



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 17, 2017

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Week 10 (Legislative Days 32-35)

The tenth week of the 2017 Legislative Session saw a flurry of committee activity as the General Assembly moves into its final legislative days. Several bills supported by the Judicial Council were passed out of committee and now await decision by the House and Senate Rules Committees. The three bills addressing criminal justice reform – [SB 174](#), [SB 175](#) and [SB 176](#) – were each favorably reported out of committee this week, as well.

On Monday, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed their version of [HB 44](#), the budget for Fiscal Year 2018. The full Senate passed the budget on March 15; the tracking document can be found [here](#). As is customary, a conference committee was formed and will meet to further discuss the budget on Monday, March 20. Conferees for the House are Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones (R – Milton), Rep. Terry England (R – Auburn), and Rep. John Burns (R – Newington). The Senate conferees are President Pro Tempore David Shafer (R – Duluth), Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) and Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens).

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 20, for Legislative Day 36.

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.

Legislation Supported by the Judicial Council

[HB 370 - Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia; create and administer savings and deferred compensation plans for members; authorize](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Hilton (R – Peachtree Corners)

HB 370 amends Title 36 of the O.C.G.A. to authorize the Council of Municipal Court Judges to create a voluntary savings plan.

Action: HB 370 received a Do Pass by the Senate Retirement Committee (3/13/17).

[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 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17)

[SB 132 - Civil Practice; statutory civil case filing and disposition forms; allow Judicial Council of Georgia to promulgate forms; child custody proceedings; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

SB 132 amends Title 9 of the O.C.G.A. to provide for the promulgation of civil and domestic relations case filing and disposition forms by the Judicial Council of Georgia.

Action: SB 132 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Civil (Kelley) Subcommittee (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/16/17).

Other Bills

[HB 15 - Courts; certain civil pleadings to be filed electronically; require](#)

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

Action: HB 15 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 44 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018](#)

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

Action: HB 44 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Appropriations Committee (3/13/17); passed out of Senate Rules (3/14/17); and was passed by the Senate with a vote of 55-0 and immediately transmitted to the House (3/15/17). The House and Senate each insisted on their positions and a Conference Committee was appointed.

[HB 67 - Crimes and offenses; entering a motor vehicle with the intent to commit a theft or felony; provide for increased punishment](#)

Sponsor: Rep. William Boddie (D – East Point)

Action: HB 67 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 76 - Superior courts; change certain requirements and certifications for certain maps, plats, and plans for filing with clerk; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper)

Action: HB 76 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17)

[HB 126 - Courts; Judicial Qualifications Commission; change provisions](#)

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

Action: HB 126 failed to pass in the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 138 - Superior courts; fifth judge of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Lee Hawkins (R – Gainesville)

Action: HB 138 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

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

Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 159 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 185 - Probate court; associate judges; change provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Christian Coomer (R – Cartersville)

Action: HB 185 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17).

[HB 213 - Crimes and offenses; sale, manufacture, delivery, or possession of fentanyl within the prohibition of trafficking certain drugs; include](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Rich Golick (R – Smyrna)

Action: HB 213 was tabled by the Senate (3/15/17).

[HB 221 - Commerce and trade; powers of attorney to a uniform Act; update and conform provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 221 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17)

[HB 231 - Controlled substances; Schedules I, II, IV and V; change certain provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Broadrick (R – Dalton)

Action: HB 231 received a Do Pass by Substitute by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 250 - Foster homes; employee with satisfactory fingerprint records check in past 24 months exempt from additional background check; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 250 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the Senate Special Judiciary Committee (3/13/17).

[HB 261 - Penal institutions; certain individuals sentenced between March 18, 1968 and October 31, 1982; allow to petition court for first offender status](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R – Glennville)

Action: HB 261 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 279 - Domestic relations; name change requested by victim of family violence; provide separate process](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 279 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 280 - Firearms; license holders; carrying and possession of certain weapons in certain buildings or real property owned or leased to public institutions of postsecondary education; authorize](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 280 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17)

[HB 292 - Firearms; laws relating to the carrying of weapons and safety; revise and clarify](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper)

Action: HB 292 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 319 - Habeas corpus; maximum amount counties may be reimbursed for certain costs; increase](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R – Gainesville)

Action: HB 319 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 323 - Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions of said Code](#)

Sponsor: Johnnie Caldwell, Jr. (R - Thomaston)

Action: HB 323 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 343 - Criminal procedure; certain outdated terminology; replace](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Hilton (R- Peachtree Corners)

Action: HB 343 received a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 359 - Supporting and Strengthening Families Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 359 was passed by the Senate with a vote of 40-11 (3/15/17).

