



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 6, 2026

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Week 4 (Legislative Days 10-14)

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The General Assembly convened Monday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 10-14.

### State of the Judiciary

On Wednesday, February 4, Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson delivered his first State of the Judiciary address to the General Assembly. The Chief Justice addressed a variety of topics, with a focus on the importance of an independent judiciary and preserving the rule of law. To watch or read the speech, visit the Supreme Court's website [here](#).

### Appropriations

Also on Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted on and passed their substitute to [HB 973](#), the Amended FY2026 budget (see House Tracking Sheet [here](#)). The bill was immediately transmitted to the Senate. On Monday, February 9, the Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the AFY26 Budget at 7:30 am. Now that the House has voted on the Amended Budget, we will be on the lookout for notice of meetings in the General Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 9, for Legislative Day 15.

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](https://georgiacourts.gov/legislation).

## **Judicial Council Supported Bills**

### [HB 1042 - Real Estate Security and Title Act; enact](#)

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

HB 1042 provides for amendments related to OCGA §§ 15-5-110, 112, relating to redaction of personally identifiable information. The Council's position applies to these provisions, currently in Sections 3 & 4.

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (1/28/26); No action was taken (2/5/2026).

## **Other Bills**

### **Floor Votes**

### [HB 414 - Elections; "person" to include certain nonresidents; revise definition](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Todd Jones (R – South Forsyth)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Ethics Committee (2/3/26); Passed Senate by Substitute by vote of 50-1 (2/5/26).

### [SB 403 - Unclaimed Property; property is presumed abandoned; provide for exceptions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Finance Committee (2/4/26); Senate Passed by Substitute by vote of 50-0 (2/5/26).

### [SR 645 - Joint Session; message from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court](#)

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

**Action:** Adopted by the House (2/2/26).

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

### [HB 77 - Motor vehicles; encountering funeral procession on two-lane highway; revise responsibilities](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/2/26).

### [HB 557 – Northeastern Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for a sixth judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville)

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 169-0 (2/2/26); Introduced and Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/3/26).

### [HB 957 - Motor vehicles; operation of miniature on-road vehicles on certain highways; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Rob Clifton (R – Evans)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/3/26).

### [HB 960 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide twelfth judge](#)

House Sponsor Rep. Jasmine Clark (D – Lilburn)

**Action:** Passed House by a vote of 169-1 (2/2/26); Introduced and Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 999 - Magistrate courts; collecting sums and fees authorized by law; revise provisions](#)

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

**Action:** House passed by a vote of 160-4 (2/3/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1022 - Motor vehicles; prohibit electric tinting](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Lauren McDonald III (R – Cumming)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1066 - Nuisances; immunity from public and private nuisance claims; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Will Wade (R – Dawsonville)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1121 - Cordele Judicial Court; change certain terms of court](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Noel Williams, Jr. (R – Cordele)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/3/26); Received a Do Pass by House Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 1215 - Middle Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for a third judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/5/26); Received a Do Pass by House Judiciary Committee (2/5/26).

[SB 116 - DNA Sampling; the collection of DNA samples from any individual in a detention facility charged with a misdemeanor or felony who is subject to an immigration detainer notice; require](#)

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

**Action:** Senate recommitted to Senate Rules Committee (2/3/26); Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Rules Committee (2/4/26).

[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 (2/4/26).

[SB 420 - License, Permit, Tag, and Stamp Fees; fees for reef and migratory fish endorsement; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Drew Echols (R – Gainesville)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Public Game, Fish, & Parks Committee (2/4/26).

**New Bills Introduced This Week**

[HB 1083 - Madison County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/2/26).

[HB 1084 - Madison County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/2/26).

[HB 1097 - Mental health; criminal background, license status, and registry checks for owners,](#)

[applicants, and employees of certain mental health facilities; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R – Savannah)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Public and Community Health Committee (2/2/26).

