JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 13, 2020 | legislation.georgiacourts.gov | Legislative Days 26-29

The General Assembly reconvened on Monday, March 9 (LD 27) for the ninth week of the legislative session. The House and Senate stayed busy as they worked to pass bills before the end of Crossover Day (LD 28) on Thursday, March 12. Any bill that did not pass its original chamber prior to this deadline cannot receive final passage. Bills that did cross over will restart the committee process in the second chamber.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Assembly suspended the legislative session indefinitely after Friday, March 13. At some point in the future, the General Assembly will announce a return date and reconvene for Legislative Day 30. Governor Brian Kemp held a press conference regarding the outbreak on Thursday, March 12. The Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts is compiling news and information on COVID-19 for Georgia's judiciary at https://georgiacourts.gov/covid-19-preparedness/.

On Tuesday, the House passed its version of HB 793, the FY 2021 budget, and immediately transmitted it to the Senate. The tracking document for the House version can be found here. On Thursday, both chambers adopted the Conference Committee Report for HB 792, the Amended FY 2020 budget, and the bill now awaits the Governor's signature. The details of the Conference Committee Report can be found here.

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

Legislation Supported by the Judicial Council

HB 1108 - Property; procedures and requirements for the payment of certain settlements involving minors' claims; clarify and revise
Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)
Action HB 1108 received a hearing (3/10/2020) and a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System (3/12/2020).

SB 464 - "Georgia Uniform Mediation Act"; uniform laws governing mediation and participants in mediation; provide; enact
Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)
Action: SB 464 passed the Senate with a vote of 53-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

Other Bills

HB 440 - Juvenile Code; juvenile court to include children who are under the age of 18 years; change jurisdiction
Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)
Action: HB 440 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/9/2020).

HB 479 - Hidden Predator Act of 2019; enact
Sponsor: Rep. Heath Clark (R – Warner Robins)
Action: HB 479 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/11/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 147-5 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 520 - Elections; change date of nonpartisan general elections
Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)
Action: HB 520 received a Do Pass by the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/10/2020).

HB 528 - Georgia Crime Information Center; record restriction for individuals convicted of certain felonies and misdemeanors under certain circumstances; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)
Action: HB 528 failed to receive a Do Pass by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/9/2020).

HB 544 - Mental health; procedures regarding emergency involuntary treatment; revise
Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)
Action: HB 544 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/9/2020).

HB 719 - Crimes and offenses; modernization of HIV related laws; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Silcox (R – Sandy Springs)
Action: HB 719 passed the House with a vote of 124-40 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 720 - Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow the mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify (Substitute)
Sponsor: Rep. Steven Sainz (R – Woodbine)
Action: HB 720 passed the House with a vote of 98-63 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 792 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020
Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Action: The House adopted the Conference Committee report on HB 792 with a vote of 166-1; and the Senate adopted the conference committee report with a vote of 53-1 (3/12/2020). **Final Passage.**

HB 793 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021
Sponsor: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Action: HB 793 received a Do Pass from the House Appropriations Committee and passed out of House Rules (3/9/2020); passed the House with a vote of 134-35 and was immediately transmitted to the Senate (3/10/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 821 - Retirement and pensions; granting postretirement benefit adjustments to certain individuals; provisions
Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Buckner (D – Junction City)
Action: HB 821 received a Do Pass from House Rules (3/12/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 92- 66 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 828 - Restroom Access Act; enact
Sponsor: Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)
Action: HB 828 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/11/2020).

HB 865 - Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; Revised Probate Code of 1998; revise and update provisions
Sponsor: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)
Action: HB 865 passed the House with a vote of 150-12 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 881 - Domestic relations; provisions relating to safe places for newborns; revise
Sponsor: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)
Action: HB 881 passed the House with a vote of 168-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 883 - Georgia Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force; create
Sponsor: Rep. Carl Gilliard (D – Garden City)
Action: HB 883 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee (3/9/2020).

