



Legislative Updates as of 03/12/2026

Week Nine Weekly

This week, the Georgia General Assembly moved into the post-Crossover phase of the legislative session following last week's Crossover Day deadline. The Georgia House of Representatives approved its version of the fiscal year 2027 state budget, sending it to the Georgia State Senate for revisions and negotiations. Some budget highlights include funding for literacy coaches in elementary schools, support for rural hospitals, and expanded funding for Medicaid dental and autism services. Meanwhile, the Senate began holding hearings and votes on House bills that survived the crossover deadline. Lawmakers also shifted attention toward several major policy debates expected to dominate the final weeks of the session, including potential income-tax cuts, changes to tax incentives for data centers due to rising electricity demand, and ongoing disputes over election policy. Alongside the legislative work, the political environment around the Capitol intensified with developments in the 2026 governor's race and a special election to fill the Congressional seat formerly held by Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Healthcare Updates

This week, healthcare activity in the Georgia General Assembly has focused on budget action and several health-policy bills that survived Crossover Day and are now moving through the opposite chamber. The Georgia House of Representatives passed its FY 2027 state budget, HB 974, and sent it to the Georgia State Senate, where senators will revise healthcare spending priorities before final negotiations. Several healthcare bills also continued advancing: HB 961 (ground ambulance surprise-billing protections) passed the House earlier and is now assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, expanding consumer protections so patients pay no more than in-network rates for out-of-network ambulance rides; HB 1238 (Medicaid-funded respite care for families of children with serious behavioral health conditions) also passed the House and is now under Senate review; and HB 1192 (state agency financial accountability affecting health agencies like the Department of Community Health) advanced and is being considered in the Senate. In addition, SB 427, which creates a pathway for foreign-trained physicians to obtain licenses and practice in Georgia to address physician shortages—especially in rural areas—remains active and is expected to receive further consideration this week. Together, these measures reflect the legislature's current healthcare focus on insurance protections, workforce shortages, behavioral health services, and oversight of health program spending as the session enters its final weeks before adjournment.

Georgia Life Sciences

The House Budget was approved this week, and we are pleased to report that the Biotech Teacher Training Initiative (BTTI) funding was sustained. We will work to ensure that it remains in the budget as it moves through the senate process.

Tracked Bills Introduced or Moved this Week

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

[HB1302 Education and Workforce Strategy Act; enact \(Senate Read and Referred, 03/06/2026\)](#)

[SB399 \(House Committee Favorably Reported, 03/10/2026\)](#)

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/10/2026\)](#)

[SB428 Medical Assistance; Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; direct \(House Committee Favorably Reported, 03/10/2026\)](#)

Tracked Bills

[HR1474 Georgia House of Representatives; creation of a life sciences caucus; encourage \(House Second Readers, 03/03/2026\)](#)

[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 \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

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

[SB402 Children and Youth; pilot program provision for screenings, clinical evaluations, training for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care; establish \(House Second Readers, 02/10/2026\)](#)

[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 \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[SB111 \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 03/27/2025\)](#)