[HB 1117 - Insurance; claims processing for repairs under motor vehicle liability insurance policies; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Insurance Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1120 - Union County; governing authority; change from a sole commissioner to a five-member board of commissioners; provide advisory referendum](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1124 - State government; require certain agencies to consider definition of hinduphobia to apply to laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Esther Panitch (D – Sandy Springs)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1127 - Crimes; offense of unlawful possession of parts of a machine gun; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1130 - Safeguarding Election Candidates Using Reasonable Expenditures \(SECURE\) Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R – Marietta)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1131 - Criminal procedure; personal service of process for notice of a warrant application hearing; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1138 - Increasing Access to Contraceptives Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Health Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1140 - Ben Hill County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Leesa Hagan (R – Lyons)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1141 - Courts; availability of medical records to a parent or legal guardian when a child is taken into medical custody; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1142 - Courts; require certain agreements for certain offenses to be eligible for a Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Leesa Hagan (R – Lyons)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1154 - Criminal procedure; imposition of death penalty; include offense of trafficking of persons for labor and sexual servitude](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1160 - Civil practice; tolling of limitations; provide for surviving relatives in wrongful death actions](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1161 - Motor vehicles; proper operation upon approach by an authorized emergency vehicle or by a law enforcement vehicle for purposes of a traffic stop; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marvin Lim (D – Norcross)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/3/26).

[HB 1163 - Health Care Homestead Protection Act; enact](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1169 - Spalding County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R– Concord)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1170 - Spalding County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1172 - Spalding County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1175 - Crimes; offense of theft by shoplifting of essential items; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Yasmin Neal (D – Jonesboro)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/4/26).

[HB 1181 - Motor vehicles; application for certificate of title; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bethany Ballad (R – Warner Robins)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1185 - Courts; certain shareholder claims to be brought before the Georgia State-wide Business Court; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R – Mulberry)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1187 - Trey's Law; enact](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1188 - Commerce and trade; encourage transparency and fairness with respect to rent pricing for residential properties](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Gabriel Sanchez (D – Smyrna)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1189 - Sexual offenses; offense of sodomy regarding consenting adults; prohibit prosecution](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Angela Moore (D – Stonecrest)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1196 - Crimes; offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/5/26).

[HB 1207 - Domestic relations; creation of a registry of recidivist domestic violence offenders; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tremaine Teddy Reese (D – Columbus)

**Action:** House Hopper (2/5/26).

[HB 1208 - Civil practice; require depositions to be taken before certified court reporters](#)

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

**Action:** House Hopper (2/5/26).

[HB 1210 - Courts; protections for children who adopt an identity that differs from their sex; provide](#)

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

**Action:** House Hopper (2/5/26).

[HB 1223 - Local government; provide exemption from disclosing audio and video recordings captured by law enforcement when such recordings depict a person's death](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

**Action:** House Hopper (2/5/26).

[HB 1226 - Crimes; justification for use of force in defense of self or others; revise standards](#)

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

**Action:** House Hopper (2/5/26).

[SB 440 - Department of Public Health; provisions relative to duties or functions; modernize and update](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/2/26).

[SB 442 - Drivers' Licenses; revocation and expiration of commercial drivers' licenses for noncitizens; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jason Dickerson (R – Canton)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/2/26).

[SB 443 - Offenses Against Public Order; the punishment for the offense of obstructing highways, streets, sidewalks, or other public passages; increase](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Carden Summers (R – Cordele)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/2/26).

[SB 453 - "Rural Incentive Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Carden Summers (R – Cordele)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Finance Committee (2/3/26).

[SB 463 - Specialized Land Transactions; business enterprises or business enterprises controlled by natural born persons from owning an interest in more than 500 single-family residential properties; prohibit](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee (2/5/26).

[SB 464 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; federal immigration authorities from utilizing certain technologies to identify individuals for certain purposes; prohibit](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jaha Howard (D – Smyrna)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/5/26).

[SB 468 - Sexual Offender Risk Review Board; reporting requirements of sexual offenders; increase](#)

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

**Action:** Senate Hopper (2/5/26).

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

Monday, February 9, 2026 – Legislative Day 15

7:30 AM	Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee	450 CAP
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
3:00 PM	House Judiciary Juvenile	506 CLOB
3:00 PM	House Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety	415 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary Subcommittee	450 CAP

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 – Legislative Day 16

10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	House Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety	506 CLOB
1:00 PM	Senate Children and Families	450 CAP

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – Legislative Day 17

7:00 AM	Senate Appropriations Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee	450 CAP
8:00 AM	Magistrate Day at the Capitol	216 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
11:30 AM	Probate Court Judges Day at the Capitol	216 CAP

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – Legislative Day 18

10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
2:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 13, 2026 – No Session

10:00 AM	Judicial Council General Session	<a href="#">Remote Conferencing/Livestream</a>
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The committee schedule is subject to change at the legislature's discretion. For the most current committee schedule information, please go to [georgiacourts.gov/legislation](http://georgiacourts.gov/legislation).