[HB 391- Safe Place for Newborns Act of 2002; revise provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. David Clark (R – Buford)

Action: HB 391 received a Do Pass by the Senate Special Judiciary Committee (3/13/17).

[HB 406- Weapons; reciprocity of recognizing and giving effect to licenses to carry from other states; revise requirements](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 406 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 434 - Eminent domain; requirement that condemnations not be converted to any use other than public use for 20 years; provide exception](#)

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

Action: HB 434 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/16/17).

[HB 453 - County law library; board of trustees; add chief judge of magistrate court](#)

Sponsor: Rep. David Dreyer (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 453 received a Do Pass by the Senate Special Judiciary Committee (3/13/17).

[HB 572 - Chatham County; Recorder's Court; revise responsibilities of chief judge; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 572 passed the House with a vote of 155-0 (3/15/17).

[HB 573 - Cook County; Probate Court; judge shall have jurisdiction to try misdemeanor cases where defendant waives jury trial and pleads guilty; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Penny Houston (R – Nashville)

Action: HB 573 passed the House with a vote of 155-0 (3/15/17).

[SB 15 - Crimes and Offenses; weapons carry license; add to the category of former law enforcement officers](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (D – Marietta)

Action: SB 15 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/16/17)

[SB 16 - Low THC Oil; definition; provisions relating to conditions eligible for use; change](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

Action: SB 16 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

[SB 95 - Selection of Jurors; state-wide master jury list; change provisions; Georgia Crime Information Center; pardons and paroles; provide conforming cross-references](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)

Action: SB 95 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary (Civil) Fleming Subcommittee (3/3/17); and received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary (Civil) Committee (3/16/17).

[SB 99 - Georgia Crime Information Center; purging a person's hospitalization information for purpose of National Instant Criminal Background Check; provide for a judicial procedure](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Action: SB 99 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/16/17).

[SB 121 - "Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr., Act"](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville)

Action: SB 121 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

[SB 125 - Physician assistants; authority to prescribe hydrocodone compound products; authorize a physician to delegate to a physician assistant](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jeffares (R – McDonough)

Action: SB 125 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/16/17).

[SB 126 - State Tort Claims; venue of actions; provisions; change](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 126 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary (Civil) Fleming Subcommittee (3/15/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute as amended by the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/16/17).

[SB 149 - School Resource Officers; training requirements; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

Action: No action was taken on SB 149 by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/13/17).

[SB 160 - "Back the Badge Act of 2017"](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla)

Action: SB 160 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/15/17).

[SB 168 - Child Abuse; permitted to access child abuse records by department, or county, or other state or local agency; extend; Central Child Abuse Registry; permit access](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville)

Action: SB 168 received a Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/16/17).

[SB 170 - 'Georgia SERVES Act of 2017'; child care services for foster children and their families; provide for certification of volunteers](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Hunter Hill (R – Atlanta)

Action: SB 170 received a Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/16/17).

[SB 174 - Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform; reform for individuals supervised under accountability courts; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 174 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

[SB 175 - Juvenile Code; juvenile court proceedings; enact reforms](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 175 received a Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/16/17).

[SB 176 - Georgia council on Criminal Justice Reform; driving privileges; enact reforms](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 176 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/14/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

[SB 241 - Controlled Substances; electronic database of prescription information provisions; change](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee S. Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: No action was taken on SB 241 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/14/17).

[SB 250 - State Sexual Offender Registry; individual is convicted in another country; require registration](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

Action: SB 250 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/16/17); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

[SR 307- Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Joint Task Force; create](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: SR 307 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/17/17).

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday, March 20, 2017 – Legislative Day 36

8:30 AM	Joint House and Senate Appropriations Conference Committee Meeting	403 CAP
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Session	Senate Chamber
Adj.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Judiciary Non-Civil	406 CLOB
1:00 PM	House Public Safety & Homeland Security	606 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – In Recess

1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	307 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 – Legislative Day 37

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

Tuesday, March 23, 2017 – In Recess

1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	307 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, March 24, 2017 – Legislative Day 38

10:00 AM	House Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Session	Senate Chamber

**This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change*

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