



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 22, 2019

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Week 6 (Legislative Days 17-20)

The General Assembly convened for four days during the fifth week of the 2019 Legislative Session, with many bills passing out of committee and moving to Rules for consideration. Crossover Day (LD 28) is now less than two weeks away and this pace will continue as the House and Senate seek to pass bills out of their respective chambers before the deadline.

As provided for by [HR 97](#), a Joint Session was convened on Tuesday, February 19, to hear Chief Justice Harold D. Melton deliver his first State of the Judiciary Address. The video and full text of the speech has been provided on the Supreme Court's website and may be [accessed here](#).

Several bills supported by the Judicial Council made progress this week. [HB 134](#) (law library fund population provision) and [HB 257](#) (magistrate court update) passed out of the House Judiciary Committee, and [HB 381](#) (child support guidelines update) was filed. The Amended Fiscal Year 2019 budget ([HB 30](#)) achieved final passage on Friday, February 22. The final tracking document may be [found here](#). The Fiscal Year 2020 budget is still within the House.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, February 25, for Legislative Day 21.

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.

The following legislation supported by the Judicial Council was filed this week:

[HB 381 - Child support; defined terms and terminology, grammar, and punctuation; revise and correct](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

HB 381 amends OCGA § 19-6-15 to provide for cleanup and technical changes to reflect changes in Federal law, rules, and regulations.

Action: HB 381 was assigned to the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/21/19).

Floor and Committee Action

Legislation Supported by the Judicial Council

[HB 134 - County law libraries; repeal a population provision regarding the disposition of law library funds in certain libraries](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee)

HB 134 moves to repeal Code Section 36-15-11 of the OCGA which provides for law library funds to be directed to the general fund in counties with a population of 950,000 or more.

Action: HB 134 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (2/20/19); and received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[HB 257 - Council of Magistrate Court Judges; organization and provide for officers; increase authority](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

HB 257 amends Chapter 10 of Title 15 of the OCGA to update and modernize the magistrate court statutes.

Action: HB 257 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee (2/21/19); and received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Committee (2/22/19).

Other Bills

[HR 1 – Nathan Deal Judicial Center; naming the forthcoming new state appellate judicial complex](#)

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

Action: HR 1 passed out of Senate Rules (2/21/19); and passed out of the Senate 39-2 (2/22/19).

[HB 5 - Georgia Prospective Employer Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Park Cannon (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 5 received a hearing by the House Industry & Labor Committee (2/20/19).

[HB 30 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019](#)

Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Action: HB 30 passed out of Senate Rules (2/20/19); passed out of the Senate by Substitute 55-0 (2/21/19); the House agreed to the Senate Substitute as amended and the Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate Substitute (2/22/19). **Final passage.**

[HB 38 - Crimes and offenses; theft; define a term](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Rhonda Burnough (D – Riverdale)

Action: No action was taken on HB 38 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/19/19).

[HB 70 - Guardian and ward; guardian and conservators of minors and adults; revise provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 70 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 80 - Child Support Cooperation Act of 2019; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. William Werkheiser (R – Glennville)

Action: No action was taken on HB 80 by the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (2/20/19).

[HB 81 – Contracts; certain restrictive covenants regarding information technology employees; prohibit](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Todd Jones (R – South Forsyth)

Action: No action was taken on HB 81 by the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[HB 88: - C.J.'s Law; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. “Able” Mable Thomas (D – Atlanta)

Action: No action was taken on HB 88 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/19/19).

[HB 129 - Crimes and offenses; knowingly selling or furnishing knuckles to a person under age of 18 years; provide for an exception](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 129 was tabled by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 174 - Motor vehicles; proper display of license plates; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. David Wilkerson (D – Powder Springs)

Action: HB 174 received a hearing by the House Motor Vehicles Driver Safety & Service Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 177 - Civil practice; certain actions arising from burial of construction waste or materials; change when statute of limitations shall accrue](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Caldwell (R – Woodstock)

Action: HB 177 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended by the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (2/20/19); and received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[HB 202 - Penal institutions; commissioner of corrections to report certain information; require](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 202 received a Do Pass by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Lumsden Subcommittee (2/22/19).

[HB 207 - Kameron Dunmore Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Billy Mitchell (D – Stone Mountain)

Action: No action was taken on HB 207 by the House Motor Vehicles Driver Safety & Service Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 213 - Georgia Hemp Farming Act; enact](#)

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

Action: HB 213 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Agriculture Subcommittee (2/19/19); and received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Agriculture & Consumers Affairs Committee (2/20/19).

[HB 217 - Crimes and offenses; employees and agents of syringe services programs are not subject to certain offenses relating to hypodermic syringes and needles; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: HB 217 received a Do Pass from the House Health & Human Services Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 226 - Courts; additional penalty for violation of traffic laws or ordinances under Joshua's Law; extend sunset](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (R – Douglas)

Action: HB 226 received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 228 - Marriage; change minimum age from 16 to 17 and require any person who is 17 to have been emancipated](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Welch (R – McDonough)

Action: HB 228 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 234 - Anti-Human Trafficking Protective Response Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 234 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/20/19).

