



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 13, 2026

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Week 9 (Legislative Days 29-31)

The General Assembly reconvened Monday through Thursday this week for Legislative Days 29-31, with a Committee Work Day on Wednesday. Of note, on Legislative Day 29, [HR 251](#), which provides a constitutional amendment for the nonpartisan election of probate court judges, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee met and passed out their [Substitute](#) to HB 974, the FY27 General Budget. The House then passed the budget on Tuesday and immediately transmitted the bill to the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee held a hearing on the FY27 General Budget on Thursday, March 12.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 16, for Legislative Day 32.

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 530 - Courts; authorization for electronic filing of pleadings in probate court; provide](#)

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

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

This bill provides for e-filing in probate court proceedings.

Action: Receive a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

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

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

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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 Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 43-0 (3/12/26). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

[HB 162 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; restriction and seal of First Offender Act sentences until such status is revoked; provide](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass as Amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 47-0 (3/12/26).

[HB 483 - Crimes and offenses; protections for inspectors of code enforcement; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Brian Prince (D – Augusta)

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 40-7 (3/12/26).

[HB 858 - Cobb County; State Court; change compensation and number of certain staff of solicitor-general](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26); Passed the Senate by Substitute by vote of 43-0 (3/12/26).

[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: Passed the House by a vote of 159-0 (3/10/26); Introduced and assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26).

[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: Passed the House by a vote of 159-0 (3/10/26); Introduced and assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 159-0 (3/10/26); Introduced and assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26).

[HB 1452 - Mableton, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 159-0 (3/10/26); Introduced and assigned to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/12/26).

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

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

Action: Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/6/26); Passed the House by a vote of 158-0 (3/12/26).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

[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. Anthony Bearden (R – Carrollton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/12/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Higher Education Committee (3/12/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

[HB 162 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; restriction and seal of First Offender Act sentences until such status is revoked; provide](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/10/26).

[HB 535 - Penal institutions; credit for time served regarding probation revocation sentencing; provide](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

[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 Senate Public Safety Committee (3/11/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/26).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[HB 1528 - Franklin Springs, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/10/26).

[HB 1529 - Canon, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/10/26).

[HB 1534 - Chatham County; State Court; provide additional judge](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Anne Allen Westbrook (D – Savannah)

Action: Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/10/26).

[HB 1539 - Ware County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/12/26).

[HB 1540 - Ware County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/12/26).

[HB 1541 - Ware County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/12/26).

[HB 1542 - Worth County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Yearta (R – Sylvester)

Action: House Hopper (3/12/26).

[HB 1546 - Local government; requirements for local authorities retaining legal services on a contingent fee basis; provide](#)

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

Action: House Hopper (3/12/26).

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

Monday, March 16, 2026 – Legislative Day 32

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
1:30 PM	House Judiciary	132 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – Committee Work Day

10:00 AM	House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation	406 CLOB
1:00 PM	Senate Children and Families	450 CAP

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – Legislative Day 33

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, March 19, 2026 – Legislative Day 34

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, March 20, 2026 – Legislative Day 35

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 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/all>.