



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 7, 2025

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Week 4 (Legislative Days 10-13)

The General Assembly convened Monday through Thursday this week, for Legislative Days 10-13.

Appropriations

On Thursday, February 6, the House of Representatives voted on and passed their substitute to [HB 67](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget (see House Tracking Sheet [here](#)). The bill was immediately transmitted to the Senate. On Wednesday, February 12, the Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the AFY25 Budget at 1:30 pm. Now that the House has voted on the Amended Budget, we will be on the lookout for notice of meetings on the General Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 10, for Legislative Day 14.

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 georgiacourts.gov/legislation.

Judicial Council Supported Bills

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/4/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (2/4/25).

Other Bills

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[SB 07 - Jails; certain municipal corporations make municipal detention facilities or jails available for use by a sheriff; require](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/6/25).

[SB 08 - Courts; arrest warrant requirements when juvenile courts are acting as courts of inquiry; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/4/25).

[SB 16 - Public Officials; bail bond business; modify provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

Action: Passed by the Senate (2/3/25); Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/4/25).

[SB 66 - Crimes; persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes of family violence from receiving, possessing, or transporting a firearm; prohibit](#)

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

Action: Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/3/25).

[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 and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/3/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/3/25).

[SB 74 - Harmful Materials to Minors; exemption for libraries and librarians from the provisions of Code Section 16-12-103; repeal](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Max Burns (R – Sylvania)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee (2/4/25).

[SB 75 - Speed Detection Devices and Red Light Cameras; standards for signs warning of a reduced speed limit in a school zone and signs warning of the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Max Burns (R – Sylvania)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/4/25).

[SB 88 - Douglas Judicial Circuit; a fourth judge of the superior courts; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen Timothy J. Bearden (R – Carrollton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[SB 90 - Notaries Public; the modernization of certain legal, notarial, and court services using electronic means; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee (2/5/25).

[SB 92 - "Georgia Red Flag Protective Order Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Nikki Merritt (D – Grayson)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[SB 96 - Official Code of Georgia Annotated; provisions creating certain boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, and other such bodies; update and modernize](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Drew Echols (R – Gainesville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee (2/5/25).

[SB 97 - Eavesdropping; limitations regarding the use of electronic monitoring devices; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[SB 98 - Guardian and Ward; county conservators; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/6/25).

[SB 99 - Crimes and Offenses; definition of law enforcement officer; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/6/25).

[SB 102 - Dogfighting; revise provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R- Cataula)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/6/25).

[SB 104 - State Government; use or installation of any artificial intelligence system on state equipment when the company that developed or deployed such artificial intelligence](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee (2/6/25).

[SB 110 - Definitions Relative to the Juvenile Code; definition of neglect and to provide for new definitions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 32 - Cook County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chas Cannon (R – Moultrie)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee; Passed by the House (2/5/25); Assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 33 - Cook County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chas Cannon (R – Moultrie)

Action: Passed by House (2/5/25); Assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 39 - Habersham County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)

Action: Passed by House (2/5/25); Assigned to the Senate and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/6/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (2/4/25).

[HB 75 - Justice for Peanut and Fred Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jordan Ridley (R – Woodstock)

Action: Withdrawn from the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and recommitted to the Game, Fish and Parks Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 77 - Motor vehicles; encountering funeral procession on two-lane highway; revise responsibilities](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Lehman Franklin (R – Statesboro)

Action: Received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/4/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee (2/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by House (2/5/25); Assigned to Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by House (2/5/25); Assigned to Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 194 - Crimes and offenses; justification for use of force in defense of self or others; revise standards](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/25).

[HB 195 - Watercraft; require probable cause for summonses and boarding vessels](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jordan Ridley (R – Woodstock)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/25).

[HB 207 - Firearms; storage within a motor vehicle or vessel; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Omari Crawford (D – Decatur)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee (2/3/25).

[HB 214 - Evidence; creative and artistic expression evidence is inadmissible at trial; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Eric Bell (D – Jonesboro)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/25).

[HB 222 - Criminal procedure; inclusion of certain contact information on bonds and recognizances; require](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R – Bonaire)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/4/25).

[HB 225 - Motor vehicles; enforcement of speeding violations in school zones through automated traffic enforcement safety devices; repeal all laws](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Dale Washburn (R – Macon)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/4/25).

[HB 227 - Putting Georgia's Patients First Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Robert Dickey (R – Musella)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Health Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 237 - Evidence; admissibility of creative or artistic expression evidence at trial; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R – Dalton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 238 – Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; create and maintain an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security (2/6/25).

[HB 239 - Motor vehicles; placement of a special identifying sticker on the windshields of alternative fueled vehicles; require](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 242 - Crimes and offenses; disorderly or disruptive conduct at any funeral or memorial service; include religious worship and observance](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R – Sandy Springs)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 246 - Courts; office of sheriff and training of peach officers; revise qualification requirements](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 253 - Ethan's Law; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. David Clark 9R- Buford)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 256 - Social services; foster parents bill of rights; revise provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (R – Watkinsville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 268 - Education; safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Holt Persinger (R – Winder)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Education Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 270 - Eviction Service and Airplane Evictions Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 283 - Motor vehicles; issuance of a refusal to sign citation; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Yasmin Neal (D – Jonesboro)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 285 - Law enforcement agencies; judicial procedure for purging a person's involuntary hospitalization information; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Buckner (D – Junction City)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 288 - Appeal and error; declaratory judgments in instances involving accusations made by a prosecuting attorney regarding credibility of a peace officer; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep Houston Gaines (R- Athens)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 289 - Courts; remote online notaries public and remote online notarizations; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 296 - Motor vehicles; presentation of a driver's license in a certain electronic format; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep Houston Gaines (R- Athens)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 301 - The Time Served Act of 2025; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Carl Gilliard (D – Savannah)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/6/25).

[HB 304 - Local government; Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council; create](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Yeara (R – Sylvester)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/6/25).

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 10, 2025 – Legislative Day 14

10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
3:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – Legislative Day 15

10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – Legislative Day 16

10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:30 PM	Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee	125 CAP

Thursday, February 13, 2025 – Legislative Day 17

10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
2:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 14, 2025 – Recess

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.