



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 8, 2026

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Week 12 (Legislative Days 39-40)

The General Assembly convened Tuesday and Thursday last week for Legislative Days 39 and 40 and adjourned *sine die* in the late evening of Thursday, April 2.

Judicial Branch Initiatives

On Tuesday, March 31, [HR 251](#), providing for a constitutional amendment for the nonpartisan election of probate court judges, achieved final passage after receiving unanimous support in the Senate. Following that, on Thursday, April 2, [HB 1344](#) passed the Senate with unanimous support and received a final Agree by the House for final passage. This legislation included language from [HB 1042](#), which provides for amendments related to OCGA §§ 15-5-110, 112, relating to restriction of personally identifiable information.

Appropriations

After a final Appropriations Conference Committee meeting on Thursday, April 2, the House and Senate each adopted the Conference Committee Report for the FY 2027 State Budget. [HB 974](#) now awaits the Governor's signature. The Judicial Council Budget can be found in Section 6, which begins on page 7 of the document.

This report is a compilation of items achieving final passage during the last week of session affecting Georgia's judiciary. This being the end of the legislative biennium, any bills that did not receive final passage are now moot. To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary as well as bill summaries and previous reports, please visit georgiacourts.gov/legislation. Bill summaries will be updated over the coming weeks to reflect final, As Passed versions. The annual Judicial Council/AOC Enacted Legislation report will be available after completion of the bill review period (May 12).

Judicial Council Supported Bills

[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 Sponsors: 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: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 53-0 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 164-3 (4/2/26). ***Final Passage.***

[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 bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that all probate judges shall be elected in nonpartisan elections.

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 46-0 (3/31/26). ***Final Passage.***

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 47-0 (3/31/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 171-0 (4/2/26). ***Final Passage.***

[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)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

Action: Passed the Senate as Amended by a vote of 30-22 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Amendment as Amended by the House by a vote of 93-76 (4/2/26); Senate agreed to the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment by a vote of 34-19 (4/2/26). ***Final Passage.***

[HB 447 - Crimes and offenses; crimes of gift card theft, gift card forgery, and gift card fraud; provide](#)

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 49-1 (4/2/26). ***Final Passage.***

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

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 160-0 (3/31/26). ***Final Passage.***

[HB 651 - Motor vehicles; use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones; revise provisions](#)

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 156-14 (4/3/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 168-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

Action: House agreed to Senate Substitute as Amended by a vote of 165-0 (3/31/26); Senate agreed to the House Amendment to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 50-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[HB 999 - Magistrate courts; collecting sums and fees authorized by law; revise provisions](#)
(Includes substitute language from [HB 792](#))

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

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

Action: Senate agreed to the House Amendment by a vote of 48-1 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 47-0 (3/31/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 138-32 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 165-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 47-2 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 166-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 49-1 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 158-11 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 46-3 (3/31/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute as Amended by the House by a vote of 163-6 (4/2/26); Senate agreed to the House Amendment to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 33-19 (4/3/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Amendment by a vote of 97-65 (3/31/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (4/2/26). **Final Passage.**

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

(Includes substitute language from [HB 557](#), [SB 327](#), [HB 960](#), and [HB 1365](#))

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute as Amended by a vote of 47-3 (3/31/25); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 172-0 (4/2/26). **Final Passage.**

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

(Includes substitute language from [SB 28](#))

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute as Amended by a vote of 98-70 (4/2/26); Senate agreed to the House Amendment to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 34-18 (4/3/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

Action: House agreed to the Senate Amendment by a vote of 170-0 (4/2/26). **Final Passage.**

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

(Includes substitute language from [HB 1042](#))

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 53-0 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 164-3 (4/2/26). **Final Passage.**

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

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

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

Action: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 52-0 (4/2/26); House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 155-12 (4/2/26). **Final Passage.**

[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)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Omari Crawford (D – Decatur)
Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 161-3 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Anne Allen Westbrook (D – Savannah)
Action: House agreed to the Senate Substitute by a vote of 101-69 (4/2/26).

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Rhonda Burnough (D – Riverdale)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

[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: Passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 31-16 (3/31/26); House agreed to Senate Substitute by a vote of 110-63 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Mary Ann Santos (D – McDonough)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stevens (R – Savannah)
Action: Passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

[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: Passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[SB 143 - Georgia Firefighter's Pension Fund; certain members to retire at age 50; provide](#)
(Includes substitute language from [HB 818](#))

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)
House Sponsor: Rep. Lauren McDonald III (R – Cumming)

Action: Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 52-1 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

House Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 167-0 (3/31/26); Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 53-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 49-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

[SB 406 - "Georgia Property Owners' Bill of Rights Act"; enact](#)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 155-10 (3/31/26); Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 51-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

House Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 44-6 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 163-0 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the House by a vote of 128-39 (3/31/26). *Final Passage.*

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

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

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

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 161-3 (3/31/26); Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 52-0 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (D – Decatur)

Action: Passed the House by a vote by 110-63 (4/2/26). *Final Passage.*

[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)

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

Action: Passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 161-3 (3/31/26); Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 50-0 (4/2/26). ***Final Passage.***

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