



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 19, 2021

[legislation.georgiacourts.gov](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov)

Week 6 (Legislative Days 17-19)

---

---

The General Assembly returned to session this past Tuesday, February 16 (LD 17) and met through Thursday, February 18 (LD19) before standing in recess today.

While Week Six of the legislative session only consisted of three legislative days, each of these days saw an extensive schedule of committee meetings and a limited number of committees also met on recess days. Many bills were passed by committee and now await consideration by each chamber's Rules Committee.

After its final passage in the General Assembly last week, Governor Kemp signed the [Amended FY 2021 Budget \(HB 80\)](#) this past Monday. The Governor's press release can be found [here](#). The [FY 2022 Budget \(HB 81\)](#) continued to be heard in House Appropriation subcommittees. The budget for the upcoming fiscal year usually takes much longer than the amended budget to finalize and generally does not receive final passage until the final weeks of session.

[HB 405](#), which authorizes superior and state courts to hold court at alternative facilities under select conditions, received a subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, February 17 (LD 18).

In adherence to adjournment resolution [SR 82](#), both chambers stand adjourned until 10:00 am on Monday, February 22, for Legislative Day 20.

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](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov).

## **Floor & Committee Action**

### **Judicial Council Bills Filed**

[HB 555 - Criminal procedure; pretrial proceedings; provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

**Action:** HB 555 was placed in the House Hopper (2/18/21).

[HB 556 - Criminal procedure; revise authority for trial upon accusations](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

**Action:** HB 556 was placed in the House Hopper (2/18/21).

### **Judicial Council Supported Bills**

[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 hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Scoggins Subcommittee (2/17/2021).

### **Other Bills**

#### **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 was signed by the Governor (2/15/2021).

#### **Floor Votes**

[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 (R – Monroe)

**Action:** HB 90 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/16/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 165-0 (2/17/2021).

[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 passed the House by a vote of 155-2 (2/16/2021).

[HB 154 - Domestic relations; protection of children; strengthen, clarify, and update provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)

**Action:** HB 154 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/16/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 160-4 (2/17/2021).

[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 House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/16/2021); was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/17/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 166-0 (2/18/2021).

[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 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/17/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 99-66 (2/18/2021).

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

House Author: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (R – Dalton)

**Action:** HB 212 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/17/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 170-0 (2/18/2021).

[HB 353 - Motor vehicles; clarify what constitutes an obstruction for purposes of exceptions to when a vehicle is to drive on the right side of roadway](#)

House Author: Rep. Todd Jones (R – South Forsyth)

**Action:** HB 353 received a Do Pass from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (2/16/2021); was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/17/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 164-2 (2/18/2021).

[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 was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar (2/16/2021); and passed the Senate by a vote of 31-18 (2/17/2021).

**Placed on Rules Calendar for the Next Legislative Day**

[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 was placed on the House Rules Calendar by Committee Substitute (2/18/2021).

[HB 245 - Professions and businesses; podiatry; amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks](#)

House Author: Rep. John LaHood (R – Valdosta)

**Action:** HB 245 was placed on the House Rules Calendar (2/18/2021).

## **Passed out of Full Committee**

### **[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 as Amended from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/2021).

### **[HB 218 - Crimes and offenses; weapons carry license reciprocity in this state; expand](#)**

House Author: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

**Action:** HB 218 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/17/2021).

### **[HB 247 - Uniform rules of the road; commission of an offense of distracted driving; provide for penalties](#)**

House Author: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

**Action:** HB 247 received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Subcommittee A (2/16/2021); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/17/2021).

### **[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](#)**

House Author: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

**Action:** HB 248 received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Subcommittee A (2/16/2021); received a Do Pass from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (2/17/2021).

### **[HB 272 - Juvenile Code; juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age; change jurisdiction](#)**

House Author: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

**Action:** HB 272 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 274 - Courts; certain juvenile court judges; provide salary supplement](#)**

House Author: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

**Action:** HB 274 received a Do Pass as Amended from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 343 - Game and fish; rebuttable presumption of violation by individuals in possession of hunting paraphernalia while on others' lands; provide](#)**

House Author: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)

**Action:** HB 343 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Game, Fish and Parks Committee (2/16/2021).

### **[HB 367 - Controlled substances; Schedules I, II, III, IV, and V; change certain provisions](#)**

House Author: Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)

**Action:** HB 367 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/16/2021); and received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/2021).