[HB 239 - Georgia Business Court; establish](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 239 received a hearing by the House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 246 - Evidence; revise manner by which depositions taken at the instance of state are paid](#)

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

Action: HB 246 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/19); passed out of Senate Rules (2/21/19); and passed out of the House 166-0 (2/22/19).

[HB 256 - Controlled substances; certain persons shall be allowed to possess such substances only while in usual course of business or employment; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

Action: No action was taken on HB 256 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 258 - Criminal procedure; add aggravated sexual battery to the list of offenses for which the statute of limitations is tolled if the victim is younger than 16 years of age](#)

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

Action: HB 258 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/19/19).

[HB 259 - Georgia Crime Information Center; provide criminal history record information to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 259 received a Do Pass as amended by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/21/19); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[HB 260 - Crimes and offenses; home invasion in the first degree to incorporate family violence battery; revise offense](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: No action was taken on HB 260 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 261 - Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; change name of board; change provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi L. Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: No action was taken on HB 261 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 281 - Crimes and offenses; pimping and pandering; increase penalty provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Teri Anulewicz (D – Smyrna)

Action: HB 281 received a hearing by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/19/19); and received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/21/19); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute as amended from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[HB 282 - Criminal procedure; increase amount of time that law enforcement agencies are required to preserve certain evidence of sexual assault](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Holcomb (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 282 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/19/19).

[HB 284 - Cobb County; Magistrate Court chief judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 284 received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs State & Local Government Subcommittee (2/20/19); and received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/21/19).

[HB 285 - Cobb County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 285 received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs State & Local Government Subcommittee (2/20/19); and received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/21/19).

[HB 303 - Crimes and offenses; anachronistic terms; remove](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Josh McLaurin (D – Sandy Springs)

Action: No action was taken on HB 303 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/19/19).

[HB 307 - Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 307 received a Do Pass by substitute from the House Motor Vehicles Driver Safety & Service Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 308 - State government; public records shall not be held exclusively by private entity; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Jason Ridley (R – Chatsworth)

Action: No action was taken on HB 308 by the House Governmental Affairs State & Local Government Subcommittee (2/20/19).

[HB 311 - State government; waiver of immunity of sovereign immunity as to actions ex contractu and state tort claims; provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Welch (R – McDonough)

Action: HB 311 received a hearing by the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (2/20/19).

[HB 316 - Elections; definitions; provide for uniform equipment and ballot marking devices](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 316 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (2/21/19); and received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/21/19).

[HB 331 - Domestic relations; family violence to include certain acts between persons through whom a past or present pregnancy has developed or persons in a past or present dating relationship for the granting of protective orders & other relief; revise definitions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi L. Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: No action was taken on HB 331 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/21/19).

[HB 341 - Crimes and offenses; reproduction of recorded material; update terminology](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 341 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/21/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/22/19).

[SB 1 - “CJ’s Law”; penalty for hit and run accidents that result in serious injury; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

Action: SB 1 passed out of Senate Rules (2/20/19); and passed out of the Senate by Substitute as amended 50-1 (2/21/19).

[SB 9 - Invasion of Privacy; sexual extortion; prohibit; definitions; elements of the crime; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta)

Action: No action was taken on SB 9 by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/19).

[SB 15 - “Keeping Georgia’s Schools Safe Act”](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

Action: SB 15 received a Do Pass from the Senate Public Safety Committee (2/20/19).

[SB 32 - Torts; conditions upon immunity from civil liability in instances of rendering emergency care; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 32 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the Senate Special Judiciary (2/19/19); and passed out of the Senate 43-4 (2/22/19).

[SB 45 - “Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act”](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta)

Action: SB 45 received by the Senate Economic Development & Tourism (2/20/19).

[SB 59 - Wiretapping, Eavesdropping; it shall be legal to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication if all parties consent to such interception; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

Action: No action was taken on SB 59 by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (2/19/19).

[SB 64 - Juvenile Code; certain acts; offense of a terroristic threat as a Class B designated felony act; include](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: No action was taken on SB 64 by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee A (2/19/19).

[SB 69 - Animal Protection; persons convicted of cruelty to animals after July 1, 2019 from obtaining pet animals; prohibit](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Steve Henson (D – Stone Mountain)

Action: No action was taken on SB 69 by the Senate Special Judiciary Committee (2/19/19).

[SB 104 - Resuscitation; parental requirement for consent; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

Action: No action was taken on SB 104 by the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/20/19).

[SB 110 - Courts; State-wide Business Court; pursuant to the Constitution of this state; establish](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)

Action: SB 110 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/21/19).

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday, February 25, 2019 – 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	House Public Safety & Homeland Security HB 33 – Weapons carry license; extension of time for the renewal of a license for certain service members on active duty outside of the state; provide HB 113 – Motor vehicles; prohibit license and instruction permit holders from using a stand-alone electronic device or wireless telecommunications device while driving HB 202 – Penal institutions; commissioner of corrections to report certain information; require	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	MEZZ 1
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 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
5:00 PM	Senate Special Judiciary	307 CLOB

Wednesday February 27, 2019 – Legislative Day 23

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

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 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

Friday, March 1, 2019 – Legislative Day 25

10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ.	Senate Rules	450 CAP

**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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