HB 903 - Motor vehicles; issuance of a traffic citation to a vehicle owner in lieu of the individual operating the motor vehicle in certain instances; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)
Action: HB 903 passed the House with a vote of 161-3 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 911 - Crimes and offenses; offenses of improper sexual conduct by a foster parent in the first and second degrees; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Ed Setzler (R – Acworth)
Action: HB 911 passed the House with a vote of 165-0 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 913 - Domestic relations; protection of children; strengthen, clarify, and update provisions
Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)
Action: HB 913 passed out of House Rules (3/9/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 153 -7 (3/10/20). **Crossed over.**

HB 955 - Crimes and offenses; simple battery against a person 65 years of age or older; repeal enhanced penalties
Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)
Action: HB 955 received a hearing from the House Governmental Affairs Elections Subcommittee (3/9/2020); and received a Do Pass from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/12/2020).

HB 983 - Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; information required to be provided by sexual offenders when they register; revise
Sponsor: Rep. Ricky Williams (R – Milledgeville)
Action: HB 983 passed the House with a vote of 164-0 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 984 - Criminal procedure; sentencing; change provisions
Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)
Action: HB 984 passed the House with a vote of 164-0. (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 994 - Courts; provisions relating to addressing criminal gang activities; revise
Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)
Action: HB 994 passed the House with a vote of 93-64 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 998 - Game and fish; effective date of rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources; change
Sponsor: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)
Action: HB 998 and passed the House with a vote of 163-1 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over**

HB 1006 - Atlanta Judicial Circuit; provide for the selection of the chief judge
Sponsor: Rep. Derrick Jackson (D – Tyrone)
Action: HB 1006 passed the House on the Local Calendar with a vote of 153-1 (3/10/2020). **Crossed Over.**

HB 1009 - Motor vehicles; personal assistive mobility devices; prohibit clinging to vehicles
Sponsor: Rep. Michael Smith (D – Marietta)
Action: HB 1009 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Motor Vehicles Committee (3/10/2020).

HB 1020 - Motor vehicles; license suspension for conviction of drug related offenses; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Micah Gravley (R – Douglasville)
Action: HB 1020 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Motor Vehicles Committee. (3/10/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 153-9 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 1021 - Georgia Driver's Education Commission; increase the additional penalty for violation of traffic laws or ordinance under "Joshua's Law"
Sponsor: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R – Rincon)
Action: HB 1021 passed the House with a vote of 151-9 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 1034 - Labor and industrial relations; violations of provisions related to employment of minors; provide civil penalties
Sponsor: Rep. William Werkheiser (R – Glennville)
Action: HB 1034 was tabled by the House Industry & Labor Committee (3/11/2020).

HB 1039 - Contracts; additional protections for consumers who enter into service contracts that contain lengthy automatic renewal provisions; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Sam Watson (R – Moultrie)
Action: HB 1039 passed the House with a vote of 163-1 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 1068 - Domestic relations; equitable caregivers; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)
Action: HB 1068 received a Do Pass from the House Juvenile Justice Committee (3/11/2020).

HB 1078 - Courts; assessment and collection of a technology fee by any court in this state; authorize
Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Welch (R – McDonough)
Action: HB 1078 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/11/2020).

HB 1082 - Motor vehicles; notification letter for retrieving a motor vehicle held by a towing and storage firm, repair facility, or salvage dealer; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)
Action: HB 1082 passed out of House Rules (3/9/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 162-1 (3/10/2020). **Crossed over,**

HB 1083 - Criminal procedure; verification of immigration status; provisions Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail
Sponsor: Rep. Jesse Petrea (R – Savannah)
Action: HB 1083 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee (3/9/2020).

HB 1094 - Public officers and employees; paid parental leave for state employees; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)
Action: HB 1094 passed out of House Rules and passed the House with a vote of 164-1 (3/10/2020). **Crossed over.**

HB 1116 - Insurance; uninsured motorist coverage; revise liability of an insurer upon refusal to pay an insured
Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)
Action: HB 1116 received a hearing (3/10/2020); and received and a Do Pass from the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System. (3/12/2020).

HB 1121 - Torts; right of action for sexual harassment against a co-worker, supervisor, or employer; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)
Action: HB 1121 received a hearing (3/10/2020); and received and a Do Pass from the House Special Committee on Access to the Civil Justice System (3/12/2020).

