

## **Legislative Updates as of 01/30/2026**

### **Week Three Legislative Report**

#### **Introduction**

This week under the Gold Dome focused heavily on early legislative action and policy priorities as lawmakers moved beyond opening ceremonial and organizational activities and into substantive legislative proposals and committee work. Republican leaders unveiled a high-profile property tax overhaul, with legislation (HR 1114) aimed at phasing out property taxes on primary residences by 2032 while boosting homestead exemptions and immediate relief for homeowners, drawing significant attention from across the aisle at the Capitol.

Education and school policy continues to be in the spotlight, including growing momentum behind expanding classroom cellphone bans to cover high schools, a topic generating discussion among legislators and stakeholders.

Another major area of legislative focus this week has been data center regulation, with a suite of bills introduced to address concerns about rapid data center growth in Georgia — proposing restrictions, tax changes, and energy cost protections as part of a broader debate over economic development versus community and utility impacts.

In addition to substantive policy proposals, the legislature continued its regular business with nearly 200 formal bill introductions that are now moving through initial stages of the legislative process.

Overall, this week has been marked by the launch of key policy initiatives on taxes, education and tech infrastructure, alongside the normal flow of bill filings and committee activity as the 2026 session gains momentum.

#### **This Weeks Healthcare Activities**

- Bipartisan push to expand Medicaid:

A bipartisan group of Georgia state senators formally introduced legislation to expand Medicaid coverage in the state through the Affordable Care Act framework. The bill would extend eligibility to Georgians earning up to

138 % of the federal poverty level and create an advisory council for PeachCare Plus — an effort to reduce the number of uninsured and improve access in medically underserved rural communities.

- Healthcare workforce / labor bill introduced:

Lawmakers filed House Bill 991, a proposal touching on labor definitions for healthcare technology platform contractors. This bill would revise worker classifications and insurance requirements in the healthcare technology sector, potentially influencing how gig-style health services operate and interact with workers' compensation rules.

- Budget context for health services:

While not tied to a specific new bill this week, ongoing legislative budget discussions include decisions impacting health programs and public health funding. State agencies are bracing for reduced federal support for health insurance subsidies, Medicaid payments, and nutrition services — and lawmakers are considering how much state dollars should fill these gaps in the FY 2027 budget.

- Advocacy and planning:

Stakeholders and advocacy groups have scheduled policy days tied to health and disability support services this session, highlighting continued engagement by communities seeking legislative action on healthcare and developmental disability waivers.

### **Tracked Bills**

[SB399 \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/15/2026\)](#)

[HB965 Health; copies of certain patient records to parents or legal guardians of unemancipated minors; provide \(House Second Readers, 01/16/2026\)](#)

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

[HB961 Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; insurance coverage for certain out-of-network ambulance transportation service; provide \(House Second Readers, 01/16/2026\)](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[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**

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

[HB1088 Chiropractors; replace term chiropractor with chiropractic physician \(House Hopper, 01/29/2026\)](#)

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

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

[HB1069 Public Health, Department of; publish and maintain statistical reports relating to induced terminations of pregnancy notwithstanding requirements on the department for physician confidentiality; require \(House First Readers, 01/29/2026\)](#)

[SB427 Physicians; limited provisional licenses and a pathway to licensure for certain internationally trained physicians; provide \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/28/2026\)](#)

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

[HB1040 Health; prohibit smoking within a 25 foot radius of any state and local government buildings or enclosed public places \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2026\)](#)

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

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

[HB980 Georgia-Ireland Trade Commission; create \(House Second Readers, 01/27/2026\)](#)

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

[HB995 Vape-Free Schools Act; enact \(House Second Readers, 01/27/2026\)](#)