Peake, Allen 141st (2) Lindsey, Edward 54th (3) Williamson, Bruce 115th (4) Stephens, Ron 164th (5) Sheldon, Donna 104th (6) Hamilton, Mark 24th	HC: Ways & Means SC:	Summary Feb/12/2013 - House Second Readers	(Monitor) HB 285, the Invest Georgia Act, establishes a new component of Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Center under the University System of Georgia. As \$.92 of every investment dollar in Georgia comes from other states, Georgia lags grossly behind her neighboring states in the area of technology investment. Under this legislation, Georgia, over the next five years, would sell insurance premium tax credits to insurance companies. The system would begin with \$10 million in 2014 and extend to \$35 million in 2018. The system will be overseen by a 5-member appointed board. The Board will hire a third party administrator who will select venture capital funds to manage investment activities in Georgia. 100% of the investment tax dollars will be returned to InvestGeorgia, as well as 80% of the investment profit. The legislation has been endorsed by the Georgia Chamber as a scorecard issue, and is being carried by Representatives Allen Peake (R - Macon) and Ed Lindsey (R - Atlanta). It has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.
HB57	2013-2014 Regular	(1) Ramsey,	HC: Judiciary Non-	Summary	(Monitor) In recent years, the

	Session - HB 57 Controlled substances; definition of Schedule I; expand	Matt 72nd (2) Golick, Rich 40th (3) Cooke, Kevin 18th (4) Hightower, Dustin 68th (5) Gravley, Micah 67th (6) Cooper, Sharon 43rd	Civil SC: Health and Human Services	Feb/14/2013 - Senate Read Second Time	General Assembly has enacted legislation to add synthetic marijuana and narcotic drugs known as bath salts to the list of Schedule I Controlled Substances. However, manufacturers of these substances have changed their formulas so as to avoid the legal effects of these provisions. This bill seeks to once again ban these substances by adding to the definition of Schedule I controlled substances. Rick Allen, Director of the Georgia Drug and Narcotic Agency, testified in favor of the legislation and it passed committee unanimously.
HB81	2013-2014 Regular Session - HB 81 Income tax credit; certain qualified investments for a limited period of time; extend	(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.
SB37	2013-2014 Regular Session - SB 37 Abortion; change certain provisions relating to criminal abortion	(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.