



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 14, 2025

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Week 5 (Legislative Days 14-17)

The General Assembly convened Monday through Thursday this week, for Legislative Days 14-17.

Judicial Security

HB 199 passed the House (crossed over) unanimously on Wednesday, February 12. This bill amends the processes outlined in SB 508 (2024) to support successful implementation of the personally identifiable information (PII) protections. Passed in the previous biennium, SB 508 provides these protections for all current and former judges as well as their spouses. After House passage, HB 199 was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, February 13.

Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee met on Wednesday, February 12, to take up the AFY 2025 Budget. The House will begin hearings on the [FY 2026 General Budget](#) next week, with the House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 9 a.m.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, February 18, for Legislative Day 18.

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 85 - Superior Court Judicial Compensation Reform Act; enact](#)

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

A bill that implements the recommendations made in the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements (2023). The legislation sets a new compensation structure for superior court judges.

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (LC 47 3366S) (2/11/25).

[HB 86 - Public officers and employees; calculating and setting the salaries of certain state officials; revise provisions](#)

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

A bill that implements the recommendations made in the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements (2023). The legislation sets a new compensation structure for justices of the Supreme Court as well as judges of the Court of Appeals, State-wide Business Court, and Georgia Tax Court.

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

[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: House Passed by Substitute by vote of 165-0 (2/12/25).

[HB 426 - Courts; nonpartisan election of magistrates; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Kimberly New (R – Villa Rica)

This bill provides for the nonpartisan election of magistrate and probate court judges.

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/13/25).

[HR 251 - Local government; probate judges shall be elected in nonpartisan elections; provide – CA](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Kimberly New (R – Villa Rica)

This legislation provides for a Constitutional Amendment for the nonpartisan election of probate court judges.

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/13/25).

Other Bills

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 51-1 (2/10/25); Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/11/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/25); Passed by Senate by vote of 49-1 (2/13/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Local Consent Calendar 52-1 (2/12/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Local Consent Calendar 52-1 (2/12/25).

[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](#)

(Recommendation made by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission)

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

Action: House Passed by vote of 99-70 (2/13/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Local Consent Calendar 52-1 (2/12/25).

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

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

Action: House Passed by Substitute by vote of 166-1 (2/12/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Local Consent Calendar 52-1 (2/12/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Local Consent Calendar 52-1 (2/12/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[SB 09 - "Ensuring Accountability for Illegal AI Activities Act"; enact](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/25).

[SB 10 - Superior Courts of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit; additional judge](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Russ Goodman (R – Cogdell)

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/2025);

Recommitted to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/12/25).

[SB 12 - Inspection of Public Records; documents and records in the possession of private persons or entities; revise provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville)

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (*LC 49 2233ECS*) (2/10/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/11/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[SB 116 - DNA Sampling; the collection of DNA samples from any individual in a detention facility charged with a misdemeanor or felony who is subject to an immigration detainer notice; require](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Anthony Bearden (R – Carrollton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/25).

[SB 117 - Public Officers and Employees; a misdemeanor offense for violations regarding complaints by public employees; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Government Oversight Committee (2/11/25).

[SB 132 - Insanity and Mental Incapacity; hearing before a court orders an evaluation of the mental competency of an accused person to stand trial; require](#)

(Recommendation made by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

[SB 137 - City of Mulberry; provisions related to jurisdiction of the municipal court; revise](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/13/25).

[SB 145 - Augusta Judicial Circuit; a sixth judge of the superior courts; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/12/25).

[SB 159 - Criminal Procedure; pretrial proceedings in capital offense cases where the death penalty is sought when the accused has intellectual disability; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kim Jackson (D – Stone Mountain)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/13/25).

[SB 160 - Reckless Stunt Driving; a motor vehicle involved in a second offense of reckless stunt driving; replace the forfeiture penalty](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/13/25).

[SB 163 - Brady Law Regulations; standards for bringing an action against the government for an unauthorized act relating to regulation of weapons; revise](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Colton Moore (R – Trenton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/13/25).

