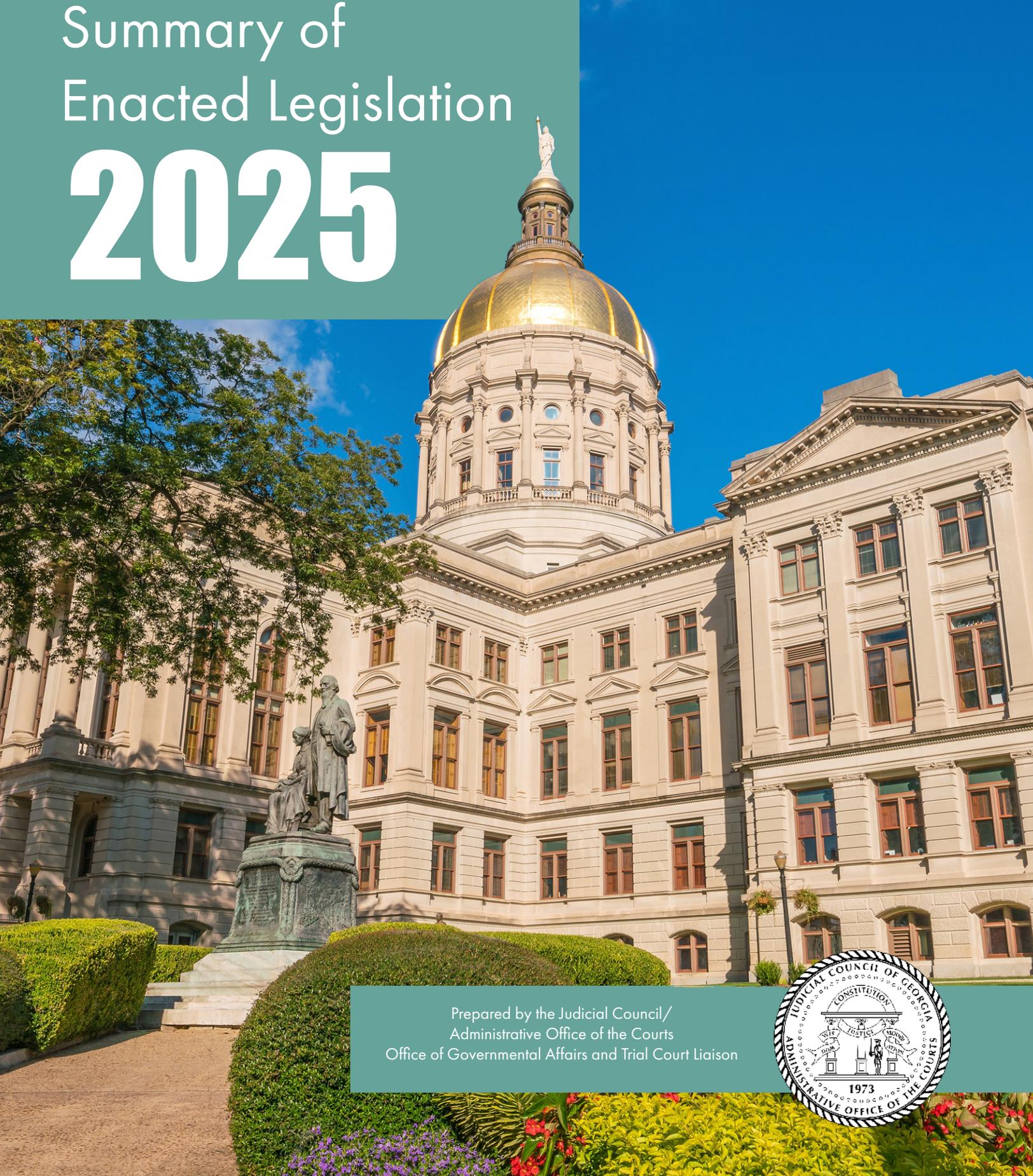
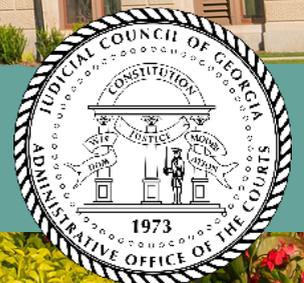


# Summary of Enacted Legislation 2025



Prepared by the Judicial Council/  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Office of Governmental Affairs and Trial Court Liaison



Published by the Office of Governmental Affairs and Trial  
Court Liaison of the Judicial Council of Georgia/  
Administrative Office of the Courts.

