



Legislative Updates as of 0/13/2026

Week Five Weekly Report

This week the legislature was in session Monday through Thursday for legislative days 15-18. Momentum under the Gold Dome continues to build as the Georgia General Assembly approaches Crossover Day. This week was tax policy and healthcare centric. The Senate advanced significant Republican-backed income tax cut measures that would exempt the first \$50,000 of individual income from state taxation and further reduce the flat income tax rate over time, sending the proposals to the House for consideration. Lawmakers also debated several healthcare-related bills, including House Bill 1138, which was put forward by House leadership and would allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives directly to patients to expand access, particularly in underserved areas. At the same time, the Senate amended House Bill 54, originally a home healthcare bill, to include provisions restricting access to puberty blockers for minors and limiting certain gender-affirming care under the state health plan, passing the revised bill along party lines. Additionally, House lawmakers discussed early steps toward restructuring Georgia's public health system, including proposals to improve workforce retention and streamline operations.

Major Developments

Senate Advances Major Income Tax Reduction Package

- The Georgia State Senate passed a high-profile Republican-backed tax relief initiative aimed at significantly lowering personal income taxes.
- Senate Bill 476 would exempt the first \$50,000 in individual income and \$100,000 for joint filers from state income tax in its first year and rely on repealing many corporate credits to offset revenue loss.
- Alongside that, Senate Bill 477 would gradually reduce the flat personal tax rate through 2028. Both bills passed the Senate and are now headed to the House for consideration.

Gun Safety Advocacy and Legislative Push

- On February 9, gun safety advocates held rallies at the Capitol, urging support for House Bill 1127, targeting devices known as "switches" that can convert semiautomatic guns into automatic firearms.
- This was part of a broader gun safety engagement in the building as the 2026 session picks up pace.

Farm Bureau Advocacy Day at the Capitol

- Georgia Farm Bureau Day took place on Feb. 10, bringing farmers and agricultural stakeholders to speak directly with legislators about key issues affecting rural economies and policy priorities.

Education

On Legislative Day 18, the House Education Committee advanced several education-related measures, including two key PAGE-supported bills: the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026 (HB 1193) and the Student Teacher Promotion Act (HB 310). HB 1193, presented by House Education Chair Chris Erwin (R-Homer) and House Education Appropriations Chair Matt Dubnik (R-Gainesville), aims to strengthen early literacy by funding qualified literacy coaches in all K-3 schools, establishing regional support coaches, forming a Georgia Literacy Task Force to select high-quality instructional materials and universal reading screeners, requiring unified district literacy plans, and launching a public awareness campaign on literacy; both HB 1193 and a related resolution, HR 145, which calls for expanded vision and hearing screenings aligned with state literacy goals, passed the committee unanimously.

- Lawmakers discussed several education policy proposals this week, including measures to increase funding for public schools and expand access to early childhood education.
- A bill to raise teacher pay by \$2,000 advanced in committee, drawing bipartisan support and signaling a continued focus on educator workforce stability.
- In addition, the Senate heard testimony on legislation to strengthen school safety protocols and provide additional resources for student mental health services.

HB 310, sponsored by Rep. Phil Olaleye (D-Atlanta), would create a needs-based grant program providing up to \$5,000 to eligible student teachers and a \$2,500 bonus for those who complete their student teaching and work in a Georgia school; it passed with only one dissenting vote. All three bills now move next to the House Rules Committee for further consideration,

Healthcare & Public Health Policy Updates

This week, lawmakers at the Georgia General Assembly took up several healthcare and public health measures. On February 10, legislators considered House Bill 1138, which would allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives directly to patients without a doctor's prescription, a change supporters argue would expand access in areas facing physician shortages and reduce barriers to birth control. On February 10–11, the Georgia State Senate amended House Bill 54—originally focused on home health services—to add language banning access to puberty blockers for minors and restricting certain gender-affirming care under the state health plan; the revised bill passed along party lines and drew significant debate and advocacy responses. Then, on February 12, a House committee outlined recommendations to restructure and streamline Georgia's hybrid public health system, including proposals to allow local public health workers to retain accrued leave when transitioning into state roles, to strengthen workforce stability.

Tracked Bills

[HB1119 Labor and industrial relations; pharmacy care guidelines and pharmacy management networks under workers' compensation; provide \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 02/05/2026\)](#)

[HB991 Labor and industrial relations; definition of employment for certain services performed by certain healthcare technology platform contractors; provisions \(House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 01/29/2026\)](#)

HB1033 Georgia Access to Healthcare for Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Act; enact (House Second Readers, 01/29/2026)

HB1039 Georgia Equitable Economic Development Act; enact (House Second Readers, 01/29/2026)

HB988 State employees; require health benefit plan to cover hormone replacement therapy for biological women experiencing perimenopause and menopause when such therapy is ordered or prescribed (House Second Readers, 01/27/2026)

HB981 Professions and businesses; expand certain advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant prescriptive authorizations (House Second Readers, 01/27/2026)

HB968 Controlled substances; mitragynine and hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) are Schedule I; provide (House Second Readers, 01/16/2026)

HB923 Pharmacies; furnish patients with written informational material when dispensing certain prescription drugs; require (House Second Readers, 01/12/2026)

HB931 Health; control high costs of prescription drugs; establish framework (House Second Readers, 01/12/2026)

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)

HB690 Pharmacy benefits managers; duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide (House Second Readers, 03/04/2025)

HB139 Pharmacies; prohibit drug manufacturer and wholesalers from preventing a licensed pharmacy from acquiring drugs from entities that participate in a particular federal drug discount program (House Second Readers, 01/29/2025)

HB100 Prescription Drug Consumer Financial Protection Act; enact (House Second Readers, 01/28/2025)

SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide (Senate Read Second Time, 02/06/2026)

SB455 Georgia Artificial Intelligence Commission; establishment (Senate Read and Referred, 02/04/2026)

SB428 Medical Assistance; Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; direct (Senate Read and Referred, 01/28/2026)

SB399 (Senate Read and Referred, 01/15/2026)

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)

SB60 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; managers have a duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide (Senate Read and Referred, 01/30/2025)

SB50 (Senate Read and Referred, 01/29/2025)

Tracked Bills Introduced or Moved This Week

SB487 Education Workforce Data Governance Advisory Committee; within the Office of Student Achievement; establish (Senate Read and Referred, 02/11/2026)

HB810 Insurance; require that final reimbursements to pharmacies for prescription drugs are based on certain formulas (House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 02/10/2026)

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

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)