



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 7, 2025

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Week 8 (Legislative Days 25-28)

The General Assembly reconvened Monday through Thursday this week for Legislative Days 26-28, including a Committee Work Day on Wednesday.

Crossover Day

Crossover Day was Thursday, March 6. This was the final day that a bill can pass its originating chamber and remain open to final passage. Any bill that fails to meet this deadline will be considered dead until next year unless its text is amended onto a bill that did cross over.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

Three judicial branch initiatives passed the House on Tuesday, March 4. Both [HB 179](#) and [HB 180](#) received unanimous support during passage in the House. [HB 426](#), legislation providing for the nonpartisan election of magistrate court judges, passed the House by a vote of 111-59. On Thursday, HB 530 which provides for electronic filing in probate courts, passed the House by a vote of 174-0.

Appropriations

On Crossover Day, the Governor signed [HB 67](#), the Amended FY2025 Budget, into law at the State Capitol, bringing the Amended Budget process to a close for this session. Governor Kemp's remarks on the Amended Budget can be found [here](#). The House Appropriations Committee will meet on the FY2026 Budget on Monday, March 10; the Judicial Subcommittee will report its recommendations at 9 a.m., with the full committee to follow upon adjournment of all subcommittee reports.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 10, for Legislative Day 29.

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 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: Passed the House by vote of 169-0 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed the House by vote of 171-0 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed the House by vote of 111-59 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 174-0 (3/6/25).

Other Bills

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 46-9 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 52-1 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 44-11 (3/3/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 51-4 (3/3/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 54-1 (3/3/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 33-22 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 32-23 (3/3/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 52-1 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 55-0 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 53-1 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 33-23 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 49-5 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the Senate by vote of 55-0 (3/4/25).

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)

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 51-4 (3/6/25).

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: Passed the Senate by vote of 34-21 (3/6/25).

SB 233 - Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission; revise the subcommittees

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

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 51-4 (3/6/25).

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: Passed the Senate by vote of 55-0 (3/6/25).

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: Passed the Senate by vote of 56-0 (3/6/25).

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: Passed the Senate by vote of 55-0 (3/6/25).

SB 268 - Offenses Against Public Order; crime of interference with a first responder; provide

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

Action: Passed the Senate by vote of 38-17 (3/6/25).

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: Passed the Senate by vote of 54-2 (3/6/25).

HB 77 - Motor vehicles; encountering funeral procession on two-lane highway; revise responsibilities

House Sponsor: Rep. Lehman Franklin (R – Statesboro)

Action: Passed the House by vote of 171-2 (3/4/25).

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: Passed the House by vote of 172-0 (3/4/25).

[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 House by vote of 158-8 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed the House by vote of 129-37 (3/4/25).

[HB 238 - Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; create and maintain an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: Passed the House by vote of 171-0 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 159-13 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 146-20 (3/6/25).

[HB 296 - Motor vehicles; presentation of a driver's license in a certain electronic format; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: Passed the House by vote of 154-17 (3/3/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 171-2 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 176-0 (3/3/25).

[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: Passed the House by vote of 166-0 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 162-11 (3/3/25).

[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: Passed the House by vote of 167-7 (3/4/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 168-0 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 168-2 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 172-0 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 168-5 (3/6/25).

[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: Passed House by vote of 161-13 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 178-2 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 166-2 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 150-20 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 172-0 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 172-0 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 172-0 (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Passed House by vote of 156-2 (3/6/25).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by vote of 164-8 (3/4/25).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[SR 216 - Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users; create](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

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

[SB 75 - Speed Detection Devices and Red Light Cameras; standards for signs warning of a reduced speed limit in a school zone and signs warning of the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices; provide](#)

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

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

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

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

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

[HB 35 - Courts; private attorney appointed to act as district attorney pro tempore; revise compensation](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jordan Ridley (R – Woodstock)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/6/25).

[HB 57 - Crimes and offenses; incest; include step-grandparent and step-grandchild relationship](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mike Cameron (R – Rossville)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/6/25).

[HB 237 - Evidence; admissibility of creative or artistic expression evidence at trial; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R – Dalton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/4/25).

[HB 285 - Law enforcement agencies; judicial procedure for purging a person's involuntary hospitalization information; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Buckner (D – Junction City)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/6/25).

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

Sponsor: Rep. Don Parsons (Marietta)

Action: Tabled by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/4/25).

[HB 390 - HALO Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tim Fleming (R – Covington)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/4/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/6/25).

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

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

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

[HB 566 - NO FAKES Act of 2025; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Soo Hong (R – Lawrenceville)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee (3/3/25).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee (3/6/25).

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

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/6/25).

New Bills Introduced This Week

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

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

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

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

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

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

[SB 319 - "Dorothy Mae Smith Wright Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (3/4/25).

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

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

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

[HB 682 - Criminal procedure; death penalty shall not be imposed if only evidence is testimony of a single eyewitness; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Billy Mitchell (D – Stone Mountain)

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

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/4/25).

[HB 705 - Motor vehicles; prohibit traffic stop on sole basis that the person is operating a motorcycle or wearing motorcycle paraphernalia](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Solomon Adesanya (D – Marietta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee (3/4/25).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/6/25).

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

Monday, March 10, 2025 – Legislative Day 29

9 AM	House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee	341 CAP
10:10 AM	House Appropriations	341 CAP
11 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1 PM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
4 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Legislative Day 30

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

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – Committee Work Day

9 AM	Senate Ethics	307 CLOB
12 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
1 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP

Thursday, March 13, 2025 – Legislative Day 31

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 – 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.