



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 28, 2025

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Week 11 (Legislative Days 35-37)

The General Assembly convened Tuesday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 35-37, including a Committee Work Day on Wednesday.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

Four judicial branch initiatives made progress in the legislature this week. On Wednesday, March 26, [HB 179](#), legislation authorizing digital takedown in courts, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. Additionally, language from [HB 132](#), providing for the office of senior municipal court judges, was amended on to [HB 304](#) and also passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. On Friday, [HB 86](#), the judicial compensation reform bill for statewide courts, and [HB 85](#), the compensation reform bill for superior court judges, achieved Final Passage in the Senate.

Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the [FY26 General Budget](#) on Thursday, March 27, and then [HB 68](#) passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 48-7 on Friday, March 27. Once the House and Senate insist on their positions, the bill will move to a Conference Committee.

[Per SR 6](#), the General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 31, for Legislative Day 38. The final legislative day of the session, known as Sine Die, will be Friday, April 4.

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)

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

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 the Senate by a vote of 51-2 (3/28/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

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 Senate as Amended by vote of 45-10 (3/27/25); House Disagreed to Senate Amendment and Immediately Transmitted to the Senate; Senate Receded from its Amendment by vote of 46-2. **Final Passage.** (3/28/25)

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Matt Reeves

A bill creating the office of Senior Municipal Court Judge.

Action: Language of HB 132 was amended on to [HB 304](#) and Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

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

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

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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 House by vote of 169-0 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

[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: Senate agreed to House Substitute by vote of 51-0 (3/27/25). **Final Passage.**

[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: Passed House by vote of 100-69 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-2 (3/27/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: House agreed to Senate substitute by vote of 166-0 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: House agreed to Senate substitute by vote of 150-18 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 54-0 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/27/25). **Final Passage.**

[HB 701 - Terrell County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

[HB 722 - Bryan County; State Court; provide for a chief judge and an associate judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/25/25). **Final Passage.**

[HB 747 - Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/28/25). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: Passed House by Substitute by vote of 152-12 (3/27/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by Substitute by vote of 98-69 (3/27/25); Senate Agreed to House Substitute as Amended by vote of 52-0 (3/28/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by Substitute by vote 131-31; Senate Agreed to House Substitute by vote of 49-0 (3/28/25). **Final Passage.**

[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: Passed House by Substitute vote of 160-1 (3/28/25).

[SB 344 - Probate Court of Crawford County; assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/27/25).

[SB 345 - Magistrate Court of Crawford County; the assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/27/25).

[SB 350 - DeKalb County; certain judges, judicial officers, and county officers; revise the compensation](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 as amended (3/27/25).

[SB 351 - County of Treutlen; the salary of the judge and solicitor-general; change](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 52-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 747 - Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 170-0 (3/25/25).

[HB 774 - Dekalb County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 778 - Upson County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 781 - Crawford County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 785 - Crawford County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 790 - Macon County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

[HB 798 - Spalding County; State Court; modernize, update, and readopt provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Karen Mathiak (R – Griffin)

Action: Passed House by vote of 164-0 (3/27/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

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

Original language replaced with language from HB 199 and HB 482.

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by House Judiciary (3/26/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/25/25).

[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 Committee Substitute by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/26/25).

[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 House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/27/25).

[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 Hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/25/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/25/25).

[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 Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/27/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (3/26/25).

[SB 204 - Criminal Procedure; offenses that are not serious violent felonies, sexual felonies, or other certain offenses to be charged by accusation of the district attorney; allow](#)

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

Substitute language from [SB 163](#) was added to this bill.

Action: Received a Do Pass by substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/25/25).

[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](#)

Substitute language from [HB 533](#) was added to this bill.

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/28/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/27/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

[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 Substitute by the Senate Science & Technology Committee (3/28/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/27/25).

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

Language from [HB 132](#) was added to this bill.

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

[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 Senate Transportation Committee (3/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

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

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

Action: Received a Hearing Only by the House Judiciary Non-Civil committee (3/26/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

[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 Committee Substitute by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/27/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee (3/26/2025).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[SB 354 - Torts; cause of action for appropriating an individual's indicia of identity; provide](#)

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

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

[HB 818 - Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership for each judge employed full time in the Georgia Tax Court; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Retirement Committee (3/25/25).

[HB 821 - Criminal procedure; include aggravated assault as a bailable offense only before a superior court judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Matthew Gambill (R – Cartersville)

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

[HB 837 - Richmond County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. L.C. Myles (D – Hephzibah)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/25/25).

[HB 857 - Cobb County; State Court; chief deputy clerk and clerk; change salary](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/25/25).

[HB 858 - Cobb County; State Court; change compensation and number of certain staff of solicitor-general](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/25/25).

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

Monday, March 31, 2025 – Legislative Day 38

8:30 AM	Senate Rules	450 CAP
9 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 – Committee Work Day

12:30 PM	Senate Rules	450 CAP
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Wednesday, April 2, 2025 – Legislative Day 39

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

Thursday, April 3, 2025 – Committee Work Day

No meetings scheduled		
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Friday, April 4, 2025 – Legislative Day 40

Sine Die

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

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.