



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

January, 31, 2025

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Week 3 (Legislative Days 6-9)

State of the Judiciary

On Tuesday, January 28, Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs delivered his third State of the Judiciary address to the General Assembly. The Chief Justice addressed a range of topics including the need to enhance judicial security measures and training as well as an initiative to address the shortage of court reporters by giving judges the option to use digital recording for the takedown of certain proceedings. He also highlighted the dangers and opportunities presented by Artificial Intelligence, legal deserts in Georgia, and improving court data. To watch or read the speech, visit the Supreme Court's website [here](#).

Appropriations

The Governor's Budget Report was released on Thursday, January 16, and the Amended FY25 Budget will be [HB 67](#) while the FY26 General Budget will be [HB 68](#). This year's Joint Appropriations Committee meetings, scheduled for January 21 – 23, were disrupted by the winter weather. On Monday, January 27, the new House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee met on the Amended FY25 Budget.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 3, for Legislative Day 10.

This report is a compilation of items acted on this week affecting Georgia's judiciary. To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries and previous reports, please visit <https://georgiacourts.gov/legislation/>.

Judicial Council Supported Bills

[HB 132 - Council of Municipal Court Judges; office of senior municipal court judge; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

A bill establishing the office of Senior Municipal Court Judge as a position which can be held by former municipal court judges. The bill would allow such senior judges to become members of the Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia.

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/28/25).

[HB 179 - Appellate practice; digital recording of certain trial proceedings; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

A bill authorizing digital takedown in courts as well as rules and regulations to govern such use.

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 180 - Probate courts; modify certain requirements for probate judges](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

A bill requiring a separate affidavit that addresses additional qualifications for probate court judges in counties with a population of 90,000 or more, as set in OCGA § 15-9-4.

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 199 - Courts; protection of personally identifiable information of judges and their spouses; modify provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Trey Kelley (R – Cedartown)

This legislation amends the processes outlined in SB 508 (2024) to support its successful implementation.

Action: Introduced (1/30/25).

Other Bills

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[SB 27 - Stalking; offense of doxxing; penalties; protective order; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/28/25).

[SB 29 - DNA Sampling, Collection, and Analysis; collection of DNA samples of individuals arrested for the commission of a felony at the time such individuals are booked or otherwise processed by a detention facility; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/28/25).

[SB 32 - Obstruction of Public Administration; convicted of doing violence in the obstruction or hindering of law enforcement officers; provide for a mandatory minimum sentence](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/28/25).

[SB 37 - "AI Accountability Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Economic Development and Tourism committee (1/28/25).

[SB 42 - Penalties for Violating Code 16-6-9 through 16-6-12; certain penalty provisions for the offense of prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, and pandering; repeal](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/29/25).

[SB 46 - Government Serves the People Act; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee (1/29/25).

[SB 48 - Disclosure and Dissemination of Criminal Records; a judicial procedure for purging a person's involuntary hospitalization information; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/29/25).

[SB 49 - Carrying and Possession of Firearms; offense of making a firearm accessible to a child; establish](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/29/25).

[SB 61 - Delinquency; additional offenses over which superior courts are authorized to exercise exclusive original jurisdiction; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Greg Dolezal (R – Cumming)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[SB 68 – Civil Practice; substantive and comprehensive revision of provisions regarding civil practice, evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: Introduced (1/30/25).

[SB 69 – "Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: Introduced (1/30/25).

[HB 36 - Guardian and ward; revise list of providers who are authorized to participate in the processes for appointment of a guardian for an adult](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

Action: HB 36 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (1/28/25).

[HB 55 - Alapaha Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide for an additional judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (1/28/25); Recommitted to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 109 - Mental health; five-year pilot program for the purpose of creating emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing units or EmPATH units in hospitals; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep Imani Barnes (D – Tucker)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public and Community Health Committee (1/27/25).

[HB 119 - Brady Law Regulations; bringing an action against the government for an unauthorized act relating to regulation of weapons; revise standards](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Charlice Byrd (R – Woodstock)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security committee (1/28/2025).

[HB 120 - Crimes and offenses; preemption of local regulation and lawsuits relative to firearms, ammunition, and other weapons; provide for a definition](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Charlice Byrd (R – Woodstock)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (1/28/25).

[HB 123 - Criminal procedure; pretrial proceedings in capital offense cases where the death penalty is sought when the accused has an intellectual disability; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R – Glennville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil committee (1/28/25).

[HB 125 - Crimes and offenses; online menacing of a peace officer; provide for offense](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mike Cameron (R – Rossville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil committee (1/28/25).

[HB 147 - Georgia Technology Authority; annual inventory of artificial intelligence usage by state agencies; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Woodstock)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee (1/29/25).

[HB 160 - Carroll County; State Court; provide additional judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (1/29/25).

[HB 161 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; authority to issue subpoenas of electronic communication records for purposes of investigating certain cyber enabled treats to life and property; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Lake Jackson)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (1/29/25).

[HR 162 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; restriction and seal of First Offender Act sentences until such status is revoked; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Leesa Hagan (R – Lyons)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (1/29/25).

[HB 171 - Crimes and offenses; obscenity; repeal and replace Code Section 16-12-80](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Holly Springs)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 174 - Centerville, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bethany Ballard (R – Warner Robins)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 176 - Appeal and error; judgments deemed directly appealable; change a provision](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 177 - Domestic relations; protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary committee (1/30/25).

[HB 181 - Vital records; issuance of a Certificate of Foreign Birth by the state registrar without a judicial order if certain criteria is satisfied; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Powder Springs)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 183 - Innkeepers; expand liens to cover property removed from a room upon the termination of a guest's contract](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R – Marietta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 188 - Criminal procedure; extend certain protections for victims of family violence and stalking with respect to residential leases](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marvin Lim (D – Norcross)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 189 - Notaries public; limitations regarding certain notarial acts; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marvin Lim (D – Norcross)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

[HB 191 - Family violence; substitute service when respondent is avoiding service to delay a hearing; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Angela Moore (D – Stonecrest)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/30/25).

Bill summaries are available through our legislative tracking website, which you may access via <https://georgiacourts.gov/legislation/>.

Next Week's Legislative Schedule

Monday, February 3, 2025 – Legislative Day 10

10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
4 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – Legislative Day 11

10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	Senate Children and Families	307 CLOB

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – Legislative Day 12

8 AM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP
10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP

Thursday, February 6, 2025 – Legislative Day 13

10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
2 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 7, 2025 – Recess

No meetings scheduled.

The committee schedule is subject to change at the legislature's discretion. For the most current committee schedule information, please go to legis.ga.gov/schedule/all.