

**From:** Lyly Trinh  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 7:51 AM  
**To:** Robyn Garrett - GACSB (rgarrett@shpllc.com); Jesse Hambrick  
**Cc:** Cameron Vickers  
**Subject:** Georgia Legislative Session Update - Legislative Day 4



**2021**

capitol watch

## Legislative Day 4

It is the beginning of a very different year under the Gold Dome. The 2021 Session of the Georgia General Assembly kicked off Monday, January 11 with the ringing of the House and Senate chamber bells, along with twice-weekly COVID-19 tests required of members and legislative staff. The Georgia State Senate was the first to gavel in on Monday morning immediately transitioning into the oath of office and swearing in. The House followed shortly after.

Legislators set their calendar for the first 5 days of the session as follows:

- Monday, January 11th - Legislative Day 1
- Tuesday, January 12th - Legislative Day 2
- Wednesday, January 13th - Legislative Day 3
- Thursday, January 14th - Legislative Day 4
- Tuesday, January 19th - Friday, January 22nd - Joint Budget Hearings ([CLICK HERE](#) to view schedule)
- Tuesday, January 26th - Legislative Day 5

*Joint Budget Hearings will be held next week (January 19th - 22nd)  
The 2021 Legislative Session will reconvene at 10:00am Tuesday, January 26, 2021.*

**State Senate Appoints Committee Chairmen & Members**

Each new biennium, one of the first tasks for legislative leaders is the assignment of new legislators to committees — and deciding which legislators will (or will not) chair those committees.

While shuffling among committee memberships is always expected, there were also a number of changes to chairmanships following the retirement of a number of senators.

Notable committees with new chairs include:

- Insurance & Labor - Sen. Dean Burke, MD
- Judiciary - Sen. Brian Strickland
- Reapportionment - Sen. John Kennedy
- Transportation - Sen. Frank Ginn
- Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security - Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD

Also of note, freshman Sen. Michelle Au, MD was appointed to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sen. Ben Watson, MD retained his chairman post of Senate Health and Human Services.

A full list of the Senate committee assignments can be found [here](#).

### **State House Appoints Committee Chairmen & Members**

**PENDING**

### **Georgia State of the State Address**

Governor Kemp gave his State of the State address on Thursday morning laying out his vision for the State of Georgia.

The Governor's remarks focused on the pandemic not only in the state, but globally - Governor Kemp also discussed his priorities going forward, budget requests, and a proposal for an expansion of the PPE tax credit for pharmaceutical and medical equipment manufacturing.

A few highlights of Governor Kemp's budget include:

- \$40 million for the Rural Innovation Fund
- \$20 million this year in rural broadband grants that will continue annually at \$10 million
- \$76 million to implement the state's 1115 and 1332 Medicaid Waivers
- A one-time \$1000 supplement to education workers across the state drawn from federal COVID relief funding
- Restoring \$647 million to the QBE funding formula and fully funding education growth

To see a video of the speech, [CLICK HERE](#). To see the full text of the State of the State speech, [CLICK HERE](#).

---

### **New Senate Legislation**

- **SB 1**, by Sen. Dean Burke, MD, seeks to require that entities that receive state income tax credits and provide self-funded, employer-sponsored health insurance

that is not subject to the regulatory authority of the Commissioner of Insurance report insurance claims information to the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database. The legislation requires compliance with the reporting requirement beginning January 1, 2022, as a condition to continued receipt of any such tax credits. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee.

- **SB 4**, by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD, relates to substance abuse treatment programs. The bill creates a new Article within Chapter 5 of Title 26 to prohibit substance abuse providers from receiving referral fees or reimbursement related to patient referrals. The bill also amends Title 33 to prevent unfair billing practices for drug testing in substance abuse programs. This bill has been referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
- **SB 5**, by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, MD, relates to sedation in non-hospital settings. The bill directs the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish rules regarding the use of sedation in “office based surgeries,” which are defined as “any surgery or invasive medical procedure requiring sedation, when performed in a location other than a hospital, hospital associated surgical center, or an ambulatory surgical facility, including, but not limited to, physicians' offices and med spas.” This bill has been referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
- **SB19**, by Sen. Gloria Butler, relates to the implementation, regulation and construction of surgical smoke systems in hospitals and other health care facilities. This bill would require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to utilize surgical smoke evacuation systems during surgical procedures to protect patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical smoke. This bill is in the Senate Hopper.

### **New House Legislation**

- **HB 3**, by Rep. Erick Allen, seeks to increase permitting requirements for any permit request to release more than 50 pounds of ethylene oxide (EO) per year. The bill also requires for these permit holders to allow measurement devices to ensure compliance. This bill has been assigned to the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee.
- **HB 72**, by Rep. Carolyn Hugley seeks to allow an extension of Medicaid benefits for mothers up to a year postpartum. This bill has been assigned to the House Health and Human Services Committee.
- **HB 73**, by Rep. Carolyn Hugley seeks to require all insurers and CMOs within the state to limit the total cost sharing amount for a 30-day supply of insulin to no more than \$50. Additionally, the bill requires insurers and CMOs to submit annual reports containing a list of the top 25 most expensive drugs available to their members along with the frequency of the provision of the drugs to members of the plan. This bill has been assigned to the House Insurance Committee.
- **HB 93**, by Rep. Sharon Cooper seeks to eliminate duplicative state licensure and regulation of clinical laboratories. Specifically repealing provisions relating to examination of human specimens and methods for selection of blood donors and collection, storage, and processing of human blood. This bill is in the House Hopper.

To find any bill, go to [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov) and use the search box at the top left of the page. There is also an advanced search option that allows you to find bills by keyword or sponsor.

## Contact Your Legislators

It makes a difference if you contact your Representatives and Senators early in the session.

Discuss the issues that are important to your practice, your patients, and your community.

If you have personal relationships with any state elected officials, please help us by making us aware of these crucial relationships. If you need assistance finding your legislator, please click the link below.

## [Find My Legislator](#)



For legislative highlights and review, watch *Lawmakers*, which airs on **Georgia Public Broadcasting** at **7PM** every night the Georgia General Assembly is in session.

---

More information: Please reach out to our office at 770.435.5586 or reach out to us personally via our cell phones.

**Travis Lindley**  
**404.886.5058**  
[travis@capitolstrategy.us](mailto:travis@capitolstrategy.us)

**Devin Krecl**  
**770.655.9545**  
[devin@capitolstrategy.us](mailto:devin@capitolstrategy.us)

--

Devin Krecl | Capitol Strategy Group, Inc.

2700 Cumberland Parkway, Suite 150, Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Office: (770) 435-5586 | Cell: (770) 655-9545

[devin@capitolstrategy.us](mailto:devin@capitolstrategy.us) | [www.capitolstrategy.us](http://www.capitolstrategy.us)