

2022 Georgia Legislative Update

HB 1348: Vaping and Tobacco Tax: Bans indoor vaping wherever indoor smoking is banned.

Vaping and Tobacco Study Committee SR 326:

There has been a study committee proposed by the three physician Senators via SR 326 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61085> to assess the human and financial costs of tobacco consumption. It is expected to inform movement on the issue in the post-election cycle session.

Network Adequacy: Georgia remains dead last in insurance network adequacy according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). There is a movement afoot to bring Georgia in compliance with NAIC standards for care and access. A bill has not been dropped but there is a likelihood that will change in the coming week or so. We expect the bill to take a novel approach to the issue.

\$85 Million for Medicaid: This is an appropriation inserted by the Governor intended to cover the elimination of the attestation requirements as original instated by the ACA. Additionally, the funding brings parity to the 102 ACA codes to the 2020 Medicare benchmark.

HB 867: Rep. Mark Newton (R)-Augusta: PBM bill that requires pharmacy benefits managers to disclose the true net cost and final net cost of prescription drugs to insureds and requires pharmacy benefits managers to calculate cost sharing requirements for insureds based on the true net cost of prescription drugs and remit the difference. This is the latest in a series of bills to reign in problematic PBM practices. The bill passed the House by a 166-1 vote and will be heard in Senate Insurance likely after March 15 crossover day.

SB 341: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R): Next step prior auth bill that requires that authorizations for chronic conditions be valid for the lesser of:

(A) One year from the date the healthcare provider receives the prior authorization; or

(B) Until the last day of coverage under the covered person's healthcare plan and cover any change in dosage prescribed by the healthcare provider during the period

of authorization. This bill passed the Senate committee unanimously and awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

HB 1402: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R): Would establish a grant program for primary care medical facilities in counties designated by the Department of Community Health (DCH) as health professional shortage areas. The grants max at \$200k. This reminded me of a recent conversation with our Dublin area members who are seeing similar shortages in oncologists and may be able to be amended to include similar support if our members would regard as useful.

HB 1351: Rep. David Knight (R): PBM next step legislation that moves PBM management for CMO's under DCH.

SB 487: Sen. Sheila McNeil (R): Provides that diagnostic breast examinations shall not be treated less favorably than screening mammography for breast cancer with respect to cost-sharing requirements.