HR 1163 - Justice Robert Benham Bridge; Bartow County; dedicate
Sponsor: Rep. Matthew Gambill (R – Cartersville)
Action: HR 1163 received a Do Pass by the House Transportation Committee (3/9/2020); and passed the House with a vote of 166-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 40 - Sexual Assault By Persons with Supervisory or Disciplinary Authority; sexual contact between an employee and student enrolled at such school; prohibit
Sponsor: Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah)
Action: SB 40 passed the Senate with a vote of 54-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 226 - Use of Safety Belts in Passenger Vehicles; all occupants of a passenger vehicle shall be restrained by a seat safety belt; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)
Action: SB 226 was tabled by the Senate (3/12/2020).

SB 272 - Controlled Substances; sale to and by minors of drug products containing dextromethorphan; prohibit
Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)
Action: SB 272 passed the Senate with a vote of 44-7 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 288 - Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction; provide (Substitute)
Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia)
Action: SB 288 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 49-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 318 - Education; public forums at public institutions of higher education; provide (Substitute)
Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)
Action: SB 318 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 32-21 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 337- Invasion of Privacy; prohibition against the transmission of photography depicting nudity; include falsely created video graphic or still images
Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)
Action: SB 337 passed out of Senate Rules (3/9/2020); and passed the Senate with a vote of 51-0 (3/10/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 344 - Witness or Criminal Defendant; certain proceedings conducted by video conference; requirements; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)
Action: SB 344 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 54-1 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 375 - Cigarettes and Tobacco Related Products; additional penalties regarding any person under 21 years of age; provide; definition of vapor product; revise
Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)
Action: SB 375 passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 52-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 405 - Superior Courts of the Cobb Judicial Circuit; eleventh judge; provide
Sponsor: Rep. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)
Action: SB 405 passed out of Senate Rules (3/9/2020); and passed the Senate with a vote of 51-0 (3/10/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 414 - Registration of Voters; any person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude shall not register to, remain registered to or vote; provide.
Sponsor: Sen. Harold Jones (D – Augusta)
Action: SB 414 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/2020).

SB 415 - Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise
Sponsor: Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega)
Action: SB 415 was passed out of Senate Rules (3/9/2020); and was tabled by the Senate (3/10/2020).

SB 423 - "Max Gruver Act"; expanded definition of hazing; provide; enact
Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)
Action: SB 423 passed by Substitute the Senate with a vote of 52-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 439 - Juvenile Code; enhanced notice to and improved participation of foster, preadoptive, and relative caregivers in certain hearings; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)
Action: SB 439 passed the Senate with a vote of 54-0 (3/9/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 443 - Garnishment Proceedings; revise; uniform procedures for garnishment actions; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)
Action: SB 443 passed out of Senate Rules (3/9/2020); and passed the Senate by Substitute with a vote of 47-0 (3/10/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 446 - Cash Bonds; unclaimed cash bonds; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker III (R – Perry)
Action: SB 446 passed the Senate with a vote of 48-3 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 463 - Primaries and Elections; provisions and references regarding direct recording electronic voting machines; remove
Sponsor: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)
Action: SB 463 was engrossed by a vote of 34-21 from the Senate (3/12/2020); and passed the Senate with a vote of 35-19 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 472 - Contracts; recovery of voluntary payments; provisions; repeal
Sponsor: Sen. Nikema Williams (D – Atlanta)
Action: SB 472 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/2020).

SB 477 - Investigation of Family Violence; terminology used in determining whom to arrest; revise
Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)
Action: SB 477 passed the Senate with a vote of 50-0 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

SB 479 - Rules of the Road; use of a stand-alone electronic device; persons under 18 years of age while operating a motor vehicle; prohibit
Sponsor: Sen. P.K. Martin IV (R – Lawrenceville)
Action: SB 479 was tabled by the Senate (3/12/2020).

SB 485 - Motor Vehicles and Traffic and Ignition Interlock Devices; condition of probation; individuals convicted of a first offense of driving under the influence; require
Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)
Action: SB 485 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/9/2020).

SB 493 - Selling and Other Trade Practices; legislative findings; standards for cybersecurity programs to protect businesses from liability; provide
Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)
Action: SB 493 passed the Senate with a vote of 30-18 (3/12/2020). **Crossed over.**

Floor & Committee Meeting Schedule*

All meetings have been suspended until further notice

**Schedule reflects meetings and legislation relevant to the judiciary. 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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