



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 4, 2025

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Week 12 (Legislative Days 39-40)

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The General Assembly convened Monday through Friday last week for Legislative Days 38-40, including Committee Work Days on Tuesday and Thursday, and adjourned *sine die* in the late evening of Friday, April 4. Any bills that did not pass during this legislative session are eligible for passage in the 2026 Legislative Session.

### Judicial Branch Initiatives

In the final week of the 2025 Legislative Session, three judicial branch initiatives received final passage. [HB 199](#), which updates processes for the restriction of judges' personally identifiable information, achieved final passage on Monday, March 31. On Wednesday, April 2, [HB 179](#), digital takedown legislation, passed the Senate by Substitute and saw the House agree to the Senate Substitute on Friday, April 4. Following that, [HB 180](#), legislation providing for an additional affidavit for certain probate court judges, also received final passage in the Senate on Friday.

### Appropriations

After a final Appropriations Conference Committee meeting on Friday, April 4, the House and Senate each adopted the Conference Committee Report for the FY 2026 State Budget that afternoon. [HB 68](#) now awaits the Governor's signature. The Judicial Council Budget can be found in Section 6, which begins on page 11 of the document.

This report is a compilation of items affecting Georgia's judiciary acted on during the final week of the legislative session. To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries and previous reports, please visit [georgiacourts.gov/legislation](https://georgiacourts.gov/legislation). Bill summaries will be updated over the coming weeks to reflect final, As Passed versions. The annual Judicial Council/AOC Enacted Legislation report will be available after completion of the bill review period (May 14).

## 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 Senate by Substitute with a vote of 52-0 (4/2/25); House agreed to Senate Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

### [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 Senate with a vote of 48-2 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

### [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:** Passed Senate by Substitute by vote of 54-0 (3/31/25); House agreed to Senate Substitute (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

## Other Bills

### Final Passage

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

**Action:** Passed Senate by Substitute by vote of 52-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

### [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:** Passed House by Substitute by vote of 167-1 (4/8/25); Senate agreed to House Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed House by vote of 128-35 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

### [SB 99 - Crimes and Offenses; definition of law enforcement officer; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Senate agreed to House Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** House passed by vote of 167-1 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** Senate agreed to House Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[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](#)

*(Includes Substitute language from [HB 533](#))*

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

**Action:** Passed House by Substitute by vote of 103-61 (4/2/25); Senate agreed to House Substitute (4/4/25). **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:** Senate Agreed to the House Substitute (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 House by vote of 163-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** Senate agreed to House Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed House by vote of 168-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 House by vote of 168-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 House by vote of 168-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 House by vote of 168-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[HB 68 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026](#)

House Sponsor: Speaker Jon Burns (R – Newington)

**Action:** The House and Senate each adopted the Conference Committee Report (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 51-0 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** Passed Senate by vote of 52-1 (4/2/2). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by vote of 52-0 (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[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:** Senate passed by vote of 52-0 (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Senate passed by Substitute by vote of 55-0 (4/2/25); House agreed to Senate Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Senate Passed by a vote of 40-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 Senate by Substitute by vote of 55-0 (3/31/25); House agreed to Senate Substitute (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

House Sponsor: Rep Houston Gaines (R- Athens)

**Action:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 Senate by vote of 46-7 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** House agreed to Senate Substitute (4/4/25). **Final Passage.**

[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 Senate by Substitute by vote of 51-3 (4/4/25); House agreed to Senate Substitute as Amended (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House agreed to Senate Substitute as Amended (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 55-1 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 55-1 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 55-1 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 55-1 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 49-0 (3/31/25). **Final Passage.**

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

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

**Action:** Passed Senate by vote of 55-1 (4/2/25). **Final Passage.**

## **Floor Votes**

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

*Includes language from [HB 482](#).*

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

**Action:** Passed House by Substitute by vote of 161-0 (4/4/25).

[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](#)

*Includes language from [SB 163](#).*

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

**Action:** House passed by Substitute by vote of 99-74 (4/4/25).

[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 House by Substitute by vote of 168-0 (4/2/25).

[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 House by Substitute by vote of 149-18 (4/4/25).

[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 Senate by Substitute by vote of 46-9 (4/4/25).

### **Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action**

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Governmental Affairs Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Motor Vehicles Committee (4/4/25).

[HR 251 - Local government; probate judges shall be elected in nonpartisan elections; provide – CA](#)

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and Recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 242 - Crimes and offenses; disorderly or disruptive conduct at any funeral or memorial service; include religious worship and observance](#)

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 318 - Appeal and error; appeal of superior court decisions on zoning decisions of counties and municipal corporations; provide](#)

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Governmental Affairs Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 434 - Crimes and offenses; offense of selling a child for financial gain; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Creative Arts & Entertainment Committee (4/4/25).

[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:** House withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** House withdrawn and recommitted to the House Judiciary Non-Civil committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (4/4/25).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (4/4/25).

**New Bills Introduced March 31 –April 4**

[SR 536 - Boggs, Chief Justice Michael P.; recognize](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and adopted (4/4/25).

[SB 373 - Notaries Public; notarial acts to be performed using electronic means when certain requirements are satisfied; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 879 - Motor vehicles; penalty for violations captured by school bus camera; provisions](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (4/2/25).

[HB 894 - Georgia Second Look Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Scott Holcomb (D – Atlanta)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 900 - Employees' Retirement System; any member shall be eligible to transfer funds to Judicial Retirement System; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Retirement Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 905 - Employees' Retirement System; any member shall be eligible to transfer funds to Judicial Retirement System; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Gary Richardson (R – Evans)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Retirement Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 911 - Torts; prohibit individuals from bringing defamation actions against another individual who makes a communication regarding an incident of sexual assault, harassment, or discrimination; provisions](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

[HB 916 - Judicial Council; funding for civil legal services to low-income individuals; create grant program](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (4/4/25).

To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries, please visit [georgiacourts.gov/legislation](http://georgiacourts.gov/legislation).