



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 27, 2026

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Week 11 (Legislative Days 36-38)

The General Assembly reconvened Monday through Friday this week for Legislative Days 36-38, with Committee Work Days on Tuesday and Thursday.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

On Tuesday, the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee revised [HB 1344](#) to incorporate language from [HB 1042](#), which relates to the restriction of personally identifiable information of judges. The bill passed out of committee by Substitute the same day. On Wednesday, [HB 304](#), legislation creating of the office of senior municipal court judge, passed the Senate by Substitute. Similarly, [HB 530](#), which provides for e-filing in probate court proceedings, passed the Senate by Substitute the same day. Today, both HB 304 and HB 530 received an Agree in the House for final passage.

Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the [FY27 General Budget](#) on Wednesday, March 25. Today, the Senate passed [HB 974](#) by Substitute by a vote of 52-0. Once the House and Senate each insist on their positions, the bill will move to a Conference Committee.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, March 31, for Legislative Day 39.

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 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 (originally filed as HB 132).*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 51-0 (3/25/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 159-2 (3/27/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 48-0 (3/25/26). House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 159-0 (3/27/26). **Final Passage.**

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

**The Judicial Council position of support applies to Sections 14-1 and 14-2, relating to restriction of personally identifiable information.*

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

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

This bill includes language from [HB 1042](#), 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 Senate Insurance and Labor Committee (3/24/26).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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: House agreed to Senate Substitute to House Substitute by a vote of 166-0 (3/23/26). **Final Passage.**

[HB 369 - Motor vehicles; sale of food or beverages; provide vehicle equipment standards](#)

(Includes Substitute language from [SB 573](#))

House Sponsor: Rep. Dexter Sharper (D – Valdosta).

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 32-21 (3/25/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

Action: House agreed to Senate Substitute by a vote of 140-26 (3/23/26). **Final Passage.**

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

(Includes language from [SB 606](#))

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 32-19 (3/23/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 100-55 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

[HB 1485 - Union County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

[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)

Action: Senate agreed to House Substitute by a vote of 49-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

[SB 433 - “Rio’s Law”](#)

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 169-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

[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 House by a vote of 96-69 (3/23/26). ***Final Passage.***

[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: Senate agreed to House Substitute by a vote of 46-0 (3/25/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 166-0 (3/25/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a substitute by a vote of 159-6 (3/25/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-0 (3/27/26). *Final Passage.*

Floor Votes

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute as Amended by a vote of 50-1 (3/23/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute as Amended by the House by a vote of 149-6 (3/27/26).

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute as Amended by the House by a vote of 167-0 (3/23/26).

[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: Tabled by the Senate by a vote of 27-23 (3/25/26).

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 50-0 (3/25/26).

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 158-0 (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: House Passed by a vote of 158-0 (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: House Passed by a vote of 158-0 (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: House Passed by a vote of 158-0 (3/23/26).

[HB 1567 - Quitman, City of; transfer of all legal rights, privileges, and assets to Brooks County; provide](#)

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

Action: House Passed by Substitute by a vote of 96-68 (3/25/26).

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

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

Action: House Passed by a vote of 164-0 (3/25/26).

[SB 8 - Courts; arrest warrant requirements when juvenile courts are acting as courts of inquiry; provide](#)

(Includes Substitute language from [HB 1433](#))

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee (3/23/36); Passed the House by Substitute by a vote by 115-45 (3/27/26).

(Includes Substitute language from [HB 1433](#))

[SB 403 - Unclaimed Property; property is presumed abandoned; provide for exceptions](#)

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Committee (3/23/26); Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 158-0 (3/27/26).

[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 House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/24/26); Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 98-59 (3/27/26).

[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 House by Substitute by a vote of 168-0 (3/23/26).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings & Action

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

(Includes Substitute language from [SB 525](#))

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the Senate Children and Families Committee (3/24/26).

(Includes Substitute language from [SB 525](#))

[HB 378 - State courts of counties; online publishing of terms; provide](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

[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 by Substitute in Senate Government Oversight Committee (3/26/26).

[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 the Senate Retirement Committee (3/24/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute (3/25/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/25/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute as Amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

[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 Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26); Senate Tabled (3/27/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/23/26).

[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 Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

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

(Includes Substitute language from [HB 557](#) and [HB 960](#))

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: Passed Senate by Substitute by a vote of 48-2 (3/25/26).

[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: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

[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 by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

[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 the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/23/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Special Rules Committee (3/23/26);

[SB 163 - Brady Law Regulations; standards for bringing an action against the government for an unauthorized act relating to regulation of weapons; revise](#)

(Includes Substitute language from [HB 1255](#))

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Colton Moore (R – Trenton)

Action: Received a Do Pass by Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/24/26).

[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 the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/24/26).

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlongega)

Action: Received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/24/26).

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

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

Action: Received a Do Pass by the Seante State and Local Governmental Operations (3/23/26).

New Bills Introduced This Week

[HR 1893 - House Study Committee on Modernizing the Discovery Process through the Use of New Technologies; create](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Fincher (R – Canton)

Action: House Hopper (3/27/26).

[SB 633 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic; implied consent provisions; repeal and reenact](#)

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

Action: Senate Hopper (3/27/26).

[HR 1893 - House Study Committee on Modernizing the Discovery Process through the Use of New Technologies; create](#)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Fincher (R – Canton)

Action: House Hopper (3/27/26).

[SB 633 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic; implied consent provisions; repeal and reenact](#)

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

Action: Senate Hopper (3/27/26).

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Monday, March 30, 2026 – Recess

10:30 AM	Senate Rules	450 CAP
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Tuesday, March 31, 2026 – Legislative Day 39

9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – Recess

Thursday, April 2, 2026 – Legislative Day 40, *Sine Die*

10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber

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>.