



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 16, 2018

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Week 10 (Legislative Days 33-35)

This week marked the tenth week of the 2018 legislative session. With only two weeks left before Sine Die, both chambers worked to pass bills and resolutions, with much of the work taking place in committees. Next week will likely be the final time that a bill can emerge from committee and pass prior to the end of session; the schedule should be extremely busy.

The House and Senate will return Monday, March 19 for LD 36, and convene on Wednesday, March 21 for LD 37, and Friday, March 23 for LD 38. Committee work days are scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 and Thursday, March 22.

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

Legislation Supported by the Judicial Council

SB 436 - Probate Courts; general provisions; change and modernize

Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

Action: SB 436 passed the House by Substitute with a vote of 164-0. (3/15/18)

Other Bills

HB 79 - Motor Vehicles; criminal offense and minimum fines for improper operation of an authorized emergency or law enforcement vehicle; provide

Sponsor: Rep. John Pezold (R – Columbus)

Action: HB 79 passed the Senate with a vote of 48-0. (3/12/18)

HB 121 - Trusts; minor or unborn beneficiaries; change provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 121 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18)

HB 190 - Domestic relations; marriage articles and antenuptial agreements; change provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Meagan Hanson (R – Brookhaven)

Action: HB 190 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/14/18)

HB 344 - Paternity; parties beyond movants in a child support case request a genetic test; allow

Sponsor: Rep. Katie Dempsey (R – Rome)

Action: HB 344 passed the Senate with a vote of 51-0. (3/15/18)

HB 381 - Abandoned Mobile Home Act; enact

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

Action: HB 381 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18); and, passed out of Senate Rules (3/15/18).

HB 410 - Condominiums; certain fees imposed on purchasers; provide for limits

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 410 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/14/18)

HB 605 – Hidden Predator Act of 2018; enact

Sponsor: Rep. Jason Spencer (R – Woodbine)

Action: HB 605 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[HB 670 - Georgia State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision; number of legislative branch Reps; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Alan Powell (R – Hartwell)

Action: HB 670 passed the Senate with a vote of 51-1. (3/12/18)

[HB 673 - Motor vehicles; prohibit actions which distract a driver while operating a motor vehicle;](#)

Sponsor: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Action: HB 673 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/14/18)

[HB 732 - Crimes and offenses; trafficking an individual for sexual servitude; provisions](#)

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

Action: HB 732 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18)

[HB 732 - Crimes and offenses; trafficking an individual for sexual servitude; provisions](#)

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

Action: HB 732 passed out of Senate Rules. (3/15/18)

[HB 765 - C.J.'s Law; enact](#)

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

Action: No action was taken on HB 765 by the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/12/18); and, HB 765 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/14/18).

[HB 782 - Crimes and offenses; provisions relating to permissible users with access to drug monitoring program data base; revise](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)

Action: HB 782 received a Do Pass from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. (3/14/18)

[HB 790 - State government; recommendations of the Court Reform Council; implement](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 790 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18)

[HB 791 - State government; limited waiver of the state's sovereign immunity for declaratory or injunctive relief under certain circumstance; provide](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 791 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18)

[HB 830 - Controlled substances; Schedule I and II; change certain provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Buddy Harden (R – Cordele)

Action: HB 830 passed out of Senate Rules (3/12/18); and, passed the Senate with a vote of 48-0 (3/14/18).

HB 834 - Landlord and tenant; termination of a rental or lease agreement under circumstances involving family violence; provide

(Includes Language from SB 443)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HB 834 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/14/18)

HB 856 - Board of Public Safety; add commissioner of community supervision

Sponsor: Rep. John Deffenbaugh (R – Lookout Mountain)

Action: HB 856 passed out of Senate Rules. (3/15/18)

HB 890 - Crimes and offenses; make it unlawful to use an emergency exit after having shoplifted

Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 890 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/15/18)

HB 897 - Georgia Power of Attorney Act; revise

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Action: HB 897 passed out of Senate Rules. (3/15/18)

HB 904 - Torts; effect of a landowner charging an admission price or fee; clarify provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Meagan Hanson (R – Brookhaven)

Action: HB 904 received a Do Pass from the Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. (3/15/18)

HB 907 - Public officers and employees; appointment and election of successor in event of vacancy in the office of district attorney; provide

Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 907 passed the Senate with a vote of 49-2. (3/15/18)

HB 927 - Courts; certain information be provided to caregiver upon placement of a child; require
(attached to HB 972, replaced with language from SB 351)