Director, Cynthia H. Clanton

Judicial Council of Georgia  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, SW • Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334

[www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....	4
Summary .....	5
Budget .....	6
Compensation/Retirement.....	6
Criminal.....	7
Civil.....	8
Courts .....	9
Local.....	12
Public Safety & Traffic.....	18
Domestic Relations .....	19
Study Committees .....	21
Staff Contacts .....	23

# FOREWARD

This report provides summaries of bills and resolutions that are relevant to the judiciary passed by the 159th Georgia General Assembly during the 2025 Regular Session. Intended to be a convenient reference guide, this publication organizes the summaries in numerical order based on their subject matter. Bill summaries found in this guide should not be used as the definitive legal interpretation. For more detailed information, please review the act in its entirety at the link provided in the bill summary.

# SUMMARY

The 2025 Session of the 159th Georgia General Assembly convened on January 13, 2025, and adjourned Sine Die on April 4, 2025. This was the first year of the two-year biennium, so any legislation that did not pass will be eligible for passage in 2026.

During the session, the legislature passed meaningful legislation bolstering the administration of justice in Georgia. The legislature passed [HB 85](#) and [HB 86](#), both of which implement the recommendations made in the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements (2023) to reform judicial compensation for state-paid judges in Georgia. Increasing court efficiency and effectiveness, [HB 179](#) was passed to authorize digital takedown in courts. Continuing the efforts started in [SB 508](#) (2024), the legislature also passed [HB 199](#) to further refine the processes to restrict from public disclosure the personally identifiable information of judges and their spouses. In addition to these, this summary report highlights many more bills supporting the work of the judiciary.

To view the summaries of all bills tracked by the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, please visit the [JC/AOC Legislative Tracking Website](#).

To view all bills introduced during the Georgia General Assembly's 2025 session, please visit [www.legis.ga.gov/](http://www.legis.ga.gov/). To view the bills signed by the Governor in 2025, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/signed-legislation/2025>.

# BUDGET

[HB 67](#) – Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

HB 67, the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$40.5 billion. This is a 12.2 percent increase, or \$4.4 billion, over the original Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office [website](#).

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

HB 68, the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$37.8 billion. This is a 4.5 percent increase, or \$1.6 billion, over the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office [website](#).

# COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT

[HB 85](#) – Superior Court Judicial Compensation Reform Act; enact

**House Author:** 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). This legislation sets a new compensation structure for superior court judges.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

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

**House Author:** 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). This legislation sets a new compensation structure for justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court of Appeals, the judge of the Georgia State-wide Business Court, and the judge of the Georgia State Tax Court.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

[HB 406](#) – Judicial Retirement System; increase retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026

**House Author:** Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

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

This bill increases the retirement age of superior court judges to 65 years old and provides for the calculation of retirement benefits for individuals under certain circumstances.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

# CRIMINAL

[SB 42](#) – Penalties for violating Code Sections 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 Author:** Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

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

This bill repeals O.C.G.A Code Sections 16-6-9 through 16-6-12 which establish the offense of prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, and pandering.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

[SB 79](#) – “Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act”; enact

**Senate Author:** Sen. Russ Goodman (R – Cogdell)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

This bill updates criminal penalties for the sale, manufacturing, delivery, or possession of different fentanyl quantities.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

[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 Author:** Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta)

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

This bill entitles criminal defendants to an award of their attorney’s fees and certain costs in the event that a prosecuting attorney is disqualified due to improper conduct and the case is dismissed by the court or subsequent prosecutor. This bill also creates the Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund within the state treasury for the purpose of providing claimants with compensation. This bill also provides procedures for awarding compensation.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

[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 Author:** Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R – Glennville)

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

For capital cases in which the death penalty is pursued, this bill changes the standard for determining a claim of intellectual disability from beyond a reasonable doubt to preponderance of the evidence. Additionally, the jury is required to specify a separate finding of intellectual disability, as defined in OCGA § 17-7-131, in its verdict in cases where death penalty is pursued.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R – Bonaire)

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

A bill requiring criminal bonds to include the full name, phone number, mailing address, and email addresses of each principal and surety.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

# CIVIL

[SB 68](#) – Civil Practice; substantive and comprehensive revision of provisions regarding civil practice, evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions; provide

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

**House Sponsor:** Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

This bill comprehensively reforms civil practice, evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions. Filed in conjunction with SB 69.

