



## Legislative Updates as of 04/3/2026

### Sine Die Weekly Report

The Georgia General Assembly concluded its 2026 legislative session this week with Sine Die on April 2, the final day of the 40-day session. “Sine Die,” meaning “without assigning a day for a further meeting,” marks the legislature’s adjournment with no scheduled return and represents the last opportunity for bills to pass both chambers before heading to the Governor. As expected, the final days were marked by fast-paced negotiations, late-night votes, and last-minute compromises. Lawmakers fulfilled their constitutional obligation by passing a \$38.5 billion state budget, which includes pay raises for state employees, investments in literacy programs, and continued funding for education and workforce development. In addition to the budget, several major bills were passed on Sine Die, including legislation to reduce the state income tax rate to 3.99% over time and exempt certain tip and overtime income from taxation, as well as measures addressing homelessness enforcement, expanding needs-based financial aid for students, and creating the Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority to streamline transit oversight. Other notable legislation includes SB 220 (expansion of the medical cannabis program) and HB 225 (school zone speed camera enforcement). Despite the flurry of activity, some issues—particularly related to election policy—remain unresolved. Throughout the final week, the Topspin team remained actively engaged at the Capitol until the very end, advocating for client priorities during the most critical period of the session when legislation is most fluid and decisions are made in real time. With adjournment complete, all passed legislation now heads to the Governor, who has 40 days to sign, veto, or allow bills to become law, bringing the 2026 session to a close.

### Interim Plan

Although the 2026 legislative session has concluded, the work of the Topspin team is just beginning. In the months ahead, the team will closely monitor upcoming elections while traveling across the state to build relationships with new legislators and strengthen existing connections with current elected officials. This interim period will also be critical for developing proactive strategies to advance client priorities, as well as preparing to defend against potential unfavorable legislation expected in future sessions.

### Georgia Life Sciences Update

The legislature adjourned Sine Die around 1:00am Friday morning, capping a relatively quiet session with an action-packed final day. We were successful in creating an official Life Sciences Caucus in the Senate with SR 323 by Senator Hufstetler, and an informal Life Sciences Caucus in the House with HR 1474. Each caucus begins with 7 members, and we will begin coordinating communication and meetings over the interim.

340B amendment rumors swirled throughout days 39 and 40, but a coordinated effort defeated last minute attempts to add language to legislation moving at the end of the process.

The House and Senate fought back and forth over the budget while trying to eliminate a \$300 million gap between the two proposals. The Curriculum Development bucket within DOE was decreased slightly, and we are working with DOE staff to determine if/how it affects the Biotech Teacher Training Initiative (BTTI) funding level. More to come early next week.

Additionally, we, along with the Ga Chamber of Commerce and other business groups and industries, were thrown a curveball when the House amended the income tax bill, HB 463, with language immediately sunseting ten tax credits, including Code Section 48-7-40.1B relating to tax credits for manufacturers of medical equipment and supplies, pharmaceuticals, and medicine. This language to repeal these tax credits was originally proposed and passed by the senate in early February, but the House did not take up that legislation, and it died. It was not perceived as a threat by anyone because it did not receive any house consideration.

However, late in the evening Thursday the House added the language, which had not been heard in any house committee or gone through any house process, by floor amendment. This was an unprecedented move in the House, which typically does not allow language to be added that has not gone through any house process. It then traveled back to the senate where appropriations chairman Blake Tillery forcefully advocated for the senate to agree. The elimination of this tax credit is an unfortunate development for the industry, and a step in the wrong direction for the state.

We look forward to elevating the visibility of the Life Sciences sector, establishing and strengthening relationships, educating legislators, and engaging the newly formed caucuses over the interim.

### **Tracked Bills**

[HB1302 Education and Workforce Strategy Act; enact \(Senate Passed/Adopted, 03/18/2026\)](#)

[HR1474 Georgia House of Representatives; creation of a life sciences caucus; encourage \(House Committee Favorably Reported, 03/18/2026\)](#)

[HR948 House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications; create \(House Passed/Adopted By Substitute, 03/09/2026\)](#)

[HB980 Georgia-Ireland Trade Commission; create \(Senate Read and Referred, 02/09/2026\)](#)

[HB101 State employees; annual public report on the amount of prescription drug rebates and other price concessions applied to premium reductions; provide \(House Withdrawn, Recommended, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[SB111 \(Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub, 04/02/2026\)](#)

[SB402 Children and Youth; pilot program provision for screenings, clinical evaluations, training for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care; establish \(Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub, 04/02/2026\)](#)

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub, 03/23/2026\)](#)

[SB428 Medical Assistance; Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; direct \(House Passed/Adopted, 03/23/2026\)](#)

[SB91 State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; Board of Community Health from entering into, executing, or renewing a contract with any pharmacy benefits manager that owns or has an ownership interest in any retail pharmacy; prohibit \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/18/2026\)](#)

[SB399 \(House Passed/Adopted, 03/18/2026\)](#)

[SR851 Georgia Senate; creation of a life sciences caucus; encourage \(Senate Read and Referred, 02/25/2026\)](#)