



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

**MID-WEEK
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK 11**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

legislation.georgiacourts.gov

Legislative Day 37

- The General Assembly reconvened yesterday, Monday, March 22, for Legislative Day 36 and today for Legislative Day 37.
- Only three legislative days remain after today. This final stretch of the 2021 session will be extremely busy as members work to pass the final version of bills.
- A bill can only become law if both chambers pass the same version. The process of hammering out differences between House and Senate versions of bills will dominate the last days of the session.
- The [FY 2022 Budget \(HB 81\)](#) passed the Senate by Substitute today and now awaits finalization between the chambers via Conference Committee. The current tracking document can be found [here](#).
- [SB 234](#), the Uniform Mediation Act, was placed on the House Rules Calendar for a floor vote on Thursday, March 25 (LD 38).
- [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 hold a Committee Work Day tomorrow and reconvene on Thursday, March 25, 2021, for Legislative Day 38.

Floor & Committee Action

Judicial Council Supported Bills

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

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

Action: SB 234 was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 38 (3/23/2021).

Other Bills

Final Passage

[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 passed the House by Substitute by a vote of 96-70 (3/22/2021); and was immediately transmitted to the Senate (3/22/2021); and the Senate agreed to the House Substitute by a vote of 51-0 (3/22/2021). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

Action: HB 81 received a Do Pass by Substitute from the Senate Appropriations Committee (3/22/2021); was placed on the Senate Rules Calendar for LD 37 (3/22/2021); passed the Senate by Substitute a vote of 54-0 (3/23/2021); was immediately transmitted to the House (3/23/2021); and both chambers insisted on their positions and a conference committee was formed (3/23/2021).

[HB 767 - Lee County; Magistrate Court; law library fee; revise permitted uses of funds raised](#)

House Author: Rep. Bill Yeara (R – Sylvester)

Action: HB 767 was placed on the House Local Legislation Calendar for LD 37 (3/22/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 156-1 (3/23/2021).

[HB 770 - Gilmer County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

Action: HB 770 was placed on the House Local Legislation Calendar for LD 37 (3/22/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 156-1 (3/23/2021).

[HB 777 - DeKalb County; State Court; provide definitions](#)

House Author: Rep. Matthew Wilson (D – Brookhaven)

Action: HB 777 was placed on the House Local Legislation Calendar for LD 37 (3/22/2021); and passed the House by a vote of 156-1 (3/23/2021).

Placed on Rules Calendar

[SB 202 - Elections and Primaries; persons or entities that mail absentee ballot applications shall mail such applications only to eligible registered electors; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Max Burns (R – Sylvania)

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

Action: SB 202 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the House Special Committee on Election Integrity (3/22/2021); received a Do Pass by Rules Committee Substitute from the House Rules Committee (3/23/2021); and was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 38 (3/23/2021).

[SB 218 - Vacation of Office; suspension of compensation for certain public officers who are suspended because of indictment for a felony; provide](#)

(Includes language from [HB 411](#))

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstrotation (R – Dacula)

Action: SB 218 received a Do Pass by Rules Committee Substitute from the House Rules Committee (3/23/2021); and was placed on the House Rules Calendar for LD 38 (3/23/2021).

Passed out of Full Committee

[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 by Committee Substitute from the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/23/2021).

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

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

Action: HB 333 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/22/2021).

[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 (3/22/2021); and received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Ethics Committee (3/23/2021).

[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 Committee (3/22/2021).

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

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

Action: HB 255 received a Do Pass by Committee Substitute from the Senate Public Safety Committee (3/23/2021).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings

[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 hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee (3/22/2021).

Floor & Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – Recess/Committee Work Day

8:00 AM	Senate Judiciary	307 CLOB
9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP

Thursday, March 25, 2021 – Legislative Day 38

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, March 26, 2021 – Recess/Committee Work 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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