

# HB 1089 – Make Ivermectin Over-the-Counter (OTC)

## Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 1089](#)- This bill allows ivermectin to be purchased over-the-counter (OTC), without consulting a healthcare professional. The bill also removes ivermectin from definitions of dangerous drugs.

Criteria	Variables			
<b>Impact</b> <b>Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders &amp; opinions.</b>	<b>Negative</b>		Positive	
	Improper use carries risks. Ivermectin is intended for use as directed by a doctor. Dosage varies for different patients and intended use. The medicine also has side effects, including the potential for brain and nerve problems. Safety has not been established in the pediatric population ( <a href="#">Mayo Clinic, 2026</a> ). Use for COVID-19 treatment (which is ineffective) may increase complication costs ( <a href="#">Chua et al., 2022</a> ).			
<b>Reach</b> <b>Does it reach its target audience?</b>	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	<b>2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.</b>	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	Changing to over-the-counter distribution allows all Georgians to access ivermectin without consultation with a healthcare provider as to its use. However, ivermectin is rarely sold over-the-counter. In the 15 states where it is allowed, as the Food and Drug Administration has not approved its use ( <a href="#">Edwards, 2025</a> ).			
<b>Scientific Merit</b> <b>Does it utilize scientific research accurately?</b>	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		<b>NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.</b>	
	There is little scientific evidence supporting the necessity of this bill. Ivermectin is currently a prescription drug for specific parasitic infections. A review by Descotes ( <a href="#">2021</a> ) concludes that while ivermectin has a favorable safety profile for parasitic diseases, any expansion to new indications (such as COVID19) would require more research. Moreover, a recent research summation ( <a href="#">Navarro, 2020</a> ) suggests that even though safety in high doses is comparable with that of the standard dose, there is little evidence to support a recommendation to take ivermectin in higher than recommended dose, which is a risk if it is to become OTC medicine.			

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<b>Financial Feasibility</b> <b>Is it financially feasible?</b> <b>or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?</b>	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	<b>3 - No financial burden</b>
	Insurers wastefully spent \$129.7 million annually on ineffective ivermectin prescriptions for COVID-19. The true amount may be higher, as using an ineffective drug as a substitute for COVID-19 treatment may increase complication costs. Making ivermectin over the counter may reduce these costs, but may increase unnecessary HSA/FSA coverage or Medicare Advantage coverage ( <a href="#">Chua et al., 2022</a> ).			
<b>Political Feasibility</b> <b>Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.</b>	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	<b>1 – Split along party lines</b>	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	The bill is Republican sponsored, and has been led by Republicans in other states where it is approved ( <a href="#">Edwards, 2025</a> )			
<b>Measurable Metrics?</b> <b>We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?</b>	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	<b>3 - complete transparency</b>
	The evidence disproving the necessity of this bill can be found in toxicology reports, surveillance data, among other medical literature.			