



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

January 30, 2018

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Legislative Days 11-12

The General Assembly reconvened on Monday, January 29, for Legislative Day 11. The week started strong with several bills being heard in subcommittees and in full committees. Both the House and Senate Rules Committees are meeting daily and assigning bills to the calendars for floor votes. This high level of activity will continue for rest of the week.

[HB 683](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, will be taken up by the House Appropriations Committee tomorrow morning, immediately following the subcommittees' consideration. The tracking document reflecting the Governor's recommendations can be found [here](#), and a version reflecting the House's recommendations should be available following tomorrow's hearings.

Both chambers will convene on Wednesday, January 31, and Thursday, February 1 for Legislative Days 13 and 14. Both chambers will be in recess on Friday, February 2.

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 162 - Income tax; transfer of setoffs by the Administrative Office of the Courts; revise procedures](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Betty Price (R – Roswell)

HB 162 amends Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., to revise and enhance the procedures for the Tax Refund Intercept Program.

Action: HB 162 was tabled by the Senate Judiciary Committee (1/29/30).

[HB 630 - Probate courts; change certain general provisions](#)

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

HB 630 provides for general substantive and technical changes to the probate courts statutes.

Action: HB 630 was recommitted to the House Judiciary Civil Committee (1/29/18).

Other Bills

[HB 505 - Civil practice; conclusion of criminal proceedings prior to civil forfeiture proceedings; require](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Scot Turner (R – Holly Springs)

Action: No action was taken on HB 704 by the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee. (1/29/18)

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

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 673 received a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. (1/29/18)

[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 Kelley Subcommittee. (1/29/18)

[HB 704 - Civil practice; burial of construction waste or materials; change when statute of limitations shall accrue for certain actions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Caldwell (R – Woodstock)

Action: No action was taken on HB 704 by the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee. (1/29/18)

[SB 74 - Courts; proper standard of proof; provide for clear and convincing evidence](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Joshua McKoon (R – Columbus)

Action: SB 74 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (1/29/18)

[SB 131 - Juvenile Code; adoption proceedings be stayed while an appeal to terminate parental rights is pending; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: SB 131 was passed by the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 52-0. (1/30/18)

[SB 257 - Animals; consultation with a veterinarian; filing of criminal charges for cruelty to animals in certain instances; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen)

Action: SB 257 received a Do Pass from the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. (1/29/18)

[SB 301 - "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act"; enact](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: No action was taken on SB 301 by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (1/30/18)

[SB 321 - Medicaid Claims; false or fraudulent; recover the maximum penalty authorized by federal law; increase the civil penalties](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: SB 321 was passed by the Senate with a vote of 51-0. (1/30/18)

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 – Legislative Day 13

7:40 AM	House Appropriations Public Safety	341 CAP
8:30 AM	House Appropriations HB 683 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018	341 CAP
9:30 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 SB 217 - Municipal Probation Officer; exercise of power of arrest and a Georgia Peace Officer Standards Training Council certification; revise the authority SB 315 - Computer Crimes; create a new crime of unauthorized computer access; penalties; provide	Mezz 1
2:00 PM	House Retirement HB 119 - Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; member shall be eligible to transfer funds to Georgia Judicial Retirement System; provide	515 CLOB
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee HB 410 - Condominiums; certain fees imposed on purchasers; provide for limits (Hearing Only) HB 705 - Magistrate courts; jurisdictional limits for certain civil claims; increase (Hearing Only)	132 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Thursday, February 1, 2018 – Legislative Day 14

10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, February 2, 2018 – 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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