**Signed by Governor:** April 21, 2025

**Effective Date:** April 21, 2025

[SB 69](#) – “Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act”; enact

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

**House Sponsor:** Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

This bill, known as the Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act, regulates third-party litigation financing. Filed in conjunction with SB 68.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026 (May 14, 2025 for Section 3)

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

**House Author:** Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

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

This bill provides for the use of an approved process server in the issuance of summons.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

# COURTS

[SB 12](#) – Inspection of Public Records; documents and records in the possession of private persons or entities; revise provisions

**Senate Author:** Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)

This bill designates the term ‘Custodian’ to mean an agency that has charge, custody, care and control over a public record. The bill also provides guidelines for public record custodians when public record requests are initiated.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Timothy Bearden (R – Carrollton)

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

A local act providing for an additional judge for the Douglas Judicial Circuit, increasing the total number of judges from 3 to 4. The fourth judge will be appointed by the Governor and serve a term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2028, until the 2028 nonpartisan judicial elections occur and elect a successor.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Max Burns (R – Sylvania)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta)

A local act providing for an additional judgeship on the Augusta Judicial Circuit, increasing the total number of judges from 5 to 6. The sixth judge will be appointed by the Governor and serve a term beginning on January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. All future successors of the position will be selected through the 2028 nonpartisan judicial election process for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2029.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

[SB 199](#) – State Ethics Commission; shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election; provide

**Senate Author:** Sen. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

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

This bill standardizes campaign finance procedures including providing disclosure reporting requirements, requiring uniform dates for reporting personal financial disclosures, and the requiring that local elected officials affirm their duty to complete all required trainings. This bill also prohibits the State Ethics Commission from taking action on any complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026

[SB 298](#) – Judgements and Rulings; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state; provide

**Senate Author:** Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

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

This bill provides the right of direct appeal on all judgments and orders in criminal cases involving a capital offense in which death penalty is sought. The direct appeal must be conducted within 30 days of any judgment.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

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

A local bill providing for an additional judge for the Alapaha Judicial Circuit, raising the total number of judges to 3. The initial additional judge will be appointed by the Governor for a term from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028 until the 2028 Judicial elections occur.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

## COURTS *continued*

[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 Author:** Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Jackson)

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

This bill authorizes the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to issue subpoenas to compel the production of electronic communication records and other subscriber or customer information when investigating the violation of certain offenses against minors. This bill also revises the offense of domestic terrorism to include crimes intended to intimidate civilian populations or coerce the policy of the government.

**Effective Date:** May 8, 2025

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

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

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

A bill permitting a defendant to move for leave to file an out-of-time motion for new trial or notice of appeal within 100 days from the expiration of the time period for the filing of such motion.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

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

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

A bill authorizing the digital takedown and recording of certain courtroom proceedings and establishing rules and regulations to govern such use.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2026

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

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

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

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.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

[HB 199](#) – Courts; protection of personally identifiable information of judges and their spouses; modify provisions

**House Author:** Rep. Trey Kelley (R – Cedartown)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

This legislation amends and clarifies the processes outlined in SB 508 (2024). Any state or local government entity affirmatively identifying personally identifiable information (PII) of a judge or their spouse will be required to cease doing so. Any other state or local government entity that discloses PII of a judge without affirmatively identifying them as such will still be required to be removed at the request of the protected individual.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

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

A bill that cleans-up various code sections in the O.C.G.A. to increase clarity and make minor adjustments in language.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

## COURTS *continued*

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

**House Author:** Rep. Chuck Martin (R – Alpharetta)

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

This bill provides for an April 1, 2026, start date for the initial chief court judge of the Georgia Tax Court, subsequently moving up the judicial calendar for the court from August 2026 to July 2026. This bill states that every case before the Georgia Tax Tribunal still which is pending on June 20, 2026, will automatically transfer to the Georgia Tax Court on July 1, 2026, unless a petition not to transfer is filed.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

