



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 20, 2026

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Week 10 (Legislative Days 32-35)

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The General Assembly reconvened Monday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 32-35, with a Committee Work Day on Tuesday.

### Judicial Branch Initiatives

[HB 530](#), which provides for e-filing in probate court proceedings, passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday. On Thursday, [HB 304](#) also passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This legislation establishes the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council, and includes the language of [HB 132](#), creating the office of senior municipal court judge.

Lastly, [HB 1042](#), which relates to the restriction of personally identifiable information of judges, was incorporated into [SB 230](#). In the House Committee Substitute, Sections 1 through 5 contain the provisions from HB 1042. This new version of SB 230 passed out of the House Insurance Committee today.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 23, for Legislative Day 36.

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

## Judicial Council Supported Bills

### [HB 304 - Local government; Georgia Municipal Court Clerks' Council; create](#)

*\*The Judicial Council position of support applies to Sections 1 & 2, relating to the office of senior municipal court judge*

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

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

This bill includes language to create the office of senior municipal court judge.

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26).

### [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:** Failed to Pass the Senate by a vote of 31-18 (3/19/26); Senate Adopted Motion to Reconsider by a vote of 32-5 (3/20/26).

### [SB 230 - Condominiums; maximum amount of insurance deductibles payable by unit owners; remove the limitation](#)

*\*The Judicial Council position of support applies to Sections 1 - 5, relating to restriction of personally identifiable information.*

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

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

This bill includes language from [HB 1042](#) (Sections 3 & 4), which provides for amendments related to OCGA §§ 15-5-110, 112, relating to restriction of personally identifiable information.

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Insurance Committee (3/20/26).

## Other Bills

### Final Passage

### [HB 1057 - Gwinnett County; State Court; provide eighth judge January 1, 2027 and ninth judge January 1, 2028](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (D – Lithonia)

**Action:** Passed the Senate by vote of 48-1 (3/16/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cordelia)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26); Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/20/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 1507 - Wayne County; State Court; judge and solicitor; revise salary](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/19/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/19/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Retirement Committee (3/17/16); Passed the House by a vote of 165-0 (3/19/26). *Final Passage.*

[SB 383 - Child Abuse; local child fatality review committees; modify the review](#)

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 165-0 (3/18/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-0 (3/19/26). *Final Passage.*

**Floor Votes**

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

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

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by Substitute as Amended by a vote of 53-0 (3/16/26).

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

**Action:** Passed the Senate as Amended by a vote of 46-4 (3/18/26).

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Steven McNeel (R – Macon)

**Action:** Passed the Senate as Amended by a vote of 50-2 (3/16/26).

[HB 1461 - Muscogee County; Superior Court; salary of the clerk of superior court and the chief deputy clerk; change provisions](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-2 (3/18/26).

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

[exemption](#)

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

**Action:** Passed House by a vote of 161-2 (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-2 (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-2 (3/18/26).

[HB 1527 - Franklin Springs, City of; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-2 (3/18/26).

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 161-2 (3/18/26).

[SB 160 - Reckless Stunt Driving; a motor vehicle involved in a second offense of reckless stunt driving; replace the forfeiture penalty](#)

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by a vote of 130-26 (3/16/26).

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

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Jackson)

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 163-3 (3/19/26).

[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)

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

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 165-0 (3/18/26).

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

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

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

**Action:** Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 162-2 (3/19/26).

[SB 618 - Municipal Court of the City of Decatur; the assessment and collection of a technology fee; authorize](#)

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

**Action:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1 (3/16/26); Introduced and assigned to House Intragovernmental Coordination (3/20/26).

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

### **[HB 147 - Georgia Technology Authority; annual inventory of artificial intelligence usage by state agencies; provide](#)**

House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Woodstock)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Science and Technology Committee (3/18/26).

### **[HB 181 - Vital records; issuance of a Certificate of Foreign Birth by the state registrar without a judicial order if certain criteria is satisfied; provide](#)**

House Sponsor: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Powder Springs)  
Committee (1/12/26).

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Children and Families Committee (3/18/26).

### **[HB 283 - Motor vehicles; issuance of a refusal to sign citation; provide](#)**

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26).

### **[HB 460 - Evidence; exclude certain communications made between attorney and client when client is in a penal institution](#)**

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/20/26).

### **[HB 494 - General Assembly; digitization and electronic publication of Georgia Laws; provide](#)**

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26).

### **[HB 668 - Crimes and offenses; change references to assistance and guide dogs to service dogs](#)**

House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Holly Springs)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass as Amended by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/16/26).

### **[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:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee (3/18/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee (3/18/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Rules Committee (3/18/26).

[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 Senate Health and Human Services Committee (3/19/26).

[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 Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26).

[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 Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/19/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/26).

[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 the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee (3/18/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/19/26).

[SB 27 - Stalking; offense of doxxing; penalties; protective order; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

[SB 268 - Offenses Against Public Order; crime of interference with a first responder; provide](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

[SB 433 - “Rio’s Law”](#)

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/18/26).

[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:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/18/26).

[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 Substitute by the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/18/26).

[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 House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

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

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

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation (3/19/26).

[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 the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

[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 the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

## **New Bills Introduced This Week**

[SB 623 - State Court of Clayton County; compensation of the solicitor-general of the state court; revise provisions](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kenya Wicks (D – Fayetteville)

**Action:** Received a Do Pass by the Seante State and Local Governmental Operations (3/19/26).

[HR 1703 - House Study Committee on Criminal Post-Conviction Litigation; create](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the Special Rules Committee (3/18/26).

[HB 1548 - Clarkesville, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/26).

[HB 1549 - Cornelia, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/26).

[HB 1553 - Forest Park, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Rhonda Burnough (D – Riverdale)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/18/26).

[HB 1569 - McDonough, City of; Municipal Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/19/26).

[HB 1571 - Bryan County; State Court; revise terms](#)

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

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee (3/19/26).

[HB 1574 - Motor vehicles; certain convictions of homicide by vehicle when operating such vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs; require restitution](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (R – Gillsville)

**Action:** Introduced and assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/19/26).

[HB 1588 - Cobb County; salaries of chief deputy sheriff, assistant chief deputy sheriff, and executive assistant to the sheriff shall be determined by the sheriff; provide](#)

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

**Action:** House Hopper (3/19/26).

To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries, please visit

[georgiacourts.gov/legislation](http://georgiacourts.gov/legislation).

**Monday, March 23, 2026 – Legislative Day 36**

9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
11:30 AM	Council of Municipal Court Judges Day at the Capitol	216 CAP
Upon Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	450 CAP
1:00 PM	House Judiciary Juvenile	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	House Special Rules	515 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – Committee Work Day**

9:30 AM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Children and Families	307 CLOB

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – Legislative Day 37**

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 26, 2026 – Committee Work Day**

9:00 AM	Senate Children and Families	450 CAP
10:00 AM	House Judiciary Non-Civil	132 CAP
2:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

**Friday, March 27, 2026 – Legislative Day 38**

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>.