



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

[legislation.georgiacourts.gov](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov)

Legislative Days 22-23

The House and Senate returned to the Capitol on Monday, March 2, for Legislative Day 22. Committees in both chambers have held long, busy meetings as the legislature begins the final push towards Crossover Day (LD 28) next Thursday.

[HB 792](#), the budget for Amended FY 2020, passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, March 2 (LD 22) and will be voted on by the full Senate on Wednesday, March 4 (LD 24). The current tracking document reflecting the Senate's recommendations can be found [here](#).

Both chambers stand adjourned until Wednesday, March 4, at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Day 24.

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, previous reports, and committee meeting schedules, please visit [legislation.georgiacourts.gov](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov).

## **Floor & Committee Action**

### **HB 641 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; grant powers and duties to identify and investigate violations of the Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act and other computer crimes**

Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

**Action:** HB 641 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security (3/2/2020).

### **HB 792 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

Sponsor: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

**Action:** HB 792 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Appropriations Committee (3/2/2020); and was passed out of Senate Rules (3/3/2020).

### **HB 814 - State-wide Business Court; remove administrative attachment from the Court of Appeals**

Sponsor: Rep. Andy Welch (R – McDonough)

**Action:** HB 814 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/3/2020).

### **HB 823 - Crimes and offenses; lifetime disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle by persons convicted of trafficking other persons for labor or sexual servitude; provide**

Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

**Action:** HB 823 passed the House with a vote of 166-0 (3/2/2020).

### **HB 830 - Retirement and pensions; increase percentage of eligible large retirement system's assets that may be invested in alternative investments**

Sponsor: Rep. Tommy Benton (R – Jefferson)

**Action:** HB 830 was passed out of the House Rules Committee (3/2/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 156-12 (3/3/2020).

### **HB 865 - Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; Revised Probate Code of 1998; revise and update provisions**

Sponsor: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

**Action:** HB 865 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Kelley Subcommittee (3/2/2020); and received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/3/2020).

### **HB 890 - Drivers' licenses; notices of revocation and suspension by regular mail; provide**

Sponsor: Rep. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)

**Action:** HB 890 received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/3/2020).

### **HB 895 - Motor vehicles; assessment of no points and maximum fine for the offense of failure to obey a traffic control device in certain instances; provide**

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

**Action:** HB 895 received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/3/2020).

[HB 903 - Motor vehicles; issuance of a traffic citation to a vehicle owner in lieu of the individual operating the motor vehicle in certain instances; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)

**Action:** HB 903 received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/2/2020).

[HB 968 - Civil practice; clarify actions that may be brought pursuant to Code Section 9-3-51 regarding deficiencies in connection with improvements to realty](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

**Action:** HB 968 passed the House with a vote 165-0 (3/2/2020).

[HB 969 - Housing; certain provisions pertaining to unlawful practices in selling or renting dwellings and the procedures, remedies, and judicial review related thereto; change](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

**Action:** HB 969 passed out of the House Rules Committee (3/3/2020).

[HB 983 - Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; information required to be provided by sexual offenders when they register; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

**Action:** HB 983 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/2/2020).

[HB 994 - Courts; provisions relating to addressing criminal gang activities; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)

**Action:** HB 994 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/2/2020).

[HB 1003 - Ogeechee Judicial Circuit; provide additional judge of the superior courts](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Jon Burns (R – Newington)

**Action:** HB 1003 passed the House with a vote of 163-0 (3/2/2020).

[HR 1023 - Judiciary; people may petition for declaratory relief from certain acts of this state or certain local governments or officers or employees; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Andy Welch (R – McDonough)

**Action:** HR 1023 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[HB 1033 - Cobb County; State Court; change salary of the executive assistant to the clerk](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Marietta)

**Action:** HB 1033 passed the House on the Local Calendar with a vote of 153-0 (3/3/2020).

[HB 1040 - Penal institutions; total maximum fee that shall be collected when pay-only probation is imposed; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Emory Dunahoo (R – Gillsville)

**Action:** HB 1040 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/3/2020).

[HB 1082 - Motor vehicles; notification letter for retrieving a motor vehicle held by a towing and storage firm, repair facility, or salvage dealer; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

**Action:** HB 1082 received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/3/2020).

[SB 224 - Crimes and Offenses; carrying of weapons in judicial courts by weapons carry license holders; provisions; revise](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla)

**Action:** SB 224 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 271 - Law Assistants; rename as law clerks and staff attorneys](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

**Action:** SB 271 passed the Senate with a vote of 51-0 (3/2/2020).

[SB 301 - Detainers; inmates charged with subsequent felony offenses under sentence and in custody; temporary custody provisions; revise](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

**Action:** SB 301 passed the Senate with a vote of 52- 0 (3/2/2020).

[SB 329 - "Motor Vehicle Title Loan Act"; enact](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

**Action:** SB 329 received a Do Pass from the Senate Finance Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 344 - Witness or Criminal Defendant; certain proceedings conducted by video conference; requirements; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

**Action:** SB 344 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 374 - Final Remedies and Special Proceedings; new requirements under the "Georgia Civil Practice Act" for settlement offers and arrangements; revise and provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

**Action:** SB 374 passed the Senate with a vote of 35-19 (3/2/2020).

[SB 393 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; duties and powers; revise; campus policemen and other security personnel of the university system; arrests for felony offenses](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

**Action:** SB 393 passed the Senate with a vote of 35-19 (3/2/2020).

[SB 394 - Attorney General; authority to investigate and prosecute certain crimes and offenses; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

**Action:** SB 394 passed out of the Senate Rules Committee (3/2/2020); and passed the Senate with a vote of 36-19 (3/3/2020).

