



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 21, 2025

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Week 10 (Legislative Days 32-34)

The General Assembly convened Tuesday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 32-34, including a Committee Work Day on Wednesday.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

This week, [HB 85](#), the superior court judicial compensation reform bill, and [HB 530](#), providing for electronic filing in probate courts, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, March 19. On Friday, March 21, legislation providing for the nonpartisan election of magistrate court judges, [HB 426](#), passed the Senate by a vote of 43 - 11.

Appropriations

This week, the Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee met on Tuesday to hear presentations on the FY26 General Budget. We will now be watching for a full Senate Appropriations Committee meeting and vote next week. At this time, no meetings have been scheduled.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, March 25, for Legislative Day 35.

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 from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

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

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

Legislation that provides for the nonpartisan election of magistrate court judges.

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-11 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Legislation that provides for electronic filing in probate court proceedings.

Action: Received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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 as Amended by the House Rules Subcommittee on Lawsuit Reform (3/18/25); Passed House by Substitute by vote of 91-82 (3/20/25); the Senate Agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 34-21 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 171-0 (3/18/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 162-0 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 172-0 (3/18/25). **Final Passage.**

[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: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/20/25). **Final Passage.**

[HB 587 - Cartersville, City of; provide for a finance director](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 51-0 (3/20/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/21/25). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

[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: Passed House by vote of 162-0 (3/21/25).

[SB 328 - State Court of Henry County; additional judge; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/21/25).

[SB 329 - Flint Judicial Circuit; chief judge; annual stipend in addition to county compensation to superior court judges; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 53-0 (3/21/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Substitute by vote of 51-1 (3/20/25).

[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: Passed Senate by Substitute vote of 48-4 (3/20/25).

[HB 750 - Forsyth County; State Court; add a judge](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 158-0 (3/21/25).

[HB 768 - Gwinnett County; State Court; supplement for chief judge; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 158-0 (3/21/25).

[HB 769 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; salary supplements for judges; change provisions](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 158-0 (3/21/25).

[HB 770 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; additional supplement for chief judge; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 158-0 (3/21/25).

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 House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee (3/20/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/19/25).

[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 House Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee (3/20/25).

[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 House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee (3/20/25).

[SB 61 - Delinquency; additional offenses over which superior courts are authorized to exercise exclusive original jurisdiction; provide](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Hong subcommittee (3/18/25).

[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 House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/20/25).

[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 Hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass as Amended by House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/21/25).

[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 from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/19/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Hong subcommittee (3/18/25).

[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: Received a Hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Hong Subcommittee (3/18/25).

[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: Received a Hearing by the House Judiciary Committee (2/18/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass from House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (3/19/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Hong subcommittee (3/18/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Committee (3/18/25).

[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 by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/21/25).

[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 Hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

[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 from Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass from Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

[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 Hearing by the Senate Public Safety First Responders Subcommittee (3/19/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Children and Families Committee (3/20/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass from Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

[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 Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass from Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Hearing by the Senate Public Safety First Responders Subcommittee (3/19/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate State & Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/20/25).

[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: Introduced and assigned to Senate State & Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/21/25).

[HB 768 - Gwinnett County; State Court; supplement for chief judge; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25); Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/25).

[HB 769 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; salary supplements for judges; change provisions](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25); Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/25).

[HB 770 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; additional supplement for chief judge; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25); Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/25).

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

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25); Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/20/25).

[HB 792 - Courts; increase amount of magistrate court claims from \\$15,000.00 to \\$30,000.00](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (3/20/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/20/25).

To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries, please visit

engagifiweb.com/jcaoc.

Monday, March 24, 2025 – Recess

1 PM	Senate Judiciary: HB 268 Subcommittee	MEZZ 1
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
4 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 – Legislative Day 35

10 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
2 PM	Senate Retirement	307 CLOB
3 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – Committee Work Day

11 AM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP

Thursday, March 27, 2025 – Legislative Day 36

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
5 PM	Senate Ethics	307 CLOB

Friday, March 28, 2025 – Legislative Day 37

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.