Sponsor: Rep. Chad Nimmer (R – Blackshear)

Action: HB 927 received a Do Pass by substitute from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. (3/13/18)

HB 972 - Human Services, Department of; Division of Family and Children Services to offer extended care youth services under certain circumstances; allow *(includes HB 927 language)*

Sponsor: Rep. Wendell Willard (R – Sandy Springs)

Action: HB 972 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. (3/13/18)

HB 978 - Motor vehicles; automated traffic enforcement safety devices in school zones; provisions

Sponsor: Rep. Chad Nimmer (R – Blackshear)

Action: HB 978 received a hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee. (3/12/18)

[HB 982 - Courts; relative searches conducted by DFCS; change provisions](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chad Nimmer (R – Blackshear)

Action: HB 982 received a Do Pass from the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. (3/14/18)

[HR 993 - Business court; state-wide jurisdiction; create](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Action: HR 993 was given a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. (3/12/18)

[HR 1260 - House Study Committee on Juvenile Court Judges; create](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Action: HR 1260 passed the House with a vote of 162-2. (3/15/18)

[HR 1416 - House Study Committee on Bail Reform; create](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Doreen Carter (D - Lithonia)

Action: No action was taken on HR 1416 by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. (3/12/18)

[SB 39 - Pimping and Pandering; increase the penalty provisions](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford)

Action: SB 39 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee. (3/13/18)

[SB 301 - "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act"; enact](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 301 passed out of House Rules. (3/15/18)

[SB 318 - Mental Health; involuntary evaluation and treatment based on consultation with paramedic; execution of a physician's certificate for emergency examination; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (D – Marietta)

Action: SB 318 received a hearing in the House Health & Human Services Committee. (3/12/18)

[SB 321 - Medicaid Claims; false or fraudulent; recover the maximum penalty authorized by federal law; increase the civil penalties](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: SB 321 passed the House with a vote of 152-5. (3/15/18)

[SB 338 - Administrative Procedure; agency rule making; modify requirements](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SB 338 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (3/15/18)

[SB 368 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; functions and authority; add](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Greg Kirk (R – Americus)

Action: SB 368 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. (3/12/18)

[SB 369 - Revenues Collected from Fines and Fees; payment to Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; fees collected in criminal and quasi-criminal cases prior to adjudication of guilt; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Greg Kirk (R – Americus)

Action: SB 369 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. (3/12/18)

[SB 403 - Primaries and Elections; uniform election equipment in this state; provide](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)

Action: SB 403 received a Do Pass from the Senate Governmental Affairs Special Subcommittee on Voting Technology (3/13/18); and, received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/14/18).

[SB 406 - "Georgia Long-term Care Background Check Program" enact; public safety; promote](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

Action: SB 406 passed the House with a vote of 163-4. (3/15/18)

[SB 427 - Child Support in Final Verdict or Decree; court's discretion in making a final determination of support; provisions; change](#)

Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 427 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee. (3/15/18)

[SB 430 - Elections; compensation of various local government officials; modify](#)

Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

Action: SB 430 received a Do Pass by Substitute as amended from the House Governmental Affairs Committee (3/14/18).

[SR 774 - Joint Study Committee on Adoption Expenses; create](#)

Sponsor: Sen. William Ligon (R – Brunswick)

Action: SR 774 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. (3/12/18)

Committee Meeting Schedule*

Monday, March 19, 2018 – Legislative Day 36

10:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
11:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
Upon Recess	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz
1:00 PM	House Public Safety & Homeland Security SB 348 - Technical College System of Georgia; powers of arrest of campus policemen who are regular employees; revise	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	House Judiciary Civil Kelley Subcommittee HB 891 -Handicapped persons; blind persons shall not be discriminated against in matters relating to child custody; provisions (Hearing Only)	132 CAP
3:00 PM	House Juvenile Justice HB 983 - Domestic relations; medical review and evaluation on a third or subsequent allegation of child abuse; provide (Hearing Only) SB 236 - Driving Under the Influence; county department of family and children services be notified; endangering; require (Hearing Only)	415 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – In Recess

1:00 PM	Senate Health & Human Services	450 CAP
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Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Legislative Day 37

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
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.*

Thursday, March 22, 2018 – In Recess

1:00 PM	Senate Health & Human Services	450 CAP
2:00 PM	Senate State & Local Governmental Operations	307 CLOB
4:00 PM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB

Friday, March 23, 2018 – Legislative Day 38

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

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