



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 6, 2026

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Week 8 (Legislative Days 26-28)

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The General Assembly reconvened Tuesday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 26-28, including Committee Work Days on Monday and Thursday.

### **Crossover Day**

Crossover Day was Thursday, March 6. This was the final day that a bill must pass its originating chamber and remain open to final passage. Any bill that fails to meet this deadline will be considered dead until next year unless its text is amended onto a bill that did cross over.

### **Appropriations**

On Tuesday, March 3, the Governor signed [HB 973](#), the Amended FY2026 Budget, into law, bringing the Amended Budget process to a close for this session. Governor Kemp's remarks on the Amended Budget can be found [here](#).

At the time of this report, Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day), remains in session. The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 9, for Legislative Day 29.

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).

## **Final Passage**

[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:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 162-0 (3/3/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/3/26). *Final Passage.*

## **Floor Votes**

[HB 295 - Local government; procedures for real property owners to make claims for compensation for loss of property value or expenses incurred; provisions](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 98-75 (3/4/26).

[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:** Passed the House by a vote of 155-2 (3/4/26).

[HB 979 - State government; procedures for retrocession of jurisdiction in certain circumstances; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Fayetteville)

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-0 (3/4/26).

[HB 1076 - Crimes and offenses; create felony offense of obstruction of a law enforcement officer with a motor vehicle](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Powder Springs)

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 97-64 (3/3/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 162-4 (3/4/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/5/26); Passed the House by a vote of 163-0 (3/6/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 174-0 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 167-0 (3/3/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 138-17 (3/6/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 98-63 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 168-0 (3/3/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 163-0 (3/6/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 167-0 (3/3/26).

[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:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 147-12 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/6/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 160-0 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 156-2 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by 49-0 (3/6/26).

[HB 1409 - Domestic relations; revise mandated reporting of child abuse](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 166-0 (3/6/26).

[HB 1432 - Georgia Public Defender Council; provide for vacancies on the legislative oversight](#)

[committee](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by the House Judiciary Committee (3/2/26); Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 168-1 (3/4/26).

[HB 1470 - Torts; abusive litigation based on alleged website access violations under federal and state law; create a cause of action](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (3/4/26); Passed the House by a vote of 144-22 (3/6/26).

[SB 216 - Georgia Judicial Retirement System; membership in the system for individuals employed as the director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-2 (3/4/26).

[SB 261 - Magistrates Retirement Fund; early retirement benefit; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 53-1 (3/4/26).

[SB 418 - Torts; cause of action against the knowing and unauthorized use of an individual's photograph or image together with representations of nudity or sexually explicit conduct; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Max Burns (R – Sylvania)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/3/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 40-8 (3/6/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/2/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 41-14 (3/6/26).

[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:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 34-17 (3/3/26).

[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:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 49-3 (3/3/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 51-2 (3/3/26).

[SB 569 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic; the issuance of emergency vehicle light permits for towing service companies in certain instances; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/2/26); Passed the Senate by

a vote of 45-5 (3/6/26).

[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:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 53-1 (3/4/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 30-20 (3/6/26).

[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:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-2 (3/4/26).

[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:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-3 (3/3/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/3/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 542 - Sexual Offenses; clergy members to be charged with certain improper sexual contact offenses; permit](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 55-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 547 - Offenses of Pimping and Pandering; modify the penalties](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 570 - "Georgia Human Trafficking Prevention Training Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Shawn Still (R – Suwanee)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/3/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 49-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 572 - Criminal Prosecutions; an additional justification for use of force in defense of self or others; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 30-23 (3/6/26).

[SB 573 - Primaries and Elections; the nonpartisan election for county officers and district attorneys in certain counties; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Ethics Committee (3/2/26); Failed to Pass the Senate by

a vote of 24-29 (3/6/26).

[SB 575 - City of Metter; ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes; provide a homestead exemption](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Billy Hickman (R – Statesboro)

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/3/26).

[SB 587 - Offenses Against Public Health and Morals; the establishment of an animal cruelty database; provide](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Shawn Still (R – Suwanee)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/2/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 54-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 591 - Offenses Against Public Order; the disruption of a religious service; prohibit](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Steeve Gooch (R – Dahlonega)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/6/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 39-13 (3/6/26).

[SB 604 - Crimes and Offenses; the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction with district attorneys to conduct criminal prosecutions of violent crimes, illegal immigration offenses, and fentanyl offenses; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Special Committee on Investigations Committee (3/3/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 47-2 (3/6/26).

[SB 605 - Prosecuting Attorneys; additional grounds for discipline of a district attorney or solicitor-general or for his or her removal or involuntary retirement from office; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Special Committee on Investigations Committee (3/3/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 34-18 (3/6/26).

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

[HB 237 - Evidence; admissibility of creative or artistic expression evidence at trial; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R – Dalton)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 421 - Interstate Sexual Predator Prevention Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Darlene Taylor (R – Thomasville)

**Action:** House passed by Substitute by a vote of 164-0 (3/6/26).

[HB 545 – Terry Act; enact](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/5/25).

