



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 21, 2025

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Week 6 (Legislative Days 18-21)

The General Assembly convened Tuesday through Friday this week, for Legislative Days 18-21.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

Multiple pieces of Judicial Council-supported legislation made progress in Week 6. On Wednesday, February 19, [HB 530](#), which allows for e-filing in probate court proceedings, was introduced. On Thursday, February 20, both judicial compensation reform bills, [HB 85](#) and [HB 86](#), passed the House. [HB 426](#), legislation providing for the nonpartisan election of magistrate court judges, passed the House Judiciary Committee. The probate version requiring a constitutional amendment, [HR 251](#), also passed the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday. See below for more details on the week's developments.

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee held a meeting on the FY26 General Budget on Tuesday, February 18. The next step for the General Budget will be a meeting before the full House Appropriations Committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to hold a meeting on the Amended FY25 Budget on Monday, February 24 at 8:00 a.m.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 24, for Legislative Day 22.

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: Passed by the House by vote of 163-7 (2/20/25).

[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 justice of the Supreme Court as well as judges of the Court of Appeals, State-wide Business Court, and Georgia Tax Court.

Action: Passed by the House by vote of 167-6 (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: No action was taken (Hearing Only) by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[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 court judges.

Action: Withdrawn from the House Government Affairs Committee and Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee (2/19/25); Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 530 - Courts; authorization for electronic filing of pleadings in probate court; provide](#)

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

This bill provides for e-filing in probate court proceedings.

Action: House Hopper (2/19/25); Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

Other Bills

Floor Votes

[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: Passed by the Senate by Substitute as Amended by vote of 33-21 (2/21/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee (2/18/25); Passed by the Senate by vote of 35-18 (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/18/25); Passed by the Senate by vote of 50-0 (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the Senate by substitute by vote of 49-3 (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee; Passed by the Senate (2/19/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by vote of 172-0 (2/20/25).

[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: House Passed by Substitute by vote of 172-0 (2/19/25).

[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); Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/11/25); House Passed by Substitute by vote of 172-0 (2/19/25).

[HR 310 - Veal, Judge Holly W.; outstanding public service; commend](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mary Ann Santos (D – McDonough)

Action: Introduced and adopted by House (2/20/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[SB 28 - "Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025"; enact](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee (2/19/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Government Oversight Committee (2/20/25).

[SB 51 - State, County, and Municipal Road Systems; contracting procedures related to the acquisition of certain professional services by counties and municipalities; revise](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/18/25).

[SB 79 - "Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act"; enact](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee (2/13/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/18/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/18/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Motor Vehicles Committee (2/18/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[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: Withdrawn from the House Judiciary Committee and Recommitted to the House Retirement Committee (2/18/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/18/25).

[SB 172 - Speed Detection Devices; all laws relative to enforcement of speeding violations in school zones through the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices; repeal](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Derek Mallow (D – Savannah)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/25).

[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: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/18/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/18/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/18/25).

[SB 215 - State Bar of Georgia; responsibilities of the administrative arm of the Supreme Court relative to the practice of law in this state; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[SB 216 - Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership in the system for individuals employed as the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Retirement Committee (2/20/25).

[SB 218 - Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; shall be assigned for administrative purposes only to the Administrative Office of the Courts; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[SB 184 - "Georgia Anti-Squatting Act of 2025"; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/19/25).

[SB 202 - Discovery; discovery in misdemeanor cases; change provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/20/25).

[SB 224 - "Donna's Law;" enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Sally Harrell (D – Atlanta)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/25).

[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: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/19/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/19/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/25).

[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: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/25).

[HB 482 - Courts; superior court judicial officers in certain judicial circuits; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/19/25).

[HB 483 - Crimes and offenses; protections for inspectors of code enforcement; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Brian Prince (D – Augusta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary-Non Civil Committee (2/19/25).

[HB 494 - General Assembly; digitization and electronic publication of Georgia Laws; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Code Revision Committee (2/19/25).

[HB 497 - Penal institutions; inmate be allowed to dress in plain clothes during trial proceedings; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jasmine Clark (D – Lilburn)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/19/25).

[HB 510 - Domestic relations; duration of child support for postsecondary education; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Derrick Jackson (D – Tyrone)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 515 - Augusta Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide for a sixth judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 518 - Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2025; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Scott Holcomb (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 525 - Criminal procedure; discovery in misdemeanor cases; change provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 527 - Domestic relations; creation and revisions of certain child abuse protocol procedures for cases of alleged child abuse; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Long Tran (D – Dunwoody)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 530 - Courts; authorization for electronic filing of pleadings in probate court; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 531 - Appeal and error; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state or a city or county in this state; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 533 - Wrongful Conviction Compensation Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Katie Dempsey (R – Rome)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 535 - Penal institutions; credit for time served regarding probation revocation sentencing; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/20/25).

[HB 538 – Schley County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mike Cheokas (R – Americus)

Action: House Hopper (2/20/25).

[HB 545 - Terry Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jones (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/20/25).

[HB 552 - Brittany Patterson Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Noelle Kahaian (R – Locust Grove)

Action: House Hopper (2/20/25).

[HB 553 -Taylor County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Patty Stinson (D – Butler)

Action: House Hopper (2/20/25).

[HB 557 - Northeastern Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for a sixth judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville)

Action: House Hopper (2/20/25).

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

Monday, February 24, 2025 – Legislative Day 22

8 AM	Senate Appropriations	450 CAP
9 AM	House Rules	341 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
4 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – Committee Work Day

1 PM	Senate Children and Families	307 CLOB
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Wednesday, February 26, 2025 – Legislative Day 23

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 27, 2025 – Legislative Day 24

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 28, 2025 – Legislative Day 25

10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate 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.