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

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

This bill provides for the nonpartisan election of magistrate court judges.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

# LOCAL

[SB 137](#) – City of Mulberry; provisions related to jurisdiction of the municipal court; revise

**Senate Author:** Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Mulberry)

This local act authorizes municipal court, under the City of Mulberry’s jurisdiction and authority, to punish violations of the city charter and city ordinances. This bill also provides terms for the period of jurisdiction transition.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Noelle Kahaian (R – Locust Grove)

This local bill provides for an additional judgeship in the Henry County State Court, increasing the total number of judges from 4 to 5. The fifth judge will be appointed by the Governor and serve a term beginning January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028. Any successors of the position are to be elected by Henry County constituents in the 2028 general election.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Noelle Kahaian (R – Locust Grove)

This local bill provides for a \$10,000 stipend from county funds to be paid to the chief judge of the Flint Judicial Circuit in addition to compensation received from state funds.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

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

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

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Crawford County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

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

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

A local act authorizing the Magistrate Court of Crawford County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

[HB 32](#) – Cook County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

**House Author:** Rep. Chas Cannon (R – Moultrie)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

A local bill authorizing the Probate Court of Cook County to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

## LOCAL *continued*

[HB 33](#) – Cook County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee

**House Author:** Rep. Chas Cannon (R – Moultrie)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

A local bill authorizing the Magistrate Court of Cook County to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

[HB 39](#) – Habersham County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee

**House Author:** Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)

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

A local bill authorizing the Magistrate Court of Habersham County to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The fee is not to exceed \$10.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

[HB 160](#) – Carroll County; State Court; provide additional judge

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

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

A local act providing for a Chief Judge for the State Court of Carroll County, increasing the number of judges on the Court from 1 to 2. The second judge will be appointed by the Governor and serve a term beginning on July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. All future successors of the position will be selected through the 2026 nonpartisan judicial election process for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2027.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

[HB 174](#) – Centerville, City of; Municipal Court; charge a technology fee

**House Author:** Rep. Bethany Ballard (R – Warner Robins)

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

A local bill authorizing the Municipal Court of the City of Centerville to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (R – Americus)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus)

This bill authorizes the Probate Court of Schley County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

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

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus)

This bill authorizes the Probate Court of Taylor County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

## LOCAL *continued*

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

**House Author:** Rep. Matthew Gambill (R – Cartersville)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

A local act which provides for a finance director for the City of Cartersville and permits the city's municipal court to charge a technology fee on each criminal and quasi-criminal fine paid. The technology fee is not to exceed a surcharge of \$20.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court and the city's police department.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

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

A local act authorizing the Municipal Court of the City of Cleveland to charge a technology fee on each criminal and quasi-criminal fine. Fee is not to exceed \$10.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court and the city's police department.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Gerald Greene (R – Cuthbert)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D – Dawson)

A local act providing for the nonpartisan election of the Baker County probate judge.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Chas Cannon (R – Moultrie)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

A local act authorizing the State Court of Colquitt County to collect a technology fee on each fine issued related to traffic and motor vehicles. The technology fee is not to exceed \$10.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court and the Sheriff of Colquitt County.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Chris Erwin (R – Homer)

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

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Banks County to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The technology fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

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

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

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Carroll County to collect a technology fee on each civil action filed. The fee is not to exceed \$10.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

## LOCAL *continued*

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

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

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

A local act authorizing the State Court of Carroll County to collect a technology fee for the filing of each civil action with the court. The fee is not to exceed \$15.00 and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

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

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Josh McLaurin (D – Sandy Springs)

A local act increasing the number of judges to the State Court of Fulton County from 10 to 12 total judges. The additional judges will be appointed by the Governor and serve a term expiring on December 31, 2026. Successors will be elected in the nonpartisan May 2026 election for a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2027.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (R – Americus)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D – Dawson)

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Terrell County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

A local act establishing the title of Chief Judge of the State Court of Bryan County. This bill also creates the new, part-time position of associate judge.