[HB 997 - Penal institutions; limit time that Department of Community Supervision can hold certain inmates in a county facility](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 1028 - District Attorney Compensation Reform Act; enact](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by the House Judiciary Committee (3/2/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (3/2/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/4/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 1403 - Courts; service by judges, justices, court officers, and other individuals as a judge advocate in certain capacities; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Reynaldo Martinez (R – Loganville)

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

[HB 1414 - Limited liability companies; permit creation of protected series and registered series](#)

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

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

[HB 1429 - Courts; juvenile court clerks collect and submit data regarding monetary sanctions assessed for juvenile offenders to the Administrative Office of the Courts; require](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 1433 - Courts; make certain acts of the unauthorized practice of law felonies and to provide for penalties](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (3/4/26).

[HB 1435 - Mount Airy, Town of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/4/26).

[HB 1436 - Georgia Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 1445 - Juvenile proceedings; authorize sharing of GPS monitoring with law enforcement and school districts](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Judiciary Juvenile Committee (3/4/26).

[HB 1454 - Crimes and offenses; firearms and carrying and possession of firearms and other weapons; revise various laws](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/2/26).

[HB 1470 - Torts; abusive litigation based on alleged website access violations under federal and state law; create a cause of action](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (3/4/26).

[SB 299 - Notaries Public; members of the armed forces on active duty to use online notaries public for certain matters; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security (3/3/26).

[SB 547 - Offenses of Pimping and Pandering; modify the penalties](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/26).

[SB 592 - "One Strike Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Steeve Gooch (R – Dahlonega)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/3/26).

[SB 594 - Internet and E-mail Fraud; the criminal offense of digital identity fraud; establish](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/26).

[SB 606 - "District Attorney Compensation Reform Act"; enact](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Special Committee on Investigations Committee (3/3/26).

[SB 607 - Grand Juries; creation, selection, composition, compensation, procedures, and term; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Special Committee on Investigations Committee (3/3/26).

[SR 875 - State-Wide Grand Juries; jurisdiction, powers, and duties; provide –CA](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Special Committee on Investigations Committee (3/3/26).

### **New Bills Introduced This Week**

[HB 1492 - Hampton City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Robert Flournoy (D – Hampton)

**Action:** Introduced and Assigned to the House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee. (3/4/26).

[HB 1494 - Motor vehicles; require ride share network services to provide ride share drivers with certain information on a monthly basis](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and Assigned to the House Motor Vehicles Committee. (3/4/26).

[HB 1503 - Covington, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tim Fleming (R – Covington)

**Action:** Introduced and Assigned to the House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee. (3/4/26).

[HB 1504 - Dekalb County; State Court; authorize the charge and collection of technology fees](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and Assigned to the House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee. (3/4/26).

[HB 1511 - Court Technology Funding Act; enact](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Demetrius Douglas (D – Stockbridge)

**Action:** House Hopper (3/4/26).

[HB 1512 - Crimes and offenses; enhanced penalties when certain offenses are committed against public safety officers or code enforcement officers; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Reynaldo “Rey” Martinez (R – Loganville)

**Action:** House Hopper (3/4/26).

[HB 1513 - Fayette County; State Court; change compensation of judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Fayetteville)

**Action:** House Hopper (3/4/26).

[HB 1515 - Madison County; school district ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption](#)

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

**Action:** House Hopper (3/4/26).

[SB 613 - Superior Court of Clayton County; change the compensation of the sheriff](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro)

**Action:** Introduced and Assigned to the Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee. (3/3/26) ; Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/6/26).

[SB 0618 - Municipal Court of the City of Decatur; the assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

Senate Sponsor: Elena Parent (D – Decatur)

**Action:** Senate Hopper 3/4/26

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

**Monday, March 9, 2026 – Legislative Day 29**

|           |                               |              |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 9:00 AM   | House Rules                   | 341 CAP      |
| 10:00 AM  | House Floor Session           | House Floor  |
| 10:00 AM  | Senate Floor Session          | Senate Floor |
| Upon Adj. | Senate Rules                  | 450 CAP      |
| 4:00 PM   | Senate Judiciary Subcommittee | 307 CLOB     |

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – Legislative Day 30**

|           |                      |              |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------|
| 9:00 AM   | House Rules          | 341 CAP      |
| 10:00 AM  | House Floor Session  | House Floor  |
| 10:00 AM  | Senate Floor Session | Senate Floor |
| Upon Adj. | Senate Rules         | 450 CAP      |

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – Committee Work Day**

*No meetings scheduled yet.*

**Thursday, March 12, 2026 – Legislative Day 31**

|           |                      |              |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------|
| 9:00 AM   | House Rules          | 341 CAP      |
| 10:00 AM  | House Floor Session  | House Floor  |
| 10:00 AM  | Senate Floor Session | Senate Floor |
| Upon Adj. | Senate Rules         | 450 CAP      |

**Friday, March 13, 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 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/all>.