



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 9, 2018

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Week 5 (Legislative Days 15-18)

The fifth week of the 2018 legislative session was busy and productive. [HB 159](#) (adoption) received final passage on Monday while [HB 683](#), the Amended Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, was passed out of the House on Tuesday, February 6. It now moves on to the Senate. The most up to date tracking document for the budget can be found [here](#). Other bills and resolutions continued to make their way through committees and an increasing number are being passed on the floor by both chambers. With Crossover Day (LD 28) now less than three weeks away, this activity level should only increase as that date nears.

[SB 406](#) and [SB 407](#), the criminal justice reform bills, were filed on Thursday, February 8.

Both chambers will reconvene on Monday, February 12, for Legislative Day 19.

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); and, was passed by the House with a vote of 159-0 (2/9/18).

[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 O.C.G.A. The bill makes it discretionary 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 119 - Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; member shall be eligible to transfer funds to Georgia Judicial Retirement System; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Kelley (R – Cedartown)

Action: HB 119 was not heard by the House Retirement Committee. (2/7/18)

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

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efration (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 by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (2/8/18)

[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); and, received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/8/18).

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

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

Action: HB 505 failed to pass out of the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee. (2/7/18)

[HB 618 - Skidaway Island, City of; incorporate](#)

Sponsor Rep. Jessie Petrea (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 618 was passed out of House Rules (2/7/18); and, was passed by the House with a vote of 158-3. (2/8/18)

[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 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 670 - Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision; number of legislative branch representatives; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 670 received a Do Pass by the House Juvenile Justice Committee. (2/8/17)

[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 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 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: HB 704 received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee (2/7/18); and, received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/8/18).

[HB 705 - Magistrate courts; jurisdictional limits for certain civil claims; increase](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Kelley (R – Cedartown)

Action: HB 705 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee (2/7/18); and received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/8/18).

[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 763- Education; student attendance protocol committees to school climate; expand](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Randy Nix (R – LaGrange)

Action: HB 749 received a Do Pass by the House Education Committee. (2/8/18)

[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 107 - Ethics in Government; filing campaign financial disclosure reports; additional date prior to general primary; revise the dates](#)

Sponsor: Sen Fran Millar (R – Atlanta)

Action: SB 107 received a Do Pass from the Senate Ethics Committee. (2/8/17)

[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 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Juvenile Justice Committee. (2/8/17)

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

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

Action: SB 337 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (2/7/18)

[SB 309 - Elections; time for opening and closing of the polls; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Josh McKoon (R – Columbus)

Action: SB 309 received a hearing by the Senate Ethics Committee. (2/8/18)

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

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)

Action: SB 315 was passed out of the Senate Rules Committee. (2/8/19)

[SB 336 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; general provisions; subpoena issued for production of electronic communication; not provide notice to the subscriber](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: SB 337 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (2/7/18)

[SB 337 - Admissions and Confessions; effective date for the procedure; testimony of a child's description of sexual contact; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: SB 337 received a Do Pass by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (2/7/18)

[SB 338 - Administrative Procedure; agency rule making; modify requirements](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SB 338 was passed by the Senate as amended with a vote of 37-18. (2/8/18).

SB 363 - Elections and Primaries; time for opening and closing of the; provide

Sen. Josh McKoon (R- Columbus)

Action: SB 363 received a hearing by the Senate Ethics Committee. (2/8/18)

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)

SB 375 - "Keep Faith in Adoption and Foster Care Act"

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SB 373 received a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee B. (2/8/18)

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday, February 12, 2018 – Legislative Day 19

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
1:00 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee HB 673 - Motor vehicles; prohibit actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle; provisions HB 663 - Crimes and offenses; sentencing of defendants guilty of crimes involving bias or prejudice; repeal certain provisions (Hearing Only) HB 765 - C.J.'s Law; enact HB 803 - Crimes and offenses; trafficking a disabled adult, elder person, or resident; prohibit HB 813 - Evidence; similar acts of certain violations be after a conviction thereof; require	406 CLOB
1:00 PM	House Public Safety & Homeland Security HB 817 - Professions and businesses; certain weapons carry laws for persons licensed as private detectives and security agents; revise exemption by Rep. Clark, 147th HB 855 - Georgia Driver's Education Commission; additional penalty to be assessed for violation of traffic laws and ordinances	606 CLOB
3:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil Fleming Subcommittee HB 790 - State government; recommendations of the Court Reform Council; implement	132 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday February 13, 2018 – Legislative Day 20

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	House Governmental Affairs Special Subcommittee on Voting Technology HB 848 -Elections; uniform election equipment; provisions	506 CLOB

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	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	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 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 agenda*

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

Tyler Mashburn
Legislative Liaison
(404) 651-7616
tyler.mashburn@georgiacourts.gov

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

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

James Rodatus
Policy Analyst
(404) 656-5453
james.rodatus@georgiacourts.gov

Legislative Interns
Taylor Black
Brandon Liu

www.georgiacourts.gov
legislation.georgiacourts.gov
Twitter: @GACourtsLegis & @GACourts