



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 15, 2019

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Week 9 (Legislative Days 30-32)

On Monday, March 11, the General Assembly returned for Legislative Day 30 and the ninth week of the 2019 Session. The House and Senate focused their efforts on hearing bills that had crossed over from the opposite chamber. Tuesday, March 12, was designated a Committee Work Day and Friday, March 15, as a recess day. Throughout the week, Senate Appropriations subcommittees held hearings on HB 31, the budget for FY 2020. The tracking document for the Senate Appropriations Judicial Subcommittee can be found [here](#). With only eight legislative days remaining, the next two weeks are expected to be busy, with full committee meeting schedules and lengthy floor calendars.

The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 18, for Legislative Day 33. 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

HB 21 - Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 21 passed out of Senate Rules (3/13/19); and passed the Senate 52-1 (3/14/19).

Final passage.

HB 28 - Griffin Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide

Sponsor: Rep. Karen Mathiak (R – Griffin)

Action: HB 28 passed out of Senate Rules (3/13/19); and passed the Senate 52-1 (3/14/19).

Final passage.

HB 64 - Parent and child; require child welfare agencies to make efforts to determine whether a parent or guardian of a child who is the subject of abuse allegations is on active duty in the military

Sponsor: Rep. Brian Prince (D – Augusta)

Action: HB 64 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/14/19).

HB 70 - Guardian and ward; guardian and conservators of minors and adults; revise provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 70 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/14/19).

HB 171 - Motor vehicles; use of mounts on windshields for the support of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices under certain circumstances; allow

Sponsor: Rep. Timothy Barr (R – Lawrenceville)

Action: HB 171 received a Do Pass as amended from the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/13/19).

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

Sponsor: Rep. Dominic LaRicca (R – Douglas)

Action: HB 226 received a Do Pass from the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/13/19).

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 hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/13/19).

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 from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/13/19).

HB 307 - Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act; enact

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 307 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/14/19).

[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 from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/13/19).

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

Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 316 passed out of Senate Rules (3/11/19); passed the Senate 35-21 (3/13/19); and the House agreed to the Senate Substitute with a vote of 101-69 (3/14/19). ***Final passage.***

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

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 341 received a Do Pass from the Senate Science & Technology Committee (3/14/19).

[HB 387 - Property; liens in favor of private, nonprofit, volunteer fire departments for instances of fire services that are requested by property owners; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: HB 387 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 471 - Motor vehicles; implied consent notices; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Steven Sainz (R – Woodbine)

Action: HB 471 received a Do Pass from the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 472 - Juvenile Code; procedures concerning removal considerations; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 472 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/14/19).

[HB 478 - Social services; improvements to the operation of the child abuse registry; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 478 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 481 - Living Infants Fairness and Equality \(LIFE\) Act; enact](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

Action: HB 481 received a hearing from the Senate Science & Technology Committee (3/14/19).

[HB 514 - Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission; create](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Tanner (R – Dawsonville)

Action: HB 514 received a Do Pass as amended from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 571 - Ben Hill County; Magistrate Court chief judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Clay Pirkle (R – Ashburn)

Action: HB 571 received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (3/11/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 572 - Ben Hill County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Clay Pirkle (R – Ashburn)

Action: HB 572 received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (3/11/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/13/19).

[HB 595 - Jenkins County; Probate Court judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)

Action: HB 595 received a Do Pass from the House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee (3/13/19).

[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 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/11/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/14/19).

[SB 6 - Correctional Institutions of the State and Counties; use of unmanned aircraft systems to deliver or attempt to deliver contraband to a place of incarceration; prohibit](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

Action: SB 6 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute as amended from the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Powell Subcommittee (3/12/19).

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

Sponsor: Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta)

Action: SB 9 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/11/19 & 3/13/19).

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

Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

Action: No action was taken on SB 32 by the House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee (3/12/19).

[SB 37 - Statute of Frauds; clarify that a mutual agreement to modify an existing promise, agreement, contract; shall be in writing and subject to statute of frauds](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SB 37 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (3/11/19).

[SB 73 - Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; fees collected in criminal and quasi-criminal cases prior to adjudication of guilt; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Tyler Harper (R – Ocilla)

Action: SB 73 received a Do Pass from the House Retirement Committee (3/12/19); passed out of House Rules; and passed the House 159-2 (3/14/19). ***Final passage.***

[SB 77 - State Flag, Seal, and other Symbols; additional protections for government statues; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

Action: SB 77 received a Do Pass as amended from the House Governmental Affairs State & Local Government Subcommittee (3/12/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/13/19).

[SB 98 - Elections and Primaries; ranked voting for runoffs by overseas citizens and military personnel; authorize](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)

Action: SB 98 was given a hearing by the Senate Ethics Committee (3/12/19).

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

Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

Action: SB 104 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee (3/13/19); and no action was taken on SB 104 by the House Judiciary Committee (3/14/19).

[SB 121 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry)

Action: SB 121 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/14/19).

[SB 130 - Office of Probate Judge of Johnson County; future nonpartisan elections; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)

Action: SB 130 received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (3/11/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/13/19).

[SB 167 - Relative Search by DFCS; foster placement for a child adjudicated as a dependent; determine such child's permanency plan; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

Action: SB 167 received a hearing from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/14/19).

[SB 171 - Relating to courts, primaries, and elections generally, and Ad Valorem taxation; compensation of various local government officials; modify](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa)

Action: SB 171 received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs State & Local Government Subcommittee (3/12/19); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/13/19).

[SB 208 - Drivers Licenses; implied consent notices; revise](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

Action: No action was taken on SB 208 by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (3/11/19).

[SB 213 - Campaign Contributions; content of and certain reporting crimes for certain campaign disclosure reports; revise](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen)

Action: No action was taken on SB 213 by the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (3/12/19).

[SB 222 - Criminal Procedure; Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform; create](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)

Action: SB 222 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/11/19 & 3/13/19).

[SB 225 - Juvenile Code; in conformity with the federal Social Security Act and the Family First Prevention Services Act; bring provisions](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry)

Action: SB 225 received a hearing from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/14/19).

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday March 18, 2019 – Legislative Day 33

8:00 AM	Senate Science & Technology HB 481 - Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act; enact	450 CAP
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
1:00 PM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ.	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Insurance & Labor HB 227 - Insurance; discrimination against victims of family violence to include victims of sexual assault; expand prohibitions	310 CLOB
1:00 PM	House Public Safety SB 6 - Correctional Institutions of the State and Counties; use of unmanned aircraft systems to deliver or attempt to deliver contraband to a place of incarceration; prohibit	606 CLOB
1:30 PM	House Juvenile Justice SB 167 - Relative Search by DFCS; foster placement for a child adjudicated as a dependent; determine such child's permanency plan; provide SB 225 - Juvenile Code; in conformity with the federal Social Security Act and the Family First Prevention Services Act; bring provisions	515 CLOB
2:00 PM	Senate Education & Youth HB 530 - Education; prohibit parents or guardians from withdrawing or removing a child from a public school for the purpose of avoiding compliance with laws relating to mandatory attendance, school discipline, parental involvement, or parental responsibilities	307 CLOB
3:00 PM	Senate Health & Human Services 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 HB 483 - Controlled substances; Schedules I, IV, and V; change certain provisions	450 CAP
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

**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.*

Tuesday March 19, 2019 – Recess/Committee Work Day

1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	MEZZ 1
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil Welch Subcommittee SB 29 - Waiver of Immunity for Motor Vehicle Claims; definition to clarify sheriff, deputy sheriff, other agent, servant, or employee of sheriff's office; include SB 31 - Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies; performing any duty at the scene of an emergency; law enforcement officers shall not be liable; clarify SB 58 - Attorney General; written approval that allows for a private person to bring a civil action regarding false taxpayer claims; eliminate requirement	132 CAP
2:00 PM	Senate State & Local Governmental Operations	307 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Wednesday March 20, 2019 – Recess/Committee Work Day

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

Thursday March 21, 2019 – Legislative Day 34

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 22, 2019 – Legislative Day 35

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

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