[SB 402 - Bonds and Recognizances; conditions for unsecured judicial release on a person's own recognizance; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

**Action:** SB 402 passed out of the Senate Rules Committee (3/2/2020); and passed the Senate with a vote of 46-8 (3/3/2020).

[SB 415 - Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonaga)

**Action:** SB 415 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee (3/3/2020).

[SB 423 - "Max Gruver Act"; expanded definition of hazing; provide; enact](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

**Action:** SB 423 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 435 - "The Debbie Vance Act"; court imposing sentence may grant the relief of vacatur for convictions and sentences of defendants; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

**Action:** SB 435 passed the Senate with a vote of 55-0 (3/2/2020).

[SB 439 - Juvenile Code; enhanced notice to and improved participation of foster, preadoptive, and relative caregivers in certain hearings; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

**Action:** SB 439 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 443 - Garnishment Proceedings; revise; uniform procedures for garnishment actions; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – McDonough)

**Action:** SB 443 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

[SB 463 - Primaries and Elections; provisions and references regarding direct recording electronic voting machines; remove](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

**Action:** SB 463 received a Do Pass from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/3/2020).

[SR 841 - Legislative Acts; void; people of this state may petition the judiciary for declaratory relief from certain acts of this state that violate the laws or Constitution of this state or the Constitution of the United States; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

**Action:** SR 841 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/2/2020).

## **Floor & Committee Meeting Schedule\***

**Wednesday, March 3, 2020 – Legislative Day 24**

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	515 CLOB
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety <a href="#">SB 458</a> - Speed Detection Devices and Red Light Cameras; use of speed detection devices by law enforcement officers employed for the patrol of an elementary or secondary school; provide <a href="#">SB 446</a> - Cash Bonds; unclaimed cash bonds; provide <a href="#">SB 479</a> - Rules of the Road; use of a stand-alone electronic device; persons under 18 years of age while operating a motor vehicle; prohibit	Mezz 1
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil <a href="#">HB 479</a> - Hidden Predator Act of 2019; enact <a href="#">HB 1083</a> - Criminal procedure; verification of immigration status; provisions	132 CAP
2:00 PM	House Juvenile Justice <a href="#">HB 971</a> - Juvenile Code; annual training for juvenile court intake officers; require	506 CLOB
2:00 PM	Senate Education & Youth <a href="#">SB 343</a> - Education; mandatory education for children from 16 to 17; raise age	307 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Retirement <a href="#">SB 270</a> - Retirement Benefits; appellate court judges; age of eligibility; decrease	Mezz 1

4:00 PM	House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee <a href="#">HB 117</a> - Elections; county superintendent may permit any elector of the county to vote in any precinct of the county which such elector chooses in a primary, election, or runoff under certain conditions; provide <a href="#">HB 520</a> - Elections; change date of nonpartisan general elections <a href="#">HB 1029</a> - Twiggs County; office of probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections <a href="#">HB 1030</a> - Twiggs County; office of chief judge of the Magistrate Court; provide nonpartisan elections	403 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary <a href="#">SB 437</a> - 'Georgia Cooperative Associations Code'; formation of general cooperative associations under the laws of this state; provide. <a href="#">SB 390</a> - Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise.	307 CLOB

**Thursday, March 4, 2020 – Legislative Day 25**

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
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

**Friday, March 5, 2020 – In Recess**

*\*Schedule reflects meetings and legislation relevant to the judiciary. 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*

Tracy Mason  
Senior Assistant Director  
Governmental & Trial Court Liaison (404) 463-0559  
[tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov)

Cheryl Karounos  
Legislative Liaison  
(404) 651-7616  
[cheryl.karounos@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:cheryl.karounos@georgiacourts.gov)

Robert Aycock  
Trial Court Liaison  
(404) 463-1023  
[robert.aycock@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:robert.aycock@georgiacourts.gov)

LaShawn Murphy  
Trial Court Liaison  
(404) 651-6325  
[lashawn.murphy@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:lashawn.murphy@georgiacourts.gov)

Darron Enns  
Policy Analyst  
(404) 656-5453  
[darron.enns@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:darron.enns@georgiacourts.gov)

Legislative Interns  
Franchesca Badia  
Athena Zhang

[www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov)  
[legislation.georgiacourts.gov](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov)  
Twitter: [@GACourtsLegis](https://twitter.com/GACourtsLegis) & [@GACourts](https://twitter.com/GACourts)