



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 13, 2026

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Week 5 (Legislative Days 15-18)

The General Assembly convened Monday through Thursday this week, for Legislative Days 15-18.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

Two pieces of judicial branch-supported legislation made headway this week. [HB 1042](#), which provides amendments related to OCGA §§ 15-5-110, 112, relating to restriction of personally identifiable information, passed the House Judiciary Committee on Monday, February 9. On Wednesday, February 11, [HR 251](#) passed the House by a vote of 147-20. This resolution provides a constitutional amendment for the nonpartisan election of probate court judges.

Appropriations

The Senate completed its subcommittee hearings on the Amended FY26 budget this week. The House Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee held a hearing on the FY27 General Budget ([HB 974](#)) on Thursday, February 12 (see the House Tracking Sheet [here](#)).

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, February 17, for Legislative Day 19.

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 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 restriction of personally identifiable information. The Council's position applies to these provisions, currently in Sections 3 & 4.

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by House Judiciary Committee (2/9/26).

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

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

This resolution provides a constitutional amendment for the nonpartisan election of probate court judges.

Action: House Passed by a vote of 147-20 (2/11/26).

Other Bills

Final Passage

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

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

Action: House passed Senate Substitute by a vote of 169-0 (2/10/26). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: House passed by a vote of 168-0 (2/10/26); Assigned to Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/26).

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

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

Action: Passed House by a vote of 162-5 (2/9/26); Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 676 - Property; fine for any frivolous mechanic lien filed; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed House by a vote of 165-0 (2/9/26); Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 948 - Property; debtors in foreclosures to receive certain information and forms in a notice of foreclosure; provide](#)

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

Action: House Passed by Substitute by a vote of 161-0 (2/12/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/12/26);

Passed on House floor by a vote of 158-0 (2/12/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/12/26); House Passed by a vote of 158-0 (2/12/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination (2/12/26); House Passed by a vote of 158-0 (2/12/26).

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

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

Action: Passed House by a vote of 166-0 (2/9/26); Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/26).

[SB 398 - Wiretapping, Eavesdropping, Surveillance, and Related Offenses; criminal offenses of virtual peeping; establish](#)

Senate Sponsor: Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

Action: Senate Tabled (2/11/26).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[HB 256 - Social services; foster parents bill of rights; revise provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (R – Watkinsville)

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 585 - Insurance; motor vehicle policy; provide excluded driver](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jan Jones (R – Milton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 818 - Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership for each judge employed full time in the Georgia Tax Court; provide](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Retirement Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 967 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; provide financial assistance to law enforcement agencies to equip certain motor vehicles with bullet-resistant features; establish grant program](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Public Safety and Homeland Security (2/11/26).

[HB 1061 - Mandi Ballinger Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass as Amended by House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/11/26).

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

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

Action: House Withdrawn and Recommitted to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/10/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/13/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/11/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/10/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by House Judiciary Committee (2/10/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil (2/9/26).

[SB 166 - Counties; ordinances for governing and policing unincorporated areas of counties; revise provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Nikki Merritt (D – Grayson)

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Urban Affairs Committee (2/6/26).

[SB 405 - Magistrate Court; the maximum amount of civil claims that can be tried in magistrate court; increase](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Senate Judiciary Committee (2/5/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Public Game, Fish, & Parks Committee (2/12/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/12/26).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[HB 1235 - Elections; candidates and certain committees that receive more than 50 percent of their funding from non-Georgia persons shall provide certain notices on their campaign advertisements; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Scott Hilton (R – Peachtree Corners)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/9/26).

[HB 1243 - Criminal Justice Researcher Access to Data Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/9/26).

[HB 1246 - Clayton, City of; provide new charter](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1247 - Georgia Bureaucratic Deference Elimination Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1248 - Georgia Cannabis Freedom and Integrity Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Derrick Jackson (D – Tyrone)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1251 - Right to Information for Homeowners Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Viola Davis (D – Stone Mountain)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1255 - Criminal procedure; motions and discovery; modify provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1258 - Muscogee County; State Court; provide additional judge](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/10/26).

[HB 1265 - Traffic offenses; fleeing or attempting to elude a pursuing vehicle or law enforcement officer performing duties; provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/11/26).

[HB 1267 - Motor vehicles; increase penalties for certain offenses; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/11/26).

[HB 1268 - Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize and correct errors in omissions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Code Revision Committee (2/11/26).

[HB 1270 - Criminal procedure; installation and use of mobile tracking devices by law enforcement; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R – Rincon)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/26).

[HB 1282 - Criminal procedure; offenses involving a victim under 16 years of age; include offense of aggravated sexual battery](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/12/26).

[HB 1283 - Family Justice Center Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (2/12/26).

[HB 1288 - Law enforcement officers and agencies; require consent or a court order to withdraw blood from persons who are to be incarcerated or are to be released for DNA testing](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/11/26).

[HB 1289 - Crimes and offenses; offense of rape; modify provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/12/26).

[HB 1290 - Crimes and offenses; protection of elder persons; sexual abuse; revise definition](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Hilton Scott (R – Peachtree Corners)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/12/26).

[HB 1297 - Pierce County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Steven Meeks (R – Screven)

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HB 1303 - Crimes and offenses; offense of possession of a controlled substance in the presence of a child; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HB 1306 - Transactional Gold and Silver Act; enact](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HB 1307 - Brookhaven, City of; increase existing homestead exemption for senior citizens and disabled persons to \\$200,000.00](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Shea Roberts (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HB 1312 - Desai Safety Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mary Ann Santos (D – McDonough)

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HB 1313 - Crimes and offenses; certain legal action protections for healthcare professionals administering medical treatment to pregnant women; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stacey Evans (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/12/26).

[HR 1330 - Terry, John Raymond; honoring the life, service and historic legacy; retired Superintendent of Talbot County and the first African American Chief Probate Judge of Talbot County, Georgia; condolences](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jones (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Read and Adopted (2/11/26).

[SB 470 - "Emergency & Public Safety Signal Protection Act"; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/9/26).

[SB 473 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic; submission of proof of completion of certified DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs by certain applicants to obtain limited driving permits; require](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/9/26).

[SB 482 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; persons requesting booking photographs to provide the first and last names of the individuals in the photographs; require](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/26).

[SB 483 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; covered immigration officers to wear body cameras during public immigration enforcement functions; require](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/10/26).

[SB 488 - Torts; generative artificial intelligence systems shall constitute personal property for purposes of certain actions for product liability alleging injury to a minor; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/11/26).

[SB 489 - Board of Commissioners of the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund of Georgia; allow to set monthly dues](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee (2/11/26).

[SB 491 - Cobb Judicial Circuit; assistant district attorneys; change the salaries](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/11/26).

[SB 492 - State Court of Cobb County; additional assistant solicitor positions; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/11/26).

[SB 499 - Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; prohibition on possessing a silencer; repeal](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Frank Ginn (R – Danielsville)

Action: Introduced and Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/12/26).

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Monday, February 16, 2026 – No Session

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Legislative Day 19

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	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Children and Families	450 CAP

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – Legislative Day 20

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	House Judiciary	132 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP

Thursday, February 19, 2026 – Legislative Day 21

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
2:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
3:00 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP

Friday, February 20, 2026 – Legislative Day 22

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

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.