



Legislative Updates as of 03/20/2026

Week Ten Report

This week under the Gold Dome tax policy and end-of-session priorities were in focus as we enter the final stretch of the legislative calendar. On March 16, lawmakers gave final passage to a significant one-time income tax rebate measure, providing payments to eligible Georgians and signaling a broader push toward tax relief. At the same time, debate intensified over legislation that could limit public access to police body camera footage, highlighting tensions between transparency advocates and law enforcement interests. Also this week, legislative activity included debates on advancing tax cuts, refining budget priorities, energy policy, data center regulation, and election laws. Additionally, there is a huge gap between the proposed Senate and House budgets, so we anticipate some political maneuvering to occur before the legislature can achieve its constitutionally mandated duty of passing a balanced budget. With the session now in its final phase, lawmakers are primarily working to reconcile House and Senate versions of bills, fast-track priority legislation, and position major measures for final passage before adjournment.

Healthcare Update

This week, healthcare activity was more limited but still meaningful. The most notable development was passage of HB 717 out of Senate HHS. This bill creates a regulatory framework for ketamine clinics in Georgia.

Also of note was the continued movement on medical cannabis expansion, following House passage of SB 220 sponsored by Senator Dickey to broaden Georgia's program. The legislation would expand qualifying conditions, allow additional delivery methods, and modernize THC limits—an incremental but significant shift in how the state approaches treatment access.

In addition, lawmakers continued advancing insurance and consumer protection measures, including HB 1262 aimed at strengthening oversight of insurers and enforcing mental health parity and surprise billing protections. These efforts reflect an ongoing push to increase accountability within the healthcare system as cost and access remain persistent concerns.

Notably, SB 444, which requires that certain decisions regarding insurance coverage for healthcare services cannot be based solely on AI, and authored by Senator Kirkpatrick, was passed out of the House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation committee on Tuesday. This key Senate healthcare bill focuses on refining regulatory frameworks within the state's healthcare system. While narrower in scope than broader reform efforts, the bill reflects continued legislative interest in improving oversight, streamlining administrative processes, and addressing gaps in care delivery through targeted policy changes.

Behind the scenes, the majority of the activity this week was in committee activity and bill reassignment—covering areas like Medicaid, pharmacy regulation, provider scope of practice, and state health benefits.

Stepping back, the overall theme in healthcare this week was incremental progress rather than sweeping reform. Major structural issues—like Medicaid expansion or large-scale coverage initiatives—remain largely absent from the agenda, while lawmakers instead prioritize narrower, more politically viable changes such as cannabis access, insurance regulation, and scope-of-practice adjustments.

Tracked Bills Moved this Week

[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 \(House Committee Favorably Reported, 03/18/2026\)](#)

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

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(House Passed/Adopted By Substitute, 03/18/2026\)](#)

Tracked Bills

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

[SB402 Children and Youth; pilot program provision for screenings, clinical evaluations, training for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care; establish \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 03/12/2026\)](#)

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

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

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