



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 28, 2025

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Week 7 (Legislative Days 22-25)

The General Assembly convened Monday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 22-25.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

Week 7 saw multiple judicial branch initiatives move closer to crossover. On Tuesday, February 25, [HB 132](#) and [HB 530](#) passed the House Judiciary Committee. HB 132 would establish the office of Senior Municipal Court Judge, and HB 530 provides for e-filing in probate court proceedings. On Thursday, February 27, [HB 179](#), legislation authorizing digital takedown in courts, also passed the House Judiciary Committee.

Appropriations

[HB 67](#), Amended FY25 Budget, passed the Senate on Wednesday, February 26 and was immediately transmitted to the House.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 3, for Legislative Day 26. Crossover Day, the day by which a bill must pass out of its originating chamber to continue through the legislative process, is Thursday, March 6 (Legislative Day 28).

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

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

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

Other Bills

Floor Votes

[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: Passed Senate by vote of 50-0 (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the Senate by a vote of 50-3 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 48-6 (2/28/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/26/25); Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (2/28/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 160-0 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by Substitute by a vote of 168-0 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by a vote of 169-0 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-1 (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by a vote of 166-0 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by a vote of 164-0 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed by the House by Substitute by a vote of 153-9 (2/26/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (2/27/25).

[HB 591 - Cleveland, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (2/27/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Substitute by vote of 49-0 (2/21/25); Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee (2/24/25).

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

Senate Sponsor: Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville)

Action: Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee (2/24/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 33-21 (2/24/25); Assigned to the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight committee (2/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/26/25).

[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: Assigned to the House Rules Committee (2/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Education and Youth Committee (2/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/26/25).

[SB 199 - State Ethics Commission; shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

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

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Retirement Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 233 - Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission; revise the subcommittees](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/24/25); Received a Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/26/25).

[SB 244 - Criminal Proceedings; the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in a criminal case to the defendant upon such defendant making a successful motion to disqualify the prosecuting attorney for misconduct in connection with the case; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/24/25); Introduced and Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/26/26).

[SB 245 - Grandparents; include within the category of persons who may seek to revoke or amend an existing grandparent visitation order](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Mike Hodges (R – Brunswick)

Action: Senate Hopper (2/24/25); Introduced and Assigned to the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/26/26).

[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: Assigned to the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/24/25).

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

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

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

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

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

Action: Assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/24/25).

[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 Substitute by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/25/25).

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

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

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

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

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

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

Action: Withdrawn and Recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/26/25).

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

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

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

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

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

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

[HB 582 - Georgia Survivor Justice Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/24/25).

[HB 585 - Insurance; motor vehicle policy; provide excluded driver](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jan Jones (R – Milton)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/24/25).

[HB 591 - Cleveland, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/24/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[SB 259 - Juvenile Code; certain procedures to be followed when there is a determination of suspected child abuse or neglect; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Children and families committee (2/27/25).

[SB 261 - Magistrates Retirement Fund; early retirement benefit; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Retirement Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 263 - Law Enforcement Powers of School Security; include a specified area surrounding school property; expand jurisdictional authority](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 268 - Offenses Against Public Order; crime of interference with a first responder; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 269 - Mental Illness; certain procedures and notifications for involuntary outpatient commitments; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 286 - Courts and Penal Institutions; substance abuse programs and mental health treatment programs in county and municipal jails for inmates; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/27/25).

[SB 296 - Uniform Rules of the Road; operation of a school bus while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; establish the offense](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/28/25).

[SB 298 - Judgements and Rulings; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/28/25).

[SB 299 - Notaries Public; members of the armed forces on active duty to use online notaries public for certain matters; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker, III (R – Perry)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee (2/28/25).

[HB 593 - Baker County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Gerald Greene (R – Cuthbert)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/26/25).

[HB 596 - Colquitt County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/26/25).

[HB 601 - Georgia Gun Safe Act of 2025; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/26/25).

[HB 603 - Banks County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chirs Erwin (R – Homer)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/26/25).

[HB 623 - Carroll County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 624 - Carroll County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 625 - Fulton County; State Court; provide additional judge](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 626 - Criminal procedure; extend retention period of evidence of sexual assault when victim elects not to immediately report assault](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Karen Lupton (D – Chamblee)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 627 - Courts; juvenile proceedings; use of a deadly weapon; revise a provision](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 636 - Crimes and offenses; sexual offenses; revise penalties](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mekya McQueen (D – Smyrna)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 639 - Courts; expedite and prioritize processes for termination of parental rights in certain cases involving parental incapacity and child maltreatment](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 651 - Motor vehicles; use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones; revise provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/26/25).

[HB 666 - Clayton Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for a sixth judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Demetrius Douglas (D – Stockbridge)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/28/25).

[HB 668 - Crimes and offenses; change references to assistance and guide dogs to service dogs](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee (2/28/25).

[HB 671 - Torts; right of action against any person who knowingly or negligently engages in sexually explicit conduct in the presence of a minor; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Carmen Rice (R – Columbus)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/28/25).

[HB 673 - Criminal procedure; limitations on bars to first offender treatment for certain minor offenders adjudicated as adults; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/28/25).

[HB 675 - Crimes and offenses; criminal offenses related to material support of terrorism; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Brent Cox (R – Dawsonville)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/27/25).

[HB 681 - Domestic relations; sealing of name change petitions upon request; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/28/25).

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

Monday, March 3, 2025 – Legislative Day 26

7:30 AM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
9 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10 AM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
1 PM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
4 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 – Legislative Day 27

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

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – Committee Work Day

12 PM	Senate Rules	450 CAP
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Thursday, March 6, 2025 – Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day)

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

Friday, March 7, 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.