

Legislative Scorecard 2021

During each legislative session, there are hundreds of bills that Georgia's General Assembly members deliberate on. Tracking all of them is a herculean task, and here we present bill trackers for some select pieces of legislation that effects science and technology or should utilize science and technology.

Each General Assembly Session lasts for two years. Right now, we are in the middle of the 2021-2022 session. The legislators have adjourned for the year, but bills that have not passed are still available to be considered in 2022.

As a nonprofit organization, our motives for this type of information gathering are to disseminate scientific knowledge to public and not to support or reject specific legislation. Instead, we have created a rubric to evaluate the science utilized in the legislation.

There are many things to consider aside from “scientific scope” such as economics, politics, pragmatism, fairness, morality, and cost. We encourage you to think about legislation from all angles. Herein, find information from the science point-of-view. It should be but one factor when considering legislation.

Evaluation Rubric

Criteria	Variables			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	Follows Science Yes, this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		Does Not Utilize Science No, this does not present scientific research accurately. Here's why....	
Stakeholder Perception Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative Majority of stakeholders disagree		Positive Majority of stakeholders agree	
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	No Impact No impact on target audience.	Narrow Impact Impacts narrow segment.	Majority Impact Impacts majority; exceptions.	All Impacted Affects all target audience equally
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	No Ability to Track There is no data and it is not accessible	Limited Ability to Track A minimal amount of data exists and is accessible.	Mostly Trackable A majority of the data exists and is accessible	Complete Transparency All data available to track metrics

Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	Majority Opposed Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	Party-Line Split Vote along party-lines.	Majority in Favor Few dissenting votes.	Complete Consensus Zero to five 'Nays'
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Budget

The budget controls what happens in Georgia. If there isn't money put aside for a program, or if it is underfunded, it becomes an "unfunded mandate" or "wishful thinking." Unlike the Federal Government, the Georgia Government must balance it's budget, there is no deficit spending.

The Georgia Policy and Budget Institute has comprehensive information on budget, check out their [Overview of the 2022 Budget](#) that was passed in 2021.

Food

Food insecurity is one of Science for Georgia's three main focuses areas this year. There was minimal legislation around food and food security this year.

<Georgia Food>

Education

Education is another of Science for Georgia's three main focuses areas this year. Below, find information on selected pieces of legislation.

<Top Education Bills>

Healthcare

Given the Covid-19 Pandemic, there was a particular focus on healthcare this year. Nothing fuels innovation like a crisis, and many pieces of legislation were proposed to address, make-permanent, and/or react to solutions that were implemented and tried during the past year.

<Which ones?>

Water

Water is the last of Science for Georgia's three main focuses areas this year. Our friends at Protect Georgia maintain [a comprehensive water legislation tracker](#). While their tracker offers outright support or opposition, many of the issues being tracked have been independently researched by Science for Georgia and you can learn more about them on our [Water Stewardship Page](#).