[SB 165 - Minors; social media and internet safety; account termination upon the request of minors or their parents or guardians; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Children and Families (2/13/25).

[SB 166 - Counties; ordinances for governing and policing unincorporated areas of counties; revise provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/13/25).

[SB 173 - Pleadings and Motions; movants to file notices of uncontested motions in superior courts and state courts; authorize](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Josh McLaurin (D – Sandy Springs)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/14/25).

[SB 174 - Conduct of Proceedings in Criminal Trials; legislative intent; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Josh McLaurin (D – Sandy Springs)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/14/25).

[SB 176 - "Victims of Wrongful Incarceration Compensation Act"; establish](#)

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

Action: Senate Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 306 - Labor and industrial relations; cause of action for workplace harassment and retaliation; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tanya Miller (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Industry & Labor Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 315 - Law Enforcement Partners Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 318 - Appeal and error; appeal of superior court decisions on zoning decisions of counties and municipal corporations; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 319 - Crimes and offenses; illegal aliens; penalties for state and local officials and employees for noncompliance; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. David Clark (R – Buford)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 327 - Official Code of Georgia Annotated; amend various titles](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 331 - Animals; prohibit transfer of certain domestic animals at certain locations](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 339 - Motor vehicles; exempt ride share drivers or ride share network services from definition of motor carrier](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/10/25).

[HB 344 - Motor vehicles; school bus cameras; revise penalty amount for violations captured by recorded images](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Don Parsons (R – Marietta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 354 - Evidence; exclude certain communications made between attorney and client when client is in a penal institution](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Esther Panitch (D – Sandy Springs)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 363 - Crimes and offenses; criminal trespass; include religious worship and observance or acknowledging the death of an individual](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 368 - De-escalation Right To Know Law; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Dexter Sharper (D – Valdosta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 378 - State courts of counties; online publishing of terms; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 379 - Courts; divorce actions; provide certain lien protections](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25).

[HB 390 - HALO Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tim Fleming (R – Covington)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/12/25).

[HB 392 - Georgia Tax Court; certain events; revise dates](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Martin (R – Alpharetta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/12/25).

[HB 406 - Judicial Retirement System; increase retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/12/25).

[HB 414 - Elections; "person" to include certain nonresidents; revise definition](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Todd Jones (R – South Forsyth)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 421 - Interstate Sexual Predator Prevention Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Darlene Taylor (R – Thomasville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 427 - Property; notice to owner and deed holder when another deed is filed by another party; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Teddy Reese (D – Columbus)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 430 - Sexual Offender Risk Review Board; venue for certain petitions regarding state sexual offender registry; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Steven Sainz (R – St. Mary's)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 434 - Crimes and offenses; offense of selling a child for financial gain; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 435 - Crimes and offenses; sexual exploitation of children; expand limitations to include Division of Family and Children Services](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 441 - Georgia Prenatal Equal Protection Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (R – Gillsville)

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 447 - Crimes and offenses; crimes of gift card theft, gift card forgery, and gift card fraud; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 452 - Firearms; persons convicted of family violence offenses cannot possess or purchase; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Shea Roberts (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 453 - Georgia Red Flag Protective Order Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Shea Roberts (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 458 - Controlled substances; possession of four grams or more of fentanyl; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Terry Cummings (D – Mableton)

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

[HB 460 - Evidence; exclude certain communications made between attorney and client when client is in a penal institution](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Ester Panitch (D – Sandy Springs)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/13/25).

[HB 464 - Crimes and offenses; immunity for a prospective offender while seeking assistance from law enforcement as a victim of certain offenses; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/14/25).

To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries, please visit engagifiweb.com/jcaoc.

Monday, February 17, 2025 – Recess

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Legislative Day 18

9 AM	House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee	606 CLOB
11 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
1 PM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
3 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil Hong Subcommittee	132 CAP

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – Legislative Day 19

10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	House Public Safety and Homeland Security	506 CLOB
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
3 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP

Thursday, February 20, 2025 – Legislative Day 20

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

Friday, February 21, 2025 – Legislative Day 21

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

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.