



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 6, 2018

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Legislative Days 15-16

Monday, February 5 marked Legislative Day 15 and opened a very busy week for the General Assembly. Major pieces of legislation including [HB 159](#) (adoption) have now passed one or both chambers while others continue to move through the committee process. With Crossover Day (LD 28) only three weeks away, it is likely that this pace will continue. [HB 683](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, was passed out of the House today and moves on to the Senate. The most up to date tracking document can be found [here](#).

Both chambers will convene on Wednesday, February 7, and Thursday, February 8, for Legislative Days 17 and 18. Both chambers will be in recess on Friday, February 9.

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 571 - Magistrates Retirement Fund; member in arrears for dues payments for 90 days shall be suspended; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

HB 571 amends Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. to provide that if a member of the Magistrates Retirement Fund is in arrears for due payments for 90 days, they will become a suspended member. HB 571 further provides for a method for suspended members to apply for reinstatement into the fund. The bill also provides members with survivors benefit options.

Action: HB 571 was passed on to the floor by the House Rules Committee. (2/6/18)

[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 OCGA. 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 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee (2/5/18); and, received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/6/18)

Other Bills

[HB 121 – Trusts; minor or unborn beneficiaries; change provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 121 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/6/18).

[HB 159 - Domestic relations; adoption; substantially revise general provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)

Action: The Senate Agreed to the House Amendment with a vote of 53-2 (2/5/18). **Final passage.**

[HB 381 - Abandoned Mobile Home Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

Action: HB 381 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee (2/5/18).

[HB 657 - Firearms; providing to person on probation as a felony first offender; make unlawful](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 657 received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety Committee. (2/5/18)

[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 received a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/5/18)

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

Sponsor: Rep. Betty Price (R – Roswell)

Action: HB 668 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/6/18)

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

Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Action: HB 683 was passed out of the House with a vote of 167-8. (2/6/18)

[HB 732 - Crimes and offenses; trafficking an individual for sexual servitude; provisions](#)

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

Action: HB 732 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (2/5/18)

[HB 737 - Law enforcement; court-ordered blood tests for protection of officers who have significant exposure to HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Clay Cox (R – Lilburn)

Action: HB 732 received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety Committee. (2/5/18)

[HB 738 - Probate courts; term for the purpose of the right to offer a will for probate; define](#)

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

Action: HB 738 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee (2/5/18); and, received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/6/18)

[HB 782 - Crimes and offenses; provisions relating to permissible users with access to drug monitoring program data base; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)

Action: HB 738 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/6/18)

[SB 365 - Code Revision Commission; statutory portion of said Code; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in and reenact](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SB 365 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (2/5/18)

[SB 373 - Judges of Superior Courts; eleventh judge of the superior courts of the Cobb Judicial Circuit; appointment of such additional judge; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)

Action: SB 373 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (2/5/18)

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – Legislative Day 17

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
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil, Kelley Subcommittee HB 410 - Condominiums; certain fees imposed on purchasers; provide for limits HB 705 -Magistrate courts; jurisdictional limits for certain civil claims; increase HB 745 -Landlord and tenant; termination of a residential rental agreement under circumstances involving family violence; provide	132 CAP
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil, Fleming Subcommittee HB 505 - Civil practice; conclusion of criminal proceedings prior to civil forfeiture proceedings; require HB 704 -Civil practice; burial of construction waste or materials; change when statute of limitations shall accrue for certain actions	132 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary SB 301 - "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act"; enact SB 336 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; general provisions; subpoena issued for production of electronic communication; not provide notice to the subscriber SB 337 - Admissions and Confessions; effective date for the procedure; testimony of a child's description of sexual contact; provide	307 CLOB

Thursday, February 8, 2018 – Legislative Day 18

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
2:00 PM	Special Judiciary SB 349 - Notaries Public; identification of persons evidenced satisfactorily by a valid Veterans Health Identification Card; provide	Mezz 1
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 9, 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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