**Effective Date:** May 1, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Terry Cummings (D – Atlanta)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta)

A local act increasing the compensation and salary of the judges of the State Court of Cobb County.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sheikh Rahman (D – Lawrenceville)

A local act increasing the compensation of the Chief Judge of the State Court of Gwinnett County by an additional \$10,000 per year, using funds from Gwinnett County.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2025

## LOCAL *continued*

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

**House Author:** Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sheikh Rahman (D – Lawrenceville)

A local act supplementing the salaries of Gwinnett Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judges by an additional \$80,200 per year. The supplement will be appropriated from the funds of Gwinnett County.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Sheikh Rahman (D – Lawrenceville)

A local act supplementing the salary of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge by an additional \$10,000 per year using county funds. This legislation becomes effective beginning June 1, 2025.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Omari Crawford (D – Decatur)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of DeKalb County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Robert Dickey (R – Musella)

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

A local act authorizing the Magistrate Court of Upson County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Robert Dickey (R – Musella)

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

A local act authorizing the Magistrate Court of Crawford County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Robert Dickey (R – Musella)

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

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Crawford County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

## LOCAL *continued*

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

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

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus)

A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Macon County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \$5.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the court.

**Effective Date:** April 30, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Karen Mathiak (R – Griffin)

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

A local act updating provisions for the State Court of Paulding County. This bill permits the collection of a technology fee on civil actions, provides for the selection and compensation of jurors, and provides for an additional judge and the selection of a Chief Judge. This bill also establishes the role and compensation of solicitor general.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

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

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

[A local act authorizing the Probate Court of Richmond County to collect a technology fee on each civil filing. The fee is not to exceed \\$10.00, and must be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Court.](#)

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

## PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

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

This bill expands the definition of ‘law enforcement officer’ to include peace officers, appointed police chiefs, elected sheriffs, and federal law enforcement officers.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

This resolution establishes a Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users. The established committee will be comprised of five members of the Senate and will stand abolished on December 1, 2025.

**Effective Date:** April 2, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Holt Persinger (R – Winder)

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

This bill comprehensively addresses issues of school safety. Among other provisions, the bill updates criminal penalties to defendants who threatened the death or serious injury to a group of individuals within a school. Student records are required to be requested from transferring schools within five days of notification by the custodian of a child in state custody or care. These records include all educational, medical, or criminal justice information possessed by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Human Services, or the Division of Family and Children Services.

**Signed by the Governor:** April 28, 2025

**Effective Date:** April 28, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Houstin Gaines (R – Athens)

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

This legislation requires law enforcement to accept the presentation of a digital driver’s licenses during traffic stops. The bill clarifies certain instances where the presentation of physical identification is required (e.g. when voting or applying for a hunting license).

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

[HB 339](#) – Motor vehicles; exempt ride share drivers or ride share network services from definition of motor carrier

**House Author:** Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

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

This bill exempts ride share network services from liability for the actions of ride share drivers, provided that they are not negligent and in compliance with state law.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

This bill establishes county conservators and county guardians and assigns them certain duties and responsibilities.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

[SB 110](#) – Definitions Relative to the Juvenile Code; definition of neglect and to provide for new definitions

**Senate Author:** Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

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

This legislation adds definitions of ‘blatant disregard’ and ‘independent activity’ to the juvenile code. The bill also clarifies that the term “neglect” should not include instances where a legal custodian permits a child to engage in certain independent activities.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

[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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

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

This bill addresses the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission’s 2024 recommendation to “require that a judge hold an initial hearing regarding defense requests for the competency process, including procedures to provide guidance to the court and alternatives suggestions for the defense.” The bill requires a hearing before a court orders an evaluation of the mental competency of an accused person to stand trial. This legislation also includes language allowing the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to receive conviction data from law enforcement agencies if such data is relevant to a person whom the department is considering as a final candidate for employment.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025

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

**Senate Author:** Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

This bill revises the subcommittees of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, replacing the Involuntary Commitment and Workforce and System Development subcommittees with the Addictive Diseases and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities committees respectively.

**Effective Date:** May 14, 2025

[SB 245](#) – Grandparents; include within the category of persons who may seek to revoke or amend an existing grandparent visitation order

**Senate Author:** Sen. Mike Hodges (R – Brunswick)

**House Sponsor:** Rep. Rick Townsend (R – Brunswick)

This legislation allows parents and grandparents to petition to revoke existing visitation rights in cases where the parent of a minor child is deceased, incapacitated, or incarcerated.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

[SB 259](#) – Juvenile Code; certain procedures to be followed when there is a determination of suspected child abuse or neglect; provide

**Senate Author:** Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

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

This bill provides parents with the right to obtain an independent medical evaluation in cases where a physician holds temporary protective custody of a child. The bill requires courts in any related hearings to consider the results of any independent medical evaluation performed.

