



## Legislative Updates as of 02/06/2026

### **Legislative Report Week Four**

This week the Georgia General Assembly continued early-session momentum with a mix of floor votes, committee action, and major policy debates on a wide range of issues. Lawmakers advanced bills on workforce and public safety issues, expanded seafood labeling requirements, judicial additions in fast-growing circuits, and measures addressing invasive wild hogs and newborn safe surrender devices. The Senate approved legislation related to property tax relief and recreational fees, while education policy gained attention with a proposal to restrict cellphone use in high schools moving forward in committee. The week also featured the State of the Judiciary address, where judicial leaders highlighted court system challenges and the growing role of artificial intelligence, followed by House Republicans rolling out a “Putting Georgia Families First” policy agenda focused on childcare, maternal health, and family-oriented priorities. Together, the activity reflected a session balancing bread-and-butter legislation with emerging technology and election-year political positioning.

### **Political Update**

The 2026 Georgia governor’s race is shaping up to be one of the most competitive and closely watched contests in recent state history as Republicans vie to succeed term-limited Gov. Brian Kemp. The GOP primary field is crowded with established statewide officeholders — including Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, Attorney General Chris Carr, and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger — but was significantly shaken this week by the surprise entry of billionaire health care executive Rick Jackson. Jackson, the founder and CEO of Jackson Healthcare, launched his campaign with an unprecedented \$50 million self-funded effort that includes a massive advertising buy and a high-profile kickoff event, positioning himself as a conservative outsider attacking “career politicians” and promising aggressive tax cuts and hardline policy stances. His late entry has already intensified the cash race and heightened intraparty tensions, forcing established candidates to respond to his attacks and recalibrate strategies as the May Republican primary approaches.



## **Healthcare Updates**

Lawmakers began considering several health-policy proposals as part of the broader legislative session. The House debated expansion of eligibility for student loan repayment programs to include optometrists practicing in underserved areas, a workforce-related health measure that passed initial consideration in committee. On February 2, House Bill 1151 was introduced, proposing to expand Medicaid in Georgia to cover adults aged up to 138 % of the federal poverty level and authorizing the Department of Community Health to pursue federal waivers for that purpose — a significant proposal in the ongoing Medicaid expansion debate. Additionally, the House’s “Families First” initiative included health-related components such as allowing pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives and potentially other measures aimed at improving access to women’s and children’s healthcare services. Several scopes of practice expansion bills also surfaced this week, including legislation to expand prescriptive authority for midlevel providers, and an effort to rename Chiropractors to “Chiropractic Physicians.” Beyond legislation, legislative priority statements from groups like the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus highlighted healthcare access and related social supports as policy goals for the session, reflecting a general focus on health issues at the Capitol.

## **Tracked Bills**

[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 \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2026\)](#)

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

[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 \(House Second Readers, 01/27/2026\)](#)



[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 \(House Second Readers, 01/12/2026\)](#)

[HB810](#) [Insurance; require that final reimbursements to pharmacies for prescription drugs are based on certain formulas \(House Second Readers, 03/25/2025\)](#)

[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 \(House Second Readers, 01/28/2025\)](#)

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

[SB402](#) [Children and Youth; pilot program provision for screenings, clinical evaluations, training for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care; establish \(Senate Read Second Time, 01/29/2026\)](#)

[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**



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

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

[HB980 Georgia-Ireland Trade Commission; create \(House Committee Favorably Reported, 02/02/2026\)](#)

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute, 02/05/2026\)](#)

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