



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February, 20, 2026

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Week 6 (Legislative Days 19-22)

The General Assembly convened Tuesday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 19 – 22.

Appropriations

This week, the Senate completed its work on their version of HB 973, the FY 2026 Amended Budget. It passed Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday morning, and on Friday, it passed the Senate by Substitute. Subsequently, the House and Senate each insisted on their respective positions and a Conference Committee was appointed to resolve the differences between the two versions.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, February 24, for Legislative Day 23.

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: Recommitted to House Judiciary Committee (2/19/26); Received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (2/19/26).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[HB 936 - Berlin, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 937 - Berrien County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 938 - Tift County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 939 - Tift County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 940 - Tift County; State Court; provide for compensation of the judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 941 - Tift County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jaclyn Ford (R – Tifton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 1037 - Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/17/26); Passed on the Senate floor by a vote of 48-1 (2/17/26). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 164-0 (2/17/26); Assigned to the Senate Children and Families Committee (2/18/26).

[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: Passed the House by a vote of 160-2 (2/17/26); Assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1020 - Judicial Retirement System; payment of monthly retirement benefits for creditable service as a district attorney at the age of 65 years; provide](#)

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

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 164-0 (2/19/26).

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

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

Action: Passed the House Floor by a vote of 159-5 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/17/26); Passed the House floor by a vote of 165-1 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/17/26); Passed the House floor by a vote of 165-1 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Passed the House floor by a vote of 164-0 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/17/26); Passed the House floor by a vote of 165-1 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations (2/18/26).

[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: Passed the House floor by a vote of 162-2 (2/19/26).

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Bethany Ballard (R – Warner Robins)
Action: Passed the House by a vote of 166-9 (2/19/26).

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

House Sponsor: Rep. David Clark (R – Buford)
Action: Received a Do Pass from House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26); House Withdrawn and recommitted to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/26).

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)
Action: Received a Do Pass by House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/17/26); Passed the House by a vote of 165-1 (2/17/26); Introduced and assigned to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (2/18/26).

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

Senate Sponsor: Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)
Action: Pass the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 48-1 (2/20/26).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Jordan Ridley (R – Woodstock)
Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Brent Cox (R – Dawsonville)
Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

[HB 792 - Courts; increase amount of magistrate court claims from \\$15,000.00 to \\$30,000.00](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)
Action: Received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1075 - Sexual offenses; modify penalty for offenders previously convicted of the offense of trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Johnny Chastain (R – Blue Ridge)
Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

[HB 1080 - Georgia Public Safety Support Fund Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Yasmin Neal (D – Jonesboro)
Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/18/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Public and Community Health Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/19/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1344 - Georgia Insurance Affordability and Claims Integrity Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Insurance Committee (2/18/26); Received a Do Pass by House Insurance Committee (2/19/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House State and Local Government Operations Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 392 - "Waste Reduction Act of 2026"; enact](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Appropriations Committee (2/18/26).

[SB 433 - "Rio's Law"](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/26).

[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).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee (2/17/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/26).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[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: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

[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: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/17/26).

[HB 1311 - Survivor Civil Protection Act; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/17/26).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

[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: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/26).

[HB 1316 - Walker County; school district ad valorem tax; remove five year residency requirement for homestead exemption](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Steve Tarvin (R – Chickamauga)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1322 - Crimes and offenses; riot; repeal misdemeanor penalty and provide for a felony penalty](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1324 - Crimes and offenses; possessing a silencer; repeal prohibition](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jason Ridley (R – Chatsworth)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1329 - Controlled substances; Schedule I; provide certain provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1337 - Courts; retention and expenditure of passport application and processing fees by clerks of superior courts and probate court judges; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1343 - Georgia's Responsible Fathers Act; enact](#)

House Sponsors: Rep. Carter Barrett (R – Cumming)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1348 - Civil practice; compensation for receivers; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1351 - State government; require state agencies to provide a notice to employees when using artificial intelligence in personnel matters](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Park Cannon (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1358 - Brooks County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. John LaHood (R – Valdosta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1360 - Revenue and taxation; refunds of taxes and license fees by counties and municipalities; prohibit class action suits](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/18/26).

[HB 1362 - Public officers; persons having certain financial interest shall be ineligible to hold certain public offices; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jason Ridley (R – Chatsworth)

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1365 - Atlanta Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide twenty-first judge](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1368 - Mental health; re-creation of community service boards; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Public and Community Health Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1369 - Law and statutes; effect and enforcement of foreign laws; revise provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Judiciary Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1373 - Gambling; criminal prohibitions on gambling for coin operated amusement machines; revise certain exceptions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Regulated Industries Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1375 - Hall County; State Court; judges; restate provisions](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (2/19/26).

[HB 1385 - Fire protection and safety; improve government efficiency by updating provisions of office of the Safety Fire Commissioner](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Johnny Chastain (R – Blue Ridge)

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1389 - Property; dispossessory proceedings; extend a notice to vacate or pay to seven days](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1390 - Motor vehicles; declare vehicles used in the commission of reckless stunt driving offenses contraband and authorize forfeiture](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Inga Willis (D – Atlanta)

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1397 - Criminal procedure; implied consent to a drug facilitated sexual assault examination for unconscious victims of alleged sexual assault; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1398 - Georgia Child Care Alternatives, Resources, and Education Act; Trixtian's Law; enact](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1399 - Georgia Likeness, Expression, Generative AI, and Commercial Yield \(LEGACY\) Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Carl Gilliard (D – Savannah)

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[HB 1400 - Georgia Artist-Promoter Fair Practices Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Carl Gilliard (D – Savannah)

Action: House Hopper (2/19/26).

[SB 517 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; use of immigration detention centers in this state for two years; prohibit](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/18/26).

[SB 523 - Education; public schools and postsecondary educational institutions to consider antisemitism in the same manner as discrimination based on religion; authorize](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 525 - Juvenile Code; recording of all proceedings under the juvenile code; require](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Children and Families Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 526 - Mental Health; the licensing and regulation of recovery residences; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 527 - Sheriffs; candidates for the office of sheriff are certified peace officers at the time of qualifying as a candidate; require](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 529 - "Justice For Epstein Survivors Act"; enact](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 531 - Electors; convictions for offenses involving the purchase, possession, or control of certain controlled substances shall not prevent persons from registering, remaining registered, or voting; provide](#)

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Ethics Committee (2/19/26).

[SB 532 - Proceedings; defendant notices of certain proceedings and pleadings when such defendant failed to file pleadings; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Sonya Halpern (D – Atlanta)

Action: Introduced and assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee (2/19/26).

To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries, please visit georgiacourts.gov/legislation.

Monday, February 23, 2026 – Committee Work Day

9:00 AM	House Judiciary	132 CAP
10:00 AM	House Judiciary Juvenile	606 CLOB
11:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 – Legislative Day 23

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 Children and Families	450 CAP

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – Legislative Day 24

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026 – Legislative Day 25

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

Friday, February 27, 2026 – No Session

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.