



## [History Chart](#)

The fifth week of the 2026 Georgia legislative session is now behind us and several big developments, especially with regards to scaling back the state income tax, have occurred. These bills, alongside the House's homestead exemption efforts, await further action in the General Assembly's lower chamber.

### *Major Bills to Note*

**[SB 476](#) - Sen. Blake Tillery:** The "Income Tax Reduction Act of 2026," would reduce the income tax rate to 4.99% for individuals, corporations, and electing partnerships. The bill also increases the standard deduction to \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly and \$50,000 for single filers. Lastly, the bill would provide a sunset date of January 1, 2032, for all credits against Georgia taxable net income and would repeal various industry-specific income tax credits and sales and use tax exemptions.

- Bill **PASSES** through Finance Committee and **PASSES** through the Senate on February 12th, 2026

**[HR 1114](#)** and **[HB 1116](#)** were both heard in a subcommittee in House Ways and Means. The committee meetings were hearing only and we expect them to bring the bills back on Tuesday of next week, this time allowing for public testimony. There was a substitute that was discussed and we anticipate them to continue to make changes to the resolution and bill before there is further movement.

## Healthcare Specific Legislation

**[HB 1273](#) - Rep. Angie O’Steen:** No action taken so far in House Health. The bill adds “physician pediatrist” to the code in reference to a podiatrist and contains language relating to physician assistants, so as to authorize physician assistants to receive certain delegated authorities from podiatric physicians.

**[HB 1088](#) - Rep. Karen Mathiak:** This bill revises the term “chiropractor” to “chiropractic physician”. It has been assigned to House Health but no action has been taken in committee.

**[SB 411](#) - Sen. Shawn Still:** This bill passed the Senate and has been assigned to House Health. This bill regulates dry needling in Georgia by limiting the practice to licensed acupuncturists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists who meet specific training requirements. It also sets advertising rules, outlines consultation and education standards, and allows licensing boards to discipline violations.

**[SB 462](#) - Sen. Shawn Still:** Passed out of Senate Health and Human Services. This bill, the “Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act,” protects patients from unexpected out-of-network ambulance bills by requiring health plans to cover emergency ambulance services and limiting what patients can be charged. It sets minimum reimbursement rates for out-of-network ambulance providers and ensures patients pay no more than their normal in-network cost-sharing amounts.

**[SB 220](#) - Sen. Matt Brass:** This bill came over from last year and has already passed the Senate, and has now passed House Regulated Industries. The “Putting Georgia’s Patients First Act” updates Georgia’s medical cannabis laws by renaming “low THC oil” to “medical cannabis,” revising related criminal penalties and exemptions, and clarifying the role of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission. It also updates qualifying medical conditions, adjusts card renewal rules, and ensures lawful possession of medical cannabis is excluded from the Georgia Controlled Substances Act.

**[HB 54](#) - Rep. David Clark:** The Senate agreed to the House amendments from last year that were added on Sine Die 2025.

This bill allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) to order home health services, create treatment plans, and determine medical necessity for equipment and supplies, roles previously limited to physicians. It updates state law to include APRNs and PAs across home healthcare oversight, adds training requirements, restricts referral conflicts of interest, and aims to expand access to home-based care in Georgia.

## House Appropriations on Health (2/11/26)

### Department of Community Health

#### FY2027

##### Systematic Changes

- \$121,676 Increase funds for 8 Katie Beckett Medicaid caseworks
- \$20,000 Increase funds for \$3,000 salary enhancements
- \$65,000 Increase funds for one position in Medical Assistance Plans
- -\$300,000 Decrease one time funds for submission of State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to change any rules necessary for the use of Medicaid for Graduate Medical Education slots
- -\$37,000 Decrease one time funds for protective equipment
- \$99,000 Increase funds for one criminal investigator
- -\$250,000 Decrease one time funding for telecare and maternal health programs
- -\$407,000 Decrease one time funding to establish a regional vascular center allowed by the passage of HB1339
- -\$3,000,000 Decrease one time funding for behavioral and mental health services stabilization and augmentation

##### Medicaid Changes

- \$283,500,00 Increases funds for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization
- -\$83,700,000 Decrease funds to adjust in the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage)
- \$5,100,000 Increase funds for skilled nursing centers to reflect 2024 cost reports
- \$33,000,000 Increase funds for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums
- \$11,000,000 Increase funds for the Medicare Part D CLawback payment
- -\$11,800,000 Decrease funds for new high cost drugs based on projected utilization
- \$2,000,000 Increase funds for ambulance provider feeds based on projected revenue

##### State Health Benefit Plan

- -\$1,800,000 Decrease in State Health Benefit Plan

### Department of Public Health

#### FY2027

- \$70,600 Increase in TeamWorks Adjustment
- \$4,200 Increase in TRS Adjustment

- -\$40,000 Decrease in FMAP Adjustment
- -\$180,000 Decrease in Department of Administrative Services Risk Pool Adjustment
- -\$400,000 Decrease in Georgia Technology Authority Adjustment
- -\$14,430,000 Decrease in State Health Benefit Plan Adjustment
- \$1,155,000 to fund improvements and renovations to district offices and public health laboratories
- \$2,000,000 in State Funds for Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services: expands home visiting to 21 counties that have a high incidence of preterm births, low birth weights, and Medicaid covered births
- Transfers funds and positions to establish the Georgia Public Health Laboratory program to consolidate statewide laboratory services, align program structure with agency responsibility, and reduce administrative burden