[HR 120 - House Study Committee on Motor Vehicle Crimes; create](#)

House Author: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

**Action:** HR 120 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (2/17/2021).

[SB 28 - Juvenile Code and Domestic Relations; provisions relating to the protection of children; strengthen, clarify and update](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

**Action:** SB 28 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/18/2021).

[SB 40 - Elections and Primaries; the time and method for opening and tabulating absentee ballots; revise](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jennifer Jordan (D – Atlanta)

**Action:** SB 40 received a Do Pass as Amended from the Senate Ethics Committee (2/18/2021).

[SB 67 - Elections and Primaries; submission of identification in connection with absentee ballot applications; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Larry Walker, III (R – Perry)

**Action:** SB 67 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Ethics Committee (2/18/2021).

[SB 75 - Termination of Residential Lease; victims of stalking; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Kim Jackson (D – Stone Mountain)

**Action:** SB 75 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/17/2021).

[SB 89 - Elections and Primaries; chief elections assistance officer; qualifications, appointment, supervision, and duties; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville)

**Action:** SB 89 received a Do Pass as Amended from the Senate Ethics Committee (2/18/2021).

[SB 100 - State Government; this state shall observe standard time year round; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

**Action:** SB 100 received a Do Pass from the State Government Oversight Committee (2/17/2021).

[SB 105 - State-Wide Probation System; conditions and procedures under which probation may be terminated early; revise](#)

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

**Action:** SB 105 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/17/2021).

[SB 114 - Professions and Businesses; grounds for refusing to grant or revoking a license; revise](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

**Action:** SB 114 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (2/17/2021).

[SB 184 - Elections and Primaries; inputting credit for voting data; revise the time](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

**Action:** SB 184 received a Do Pass from the Senate Ethics Committee (2/18/2021).

[SB 188 - Elections and Primaries; election results reporting system to be established and maintained by the Secretary of State; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

**Action:** SB 188 received a Do Pass from the Senate Ethics Committee (2/18/2021).

## **Committee and Subcommittee Hearings**

### **[HB 94 - Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail](#)**

House Author: Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee)

**Action:** HB 94 received a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 109 - Child Victim Protection Act of 2021; enact](#)**

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

**Action:** HB 109 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Gunter Subcommittee (2/16/2021).

### **[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 Do Pass as Amended from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 281 - Crimes and offenses; issuance of weapons carry license renewal notices; require](#)**

House Author: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

**Action:** HB 281 received a hearing from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Subcommittee A (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 286 - Local government; restrict ability of county governing authorities to reduce funding for county police departments](#)**

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

**Action:** HB 286 received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs General Government Subcommittee (2/16/2021).

### **[HB 327 - Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act; enact](#)**

House Author: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)

**Action:** HB 327 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 334 - Superior courts; clerks; notaries public; provisions](#)**

House Author: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

**Action:** HB 334 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Gunter Subcommittee (2/16/2021).

### **[HB 347 - State sexual offender registry; assessment classifications; revise certain risk](#)**

House Author: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

**Action:** HB 347 received a Do pass from the House Public Safety and Homeland Subcommittee A (2/18/2021).

### **[HB 358 - Emergency Management Act; provide when a declaration of a state of emergency or disaster by the Governor shall expire](#)**

House Author: Rep. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)

**Action:** HB 358 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Scoggins Subcommittee (2/17/2021).

### **[HB 363 - Crimes and offenses; protection of elder persons; revise definitions](#)**

House Author: Rep. John LaHood (R – Valdosta)

**Action:** HB 363 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Setzler Subcommittee (2/16/2021)

[HB 411 - Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission; create](#)

House Author: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

**Action:** HB 411 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (2/16/2021).

[HB 442 - Domestic relations; management of social media in parenting plans; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. J Collins (R – Villa Rica)

**Action:** HB 442 received a Do Pass from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (2/18/2021).

## Committee Meeting Schedule\*

### Monday, February 22, 2021 – Legislative Day 20

8:00 AM	House Motor Vehicles Drivers Safety & Services Subcommittee <a href="#">HB 446</a> - Motor vehicles; issuance of identification cards to persons completing a term of incarceration; provide	406 CLOB
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
1:30 PM	House Public Safety & Homeland Security	406 CLOB
2:15 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
4:45 PM	Senate Ethics <a href="#">SR 100</a> - State-Wide Grand Juries; jurisdiction, powers, and duties; provide <a href="#">SB 141</a> - Elections and Primaries; immediate counting and tabulation of ballots after the close of the polls until such counting and tabulation is completed; provide	307 CLOB

### Tuesday, February 23, 2021 – Legislative Day 21

8:00 AM	House Motor Vehicles	606 CLOB
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
2:15 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1



**Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 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
4:45 PM	Senate Judiciary	450 CAP

**Thursday, February 25, 2021 – 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
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1

**Friday, February 26, 2021 – 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

*\*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.*

Tracy Mason  
Senior Assistant Director  
Governmental & Trial Court Liaison  
(404) 831-8368  
[tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:tracy.mason@georgiacourts.gov)

Cheryl Karounos  
Governmental Affairs Liaison  
(404) 309-5214  
[cheryl.karounos@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:cheryl.karounos@georgiacourts.gov)

Robert Aycock  
Governmental Affairs Coordinator  
(404) 463-1023  
[robert.aycock@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:robert.aycock@georgiacourts.gov)

Darron Enns  
Policy Counsel  
(404) 656-5453  
[darron.enns@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:darron.enns@georgiacourts.gov)

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

Legislative Intern  
Sierra Yao

[www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov)  
[legislation.georgiacourts.gov](http://legislation.georgiacourts.gov)  
Twitter: [@GACourtsLegis](https://twitter.com/GACourtsLegis) & [@GACourts](https://twitter.com/GACourts)