



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 14, 2025

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Week 9 (Legislative Days 29-31)

The General Assembly reconvened Monday through Thursday this week for Legislative Days 29-31, including a Committee Work Day on Wednesday.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

This week, three judicial branch initiatives passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. On Tuesday, March 11, [HB 180](#) and [HB 199](#) passed the committee, and on March 12, [HB 86](#) received passage from the Senate Judiciary Committee. Additionally, [HB 426](#) passed the Senate Ethics Committee on the Committee Work Day.

Appropriations

On Monday, March 10, the House passed its [Substitute](#) to HB 68, the FY26 General Budget, and it received passage by the full House on Tuesday, March 11. The Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the FY26 General Budget on Tuesday, March 18.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, March 18, for Legislative Day 32.

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 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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/12/25).

[HB 180 - Probate courts; modify certain requirements for probate judges](#)

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

A bill requiring probate judge candidates in counties with a population of 90,000 or more to provide a supplemental affidavit affirming that the candidate meets all qualifications required for the position.

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/10/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass as amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/10/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Ethics Committee (3/12/25).

Other Bills

Final Passage

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-1 (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-1 (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-1 (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 48-0 (3/13/25).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 48-0 (3/13/25).

Floor Votes

[SB 316 - Probate Court of Clinch County; assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-1 (3/10/25).

[SB 317 - Magistrate Court of Clinch County; assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

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

Action: Passed Senate by vote of 43-1 (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 165-0 (3/10/25)

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 165-0 (3/10/25).

[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);

Passed House by vote of 165-0 (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (3/13/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 169-0 (3/13/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

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

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

Action: House recommitted to House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee (3/11/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil (3/12/25).

[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 Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil (3/12/25).

[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 the House Judiciary Committee (3/13/25).

[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 the Senate Ethics Committee (3/12/25).

[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 as amended by House Judiciary Non-Civil Gullet Subcommittee (3/12/25).

[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 House Judiciary Committee (3/13/25).

[HR 449 - House Study Committee on Modernization of the Traffic Violations Bureau; create](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/11/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee by Substitute (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Senate recommitted to Senate Science & Technology Committee (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/12/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee by Substitute (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/12/25).

[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 Senate Public Safety Committee (3/12/25).

[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 Senate Public Safety Committee (3/10/25).

[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 Senate Judiciary Committee (3/10/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/12/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[SB 327 - Clayton Judicial Circuit; sixth judge of the superior courts; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (3/10/25)

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/11/25).

[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: Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/11/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/11/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/11/25).

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

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25).

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

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25).

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

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

Action: House Hopper (3/13/25).

[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).

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Monday, March 17, 2025 – Recess

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – Legislative Day 32

9:30 AM	House Judiciary Non-Civil: Hong Subcommittee	132 CAP
10 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
1 PM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
2 PM	Senate Appropriations: Judicial Subcommittee	450 CAP
2:30 PM or Upon Adj.	House Judiciary	132 CAP

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – Committee Work Day

9 AM	Senate Ethics	307 CLOB
9 AM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP
11 AM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP

Thursday, March 13, 2025 – Legislative Day 33

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, March 14, 2025 – Legislative Day 34

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.