



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 13, 2018

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Legislative Days 19-20

The busy pace of the legislature continued on Monday and Tuesday, and the 2018 session is now halfway complete. Items moving through the process early this week include [HB 654](#), recommendations from the Georgia Child Support Commission passed by the House, and [HB 683](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2018 Budget passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate version of the tracking document can be found [here](#).

The House and Senate will convene on Wednesday, February 14, and Thursday, February 15, for Legislative Days 21 and 22. Both chambers will be in recess on Friday, February 16.

This report is a compilation of the items acted on this week affecting Georgia's Judiciary. To view more legislation pertaining to the judiciary, as well as bill summaries, previous reports, and committee meeting schedules, please visit legislation.georgiacourts.gov.

Floor and Committee Action

Legislation Supported by the Judicial Council

[HB 654 – Child support; reforms recommended by Ga. Child Support Commission; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Beth Beskin (R – Atlanta)

HB 654 amends Code Section 19-6-15 of the O.C.G.A. The bill makes it discretionary, but not mandatory, to file multiple worksheets in cases with more than one child where one child may become ineligible for support over the next two years.

Action: HB 654 passed out of House Rules (2/12/18); and, passed the House with a vote of 170-0 (2/13/18).

Other Bills

[HB 190 - Domestic relations; marriage articles and antenuptial agreements; change provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Meagan Hanson (R – Brookhaven)

Action: HB 190 passed out of House Rules. (2/13/18)

[HB 660 - Criminal procedure; defendants who commit certain crimes which target a victim; provide for sentencing](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Meagan Hanson (R – Brookhaven)

Action: HB 660 was given a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee. (2/13/18)

[HB 663 - Crimes and offenses; sentencing of defendants guilty of crimes involving bias or prejudice; repeal certain provisions](#) (Hearing Only)

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Bennett (D – Stone Mountain)

Action: HB 663 was given a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/12/18)

[HB 668 - Guardian and ward; petitions for appointment of a guardian under certain circumstances; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Betty Price (R – Roswell)

Action: HB 668 was passed out of House Rules (2/12/18); and, was passed by the House with a vote of 115-44 (2/13/18).

[HB 673 - Motor vehicles; prohibit actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 673 was given a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/12/18)

[HB 683 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018](#)

Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Action: HB 683 received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Appropriations Committee. (2/13/18)

[HB 745 - Landlord and tenant; termination of a residential rental agreement under circumstances involving family violence; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Holcomb (D – Atlanta)

Action: No action was taken on HB 745 by the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/13/18)

[HB 765 - C.J.'s Law; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. “Able” Mable Thomas (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 765 was given a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/12/18)

[HB 790 - State government; recommendations of the Court Reform Council; implement](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 790 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee (2/12/18); and, received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/13/18).

[HB 803 - Crimes and offenses; trafficking a disabled adult, elder person, or resident; prohibit](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Wendell Willard (R – Sandy Springs)

Action: HB 803 was given a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/12/18)

[HB 817 - Professions and businesses; certain weapons carry laws for persons licensed as private detectives and security agents; revise exemption](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Heath Clark (R – Warner Robins)

Action: No action was taken on HB 817 by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. (2/12/18)

[HB 855 - Georgia Driver's Education Commission; additional penalty to be assessed for violation of traffic laws and ordinances](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Deffenbaugh (R – Lookout Mountain)

Action: HB 855 received a Do Pass by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. (2/12/18)

[SB 315 - Computer Crimes; create a new crime of unauthorized computer access; penalties; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)

Action: SB 315 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 41-11. (2/12/18)

[SB 329 - State Tort Claims; waiver of sovereign immunity pursuant to The Georgia Torts Claims Act; boards of health are covered entities; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: SB 329 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A. (2/12/18)

[SB 347 - Criminal Trespass; increased punishment applicable to criminal trespass upon certain military graves; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Greg Kirk (R – Americus)

Action: SB 347 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A. (2/12/18)

[SB 368 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; functions and authority; add](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Greg Kirk (R – Americus)

Action: SB 368 passed out of Senate Rules. (2/13/18)

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – Legislative Day 21

9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee	132 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety SB 406 – “Georgia Long-term Care Background Check Program” enact; public safety; promote SB 409 - Railroad Crossings; persons driving vehicles shall exercise due care and caution for other on track equipment; require	Mezz 1
3:00 PM	House Public Safety	606 CLOB
4:00 PM	House Appropriations Public Safety	406 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B SB 145 - Sexual Offenses; offense of rape applicability to victims across genders; gender identities and sexual orientations; SB 314 - Invasions of Privacy; prohibit sexual extortion; provide SB 316 - "Georgia Enhanced Penalties for Hate Crimes Act"; enact	307 CLOB

Thursday, February 15, 2018 – Legislative Day 22

9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 16, 2018 – In Recess

No meetings scheduled

**This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please visit the [House Meetings page](#) and the [Senate Meetings page](#) for a complete list of meetings, the most current schedules and agendas.*

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