



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

**MID-WEEK
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK 10**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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Legislative Day 33

- The General Assembly reconvened yesterday, Monday, March 15, for Legislative Day 32 and today for Legislative Day 33.
- The focus of both chambers remains committee hearings as legislators consider bills that have crossed over to their second chamber.
- [SB 163](#), which provides for tolling of statutory speedy trial requirements following a judicial emergency if compliance with such requirements is impracticable, passed the full House Judiciary Civil Committee on Monday. It now awaits consideration by the House Rules Committee.
- Chief Justice Melton delivered the State of the Judiciary address before a joint session of the General Assembly today. In this address, Chief Justice Melton spoke to the effects of the pandemic on Georgia's court system and the many steps courts have taken to adapt and continue operations. The Chief Justice also spoke to the challenges facing the judiciary ahead and asked for legislative support for measures aimed at addressing the backlog of cases as a result of the pandemic. The recording of the State of the Judiciary can be found [here](#).
- [HR 264](#) sets the Calendar for the remainder of the 2021 Legislative Session.
- To view all legislation pertaining to the judiciary, please visit legislation.georgiacourts.gov. The General Assembly will reconvene tomorrow, Wednesday, March 17, 2021 for Legislative Day 34.

Notable Bill Actions

Judicial Council Supported Bills

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

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

Action: SB 163 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/15/2021).

[SB 234 - "Georgia Uniform Mediation Act"; enact](#)

Senate Author: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

Action: SB 234 received a Do Pass from the House Judiciary Scoggins Subcommittee (3/16/2021).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[HB 634 - Wilkinson County; Magistrate Court; provide one-year terms of office for magistrates](#)

House Author: Rep. Danny Mathis (R – Cochran)

Action: HB 634 passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/15/2021). **Final Passage.**

Placed on Rules Calendar

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

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

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

Action: HB 112 was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar for LD 34 (3/16/2021).

[HB 703 - Bleckley County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

House Author: Rep. Danny Mathis (R – Cochran)

Action: HB 703 was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 34 (3/16/2021).

[HB 704 - Bleckley County; Magistrate Court chief judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

House Author: Rep. Danny Mathis (R – Cochran)

Action: HB 704 was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 34 (3/16/2021).

Passed out of Full Committee

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

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

Action: HB 97 received a Do Pass from the Senate Special Judiciary Committee (3/16/2021).

[HB 371 - Evidence; certain proceedings may be conducted by video conference; provide](#)

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

Action: HB 371 failed to receive passage from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/15/2021).

[HB 488 - Courts; increase minimum compensation for chief magistrates and others; provide](#)

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

Action: HB 488 received a Do Pass from the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee (3/15/2021).

[HB 548 - Social services; reasonable access to records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Katie Dempsey (R – Rome)

Action: HB 548 received a Do Pass from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/15/2021).

[SB 9 - Courts; the Columbia Judicial Circuit and to be composed of Columbia County; create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mark Newton (R – Augusta)

Action: SB 9 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/15/2021).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings

[HB 194 - Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify](#)

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

Action: HB 194 received a hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/15/2021).

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

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

Action: HB 333 was tabled from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/15/2021).

[HB 531 - Elections; no election superintendents or boards of registrars shall accept private funding; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)

Action: HB 531 received a hearing from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/15/2021); and received a hearing from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/16/2021).

[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 House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/16/2021).

[SB 235 - Offenses Against Public Order; offense of wearing a mask, hood, or device which conceals the identity of the wearer; revise](#)

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

Action: SB 235 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Judiciary Non-Civil Reeves Subcommittee (3/16/2021)

Floor & Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – Legislative Day 34

8:00 AM	Senate Ethics	307 CLOB
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 PM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	Senate Natural Resources and Environment HB 343 - Game and fish; rebuttable presumption of violation by individuals in possession of hunting paraphernalia while on others' lands; provide HR 183 - Congress; pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act; urge	307 CLOB
1:00 PM	Senate Health and Human Services HB 141 - Criminal procedure; requirements for awards made from Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to medical service providers; provide HB 307 - Georgia Telehealth Act; revise HB 645 - Crimes and offenses; medical cannabis; update and revise provisions HB 605 - Health; provide for authorized electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities	450 CAP
3:00 PM	House Industry and Labor SB 156 - Labor and Industrial Relations; appointment, oath, bond, power, duties, and authority of a chief labor officer; provide HB 181 - Labor and industrial relations; provide new employees with copies of any notices required to be posted in the workplace; require employers	506 CLOB HYBRID

	HB 356 - Labor and industrial relations; prohibition of age discrimination in employment; change age of individuals protected	
3:00 PM	House Judiciary Non-Civil SB 105 - State-Wide Probation System; conditions and procedures under which probation may be terminated early; revise	132 CAP
4:45 PM	Senate Judiciary; HB 371 - Evidence; certain proceedings may be conducted by video conference; provide HB 363 - Crimes and offenses; protection of elder persons; revise definitions HB 562 - Criminal procedure; add DFCS case managers to people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers HB 534 - Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for offense HB 479 - Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers; provisions HB 231 - Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders HB 94 - Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail	307 CLOB

Thursday, March 18, 2021 – Legislative Day 35

8:00 AM	Senate Ethics	307 CLOB
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 PM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber
ADJ	Senate Rules	450 CAP
1:00 PM	House Juvenile Justice	403 CAP HYBRID
1:00 PM	Senate Public Safety	Mezz 1

Friday, March 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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