**Effective Date:** May 12, 2025

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS *continued*

[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

**House Author:** Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

**Senate Sponsor:** Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

A bill outlining and revising the conditions and processes required to appoint emergency conservators and guardians for adults. This bill also outlines the duties and limitations of emergency conservators. This legislation aligns with recommendations from the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission.

**Effective Date:** May 12, 2025

[HB 177](#) – Domestic relations; protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders; provide

**House Author:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

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

A bill establishing protections for household pets in family violence and dating violence protective orders. This bill prohibits respondents in domestic cases from harassing, harming, taking, transferring, or concealing such pet.

**Effective Date:** May 13, 2025

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

**House Author:** Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

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

This bill permits defendants in criminal trials to offer relevant evidence that they have been subjected to acts of domestic violence committed by the alleged victim. The bill provides other protections for criminal defendants who are also victims of domestic violence. This bill also includes language creating guidelines for administering the oaths of peace officers.

**Effective Date:** May 12, 2025

## 2025 STUDY COMMITTEES

### [Senate Study Committee on Additional Services and Resources for Transition Age Youth in Foster Care](#)

**Chair:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

Sen. Derek Mallow (D – Savannah)

Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

### [Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users](#)

*Membership not appointed as of publication.*

### [Senate Study Committee on Felony Disenfranchisement in Georgia's Constitution](#)

*Membership not appointed as of publication.*

### [Senate Study Committee on Recovery Residences](#)

*Membership not appointed as of publication.*

### [House Study Committee on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's Legitimation Process](#)

**Chair:** Rep. Carter Barrett (R – Cumming)

Rep. Teddy Rese (D – Columbus)

Rep. Lynn Heffner (D – Augusta)

Rep. Rob Clifton (R – Evans)

Rep. Vance Smith (R – Pine Mountain)

To review tracked bills affecting the judiciary, look up a bill by topic or number, or access bill summaries, visit our Judicial Council/AOC Legislative Tracking Database page at [georgiacourts.gov/legislation](http://georgiacourts.gov/legislation).

To view a complete list of legislation vetoed by the Governor, visit: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/vetoed-legislation/2025>.

During the legislative session, the AOC Capitol Team provides a Weekly Legislative Report, which can also be accessed from that page.

The image shows a screenshot of the Georgia AOC Legislative Tracking Database website. The website header includes the Georgia AOC logo and the text "JC/AOC Legislative Tracking Database". A red circle highlights a button labeled "Click here for the Weekly Legislative Report". Below the header, there is a "Bill search" section with three filters: "Search By Bill Number" (with an input field containing "Eg: HB 0002 or SB 0980" and a "Go" button), "By Legislative Issue" (with a dropdown menu showing "Budget (5)", "Civil (27)", "Court Administration (43)", and "Court Technology (23)"), and "By Tracking level" (with radio buttons for "Key Bill" and "Monitoring").

Overlaid on the bottom right of the screenshot is a document titled "WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT" from the "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS". The report is dated "April 4, 2024" and is labeled "Week 12 (Legislative Days 39-40)". The text of the report includes: "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." It also contains sections for "Judicial Branch Initiatives", "Appropriations", and a concluding paragraph: "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](http://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)."

## STAFF CONTACTS

**Tracy Mason** – Deputy Director

[tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov)

**Abigail Horvath** – Governmental Affairs Liaison

[abigail.horvath@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:abigail.horvath@georgiacourts.gov)

**Robby Lee** – Policy Analyst

[robby.lee@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:robby.lee@georgiacourts.gov)

**LaShawn Murphy** – Executive Trial Court Liaison

[lashawn.murphy@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:lashawn.murphy@georgiacourts.gov)

**Amanda Bock** – Legislative Intern

**Addison Hogan** – Legislative Intern

**Cynthia H. Clanton, Director**

Judicial Council of Georgia / Administrative Office of the Courts

244 Washington Street, SW · Suite 300

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

<https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/>



Judicial Council of Georgia  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, SW • Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov)