



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 12, 2021

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Week 5 (Legislative Days 13-16)

The fifth week of the 2021 Legislative Session began on Monday, February 8 (LD 13) and the General Assembly remained in session through Thursday, February 11 (LD 16) before again having a Friday recess.

The [Amended FY 2021 Budget \(HB 80\)](#), continued to be the primary focus of the General Assembly. On Thursday, both chambers managed to reach final agreement on the bill without needing to appoint a conference committee. The bill was then immediately transmitted to the Governor to await his signature. The current tracking document for the FY2021 Amended Budget can be found [here](#).

Hearings on [FY 2022 Budget \(HB 81\)](#) also continue to be held. On Thursday morning, judicial branch agencies spoke to their budget requests in a meeting of Public Safety Subcommittee of House Appropriations. The current tracking document for the FY2022 Budget can be found [here](#).

Week 5 saw a marked uptick in committee activity. Meetings have become more frequent in both The House and Senate and an increasing number of bills have passed their initial chamber. Assuming that the session can continue uninterrupted, legislative activity will continue to increase in the upcoming weeks as the General Assembly works towards crossover day.

Two bills supported by the Judicial Council were filed this week. [HB 405](#) would allow for superior and state courts to hold court sessions in alternative locations under certain conditions and [SB 163](#) would allow for the tolling of speedy trial requirements following a judicial emergency.

The newest adjournment resolution, [SR 82](#) sets the calendar through Monday, March 1 (LD 25).

Both chambers stand adjourned until 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 16 for Legislative Day 17.

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.

Floor & Committee Action

Judicial Council Bills Filed

[HB 405 - Courts; revise when superior courts are authorized to use alternative locations](#)

House Author: Rep. Mike Wilensky (D – Dunwoody)

Action: HB 405 received a first reading in the House and Assigned to the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/11/2021).

[SB 163 - Judicial Emergency; suspension of statutory speedy trial requirements; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

Action: SB 163 was placed in Senate Hopper (2/11/2021)

Final Passage

[HB 80 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021](#)

House Author: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Senate Sponsor: Sen Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: HB 80 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 52-0 (2/9/2021); and the House agreed to the Senate Substitute of HB 80 as amended by the House with a vote of 165-4 (2/11/2021); and the Senate agreed to the House amendment of the Senate Substitute of HB 80 with a vote of 50-0 (2/11/2021); and HB 80 was immediately transmitted to the Governor (2/11/2021)

Floor Votes

[HB 67 - State government; public property; extend automatic repeals of certain provisions](#)

House Author: Chuck Martin (R – Alpharetta)

Action: HB 67 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/10/2021); and passed the House with a vote of 171-0 (2/10/2021).

[HB 97 - Courts; oath for certain clerks of the probate court; require and provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

Action: HB 97 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/9/2021); and passed the House with a vote of 172-0 (2/10/2021).

[HB 106 - Georgia State Indemnification Fund; replace the term National Guard with the term organized militia](#)

House Author: Rep. Heath Clark (R – Warner Robins)

Action: HB 106 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/9/2021); and passed the with a vote of 170-0 (2/10/2021).

[HB 112 - Torts; provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend applicability for one year](#)

House Author: Rep. Trey Kelley (R – Cedartown)

Action: HB 112 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/9/2021); and passed the House with a vote of 99-68 (2/9/2021).

[HB 134 - State government; meetings relating to cybersecurity contracting and planning from open meeting requirements; exclude](#)

House Author: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)

Action: HB 134 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/9/2021); and passed the House with a vote of 170-0 (2/10/2021).

[HB 208 - State holidays; second Wednesday of February of each year as National Swearing-in Day in Georgia; provide](#)

House Author: Mike Cheokas (R – Americus)

Action: HB 208 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/10/2021); and passed the House with a vote of 170-0 (2/11/2021).

[SB 32 - Public Disclosure; certain personal records of state and federal employees; exempt](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newman)

Action: SB 32 was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar (2/10/2021); and passed the Senate with a vote of 48-0 (2/11/2021).

[SB 33 - Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

Action: SB 33 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/8/2021); and was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar (2/10/2021); and passed the Senate with a vote of 50-0 (2/11/2021).

[SB 34 - Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

Action: SB 34 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/8/2021); SB 34 was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar (2/10/2021); and passed the Senate with a vote of 50-0 (2/11/2021).

Placed on Rules Calendar

[HB 146 - Public officers and employees; paid parental leave for eligible state employees and eligible local board of education employees; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: HB 146 received a Do Pass from the House Health and Human Services Committee (2/9/2021); and was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 17 (2/11/2021).

Passed out of Full Committee

[HB 90 - Torts; certain persons, firms, or corporations who are buyers of land for conversion of timber shall be exempt from certain liabilities; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Bruce Williamson

Action: HB 90 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/10/2021).

[HB 98 - State government; conditions for meetings and public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: HB 98 received a Do Pass from the House General Government Subcommittee of the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/8/2021); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (2/10/2021).

[HB 168 - Penal institutions; certain information within inmate files of the Department of Corrections shall not be classified as confidential state secrets when requested by the district attorney; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R – Savannah)

Action: HB 168 received a Do Pass from the Reeves Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/8/2021); and received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/10/2021).

[HB 212 - Health; order not to resuscitate; revise parental requirement for consent](#)

House Author: Rep. Kasey Carpenter

Action: HB 212 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Scoggins Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee (2/9/2021); and received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/10/2021).

[SB 52 - Selling and Other Trade Practices; legislative findings; standards for cybersecurity programs to protect businesses from liability; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)

Action: SB 52 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Science and Technology Committee (2/8/2021).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings

[HB 59 - Elections; instant runoff voting by overseas citizens and military personnel; authorize](#)

House Author: Rep. Wes Cantrell (R – Woodstock)

Action: HB 59 received a hearing from the Rich Subcommittee of the House Special Committee on Election Integrity (2/10/2021).

[HB 64 - Elections; manner of handling the death of a candidate prior to a nonpartisan election; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: HB 64 received a hearing from the Rich Subcommittee of House Special Committee on Election Integrity (2/10/2021).

[HB 81 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022](#)

House Author: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

Action: HB 81 received a hearing in Public Safety of the House Appropriations Committee (2/22/2021).

[HB 127 - Telephone service; wireless service supplier shall make location information of its subscribers available to law enforcement agencies upon request; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

Action: HB 127 received a hearing from the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee (2/9/2021).

[HB 136 - Elections; appointment of acting election superintendents in the event of a vacancy in the office of judge of the probate court; provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Action: HB 136 received a Do Pass from the Rich Subcommittee of House Special Committee on Election Integrity (2/10/2021).

[HB 138 - Property; certain landlords shall provide certain notices to existing and prospective tenants with regard to certain crimes occurring on the premises being leased; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Mesha Mainor (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 138 received a hearing from the Scoggins Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee (2/9/2021).

[HB 141 - Criminal procedure; requirements for awards made from Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to medical service providers; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: HB 141 received a Do Pass from the Setzler Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/2021).

[HB 165 - Motor vehicles; use of mounts on windshields for the support of wireless telecommunications devices and stand-alone electronic devices under certain circumstances; allow](#)

House Author: Rep. Timothy Barr (R – Lawrenceville)

Action: HB 165 received a Do Pass from the Driver Safety and Service Subcommittee of the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/8/2021).

[HB 185 - Motor vehicles; excessive and unusual noise of a muffler; provide for a definition](#)

House Author: Rep. Marvin Lim (D – Norcross)

Action: HB 185 received a hearing from the Driver Safety and Service Subcommittee of the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/9/2021).

[HB 231 - Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders](#)

House Author: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Action: HB 231 received a hearing from the Reeves Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/8/2021).

[HB 255 - Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2021; enact](#)

House Author: Rep. Scott Holcomb (D – Atlanta)

Action: HB 255 received a hearing from the Reeves Subcommittee of House Judiciary Non-Civil (2/8/2021).

[HB 258 - Crimes and offenses; response to State v. Williams, 2020 Ga. LEXIS 85; provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Steven Sainz (R – Woodbine)

Action: HB 258 received a hearing from the Setzler Subcommittee House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/11/2021).

[HB 263 - Retirement; benefits for judges of probate courts; revise method through which certain actuarial equivalents are determined](#)

House Author: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

Action: HB 263 received a Do Pass by the Gunter Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee (2/8/2021); received a hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/10/2021).

[HB 288 - Penal institutions; certain minimum periods of incarceration before parole consideration; require](#)

House Author: Rep. Dave Belton (R – Buckhead)

Action: HB 288 received a hearing from the Reeves Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Non-Civil (2/8/2021).

[HB 333 - Ethics in Government Act of 2021; enact](#)

House Author: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 333 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (2/10/2021).

[SB 10 - "Jaye Mize Law"; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

Action: SB 10 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/2021).

[SB 18 - Limitations on Prosecution; offenses of rape, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated sexual battery; revise the statute of limitations](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Harold Jones II (D – Augusta)

Action: SB 18 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/10/2021).

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday, February 15, 2021 – Recess Day

No Relevant Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – Legislative Day 17

7:00 AM	Senate Ethics Subcommittee A	307 CLOB
7:00 AM	Senate Ethics Subcommittee B	Mezz 1
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 and Homeland Security Subcommittee A HB 247 - Uniform rules of the road; commission of an offense of distracted driving; provide for penalties HB 248 - Motor vehicles; local governing body to apply for a permit to operate a traffic enforcement safety device which enforces the speed limit in a school zone by recorded image; authorize	415 CLOB
1:30 PM	House Judiciary Gunter Subcommittee HB 109 - Child Victim Protection Act of 2021; enact HB 334 - Superior courts; clerks; notaries public; provisions	132 CAP
2:15 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – Legislative Day 18

8:00 AM	Senate Government Oversight SB 100 - State Government; this state shall observe standard time year round; provide	450 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
4:45 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Thursday, February 18, 2021 – Legislative Day 19

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

Friday, February 19, 2021 – Recess Day

No Relevant 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 [General Assembly Events Schedule](#) page for a complete list of meetings, livestream links, the most current schedules, and agendas.*

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