



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

**MID-WEEK
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK 12**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 legislation.georgiacourts.gov Recess Day/Committee Work Day

- The General Assembly reconvened yesterday, Monday, March 29, for Legislative Day 39 before standing in recess today.
- The last day of the 2021 Legislative Session is tomorrow, Wednesday, March 30 (LD 40, Sine Die). All bills that fail to achieve final passage by this date will be eligible for the next legislative session in 2022.
- Both chambers agreed to a final version of [SB 163](#), which provides for tolling of statutory speedy trial requirements following a judicial emergency if compliance with such requirements is impracticable. The bill will now be sent to the Governor for signature.
- [HB 635](#), which contains language from [HB 405](#) regarding the use of alternative locations for court proceedings and language from [HB 556](#) regarding bench trials and the use of accusations, passed the Senate by Substitute yesterday and now awaits final agreement by the House.
- The [FY 2022 Budget \(HB 81\)](#) is still in Conference Committee, with members of both chambers working towards a mutually acceptable version of the bill. The current tracking document can be found [here](#).
- To view all legislation pertaining to the judiciary, please visit legislation.georgiacourts.gov. The General Assembly will reconvene tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29, for Legislative Day 40.

Floor & Committee Action

Judicial Council Supported Bills

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

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

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

Action: The Senate agreed to the House Substitute to SB 163 by a vote of 50-2 (3/29/2021). **Final Passage.**

[HB 635 - Courts; each judge of the superior court, state court, and probate court and each magistrate shall have authority to perform any lawful judicial act; provide](#)

(Includes language from [HB 405](#) and [HB 556](#); the Judicial Council position applies to this language)

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

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

Action: HB 635 passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 51-0 (3/29/2021).

Other Bills

Final Passage

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

Action: HB 255 passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0 (3/29/2021). **Final Passage.**

[HB 534 - Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for offense](#)

House Author: Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Fayetteville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

Action: HB 534 passed the House by a vote of 46-3 (3/29/2021). **Final Passage.**

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

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

Action: SB 105 passed the House by a vote of 169-2 (3/29/2021). **Final Passage.**

Floor Votes

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

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

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

Action: HB 218 was taken from the table by a vote of 32-18 (3/29/2021); and passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 34-18 (3/29/2021).

[HB 231 - Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders](#)

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

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

Action: HB 231 passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 53-0 (3/29/2021).

[HB 409 - Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission; establish](#)

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

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

Action: HB 409 passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 48-3 (3/29/2021).

[HB 479 - Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers; provisions](#)

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

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

Action: HB 479 passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 52-1 (3/29/2021).

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

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

Action: HB 488 was taken from the table by a vote of 46-5 (3/29/2021); and passed the Senate by Substitute by a vote of 51-1 (3/29/2021).

Placed on Rules Calendar

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

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

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

Action: HB 97 was placed on the Senate Supplemental Rules Calendar for LD 39 (3/29/2021); and was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

[HB 258 - Crimes and offenses; response to State v. Williams, 2020 Ga. LEXIS 85; provisions](#)

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Sheila McNeill (R – Brunswick)

Action: HB 258 was placed on the Senate Supplemental Rules Calendar for LD 39 (3/29/2021); and was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

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

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

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

Action: HB 333 was placed on the Senate Supplemental Rules Calendar for LD 39 (3/29/2021); and was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

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

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

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

Action: HB 334 was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

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

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

Senate Author: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

Action: HB 371 was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

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

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

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

Action: HB 411 failed to lift from the table by a vote of 13-23 (3/29/2021).

[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)

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

Action: HB 548 was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

[HB 562 - Criminal procedure; add DFCS case managers to people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers](#)

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

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

Action: HB 562 was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

[HB 579 - Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Act; enact](#)

House Author: Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (D – Decatur)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Emmanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

Action: HB 579 was placed on the Senate Supplemental Rules Calendar for LD 39 (3/29/2021); and was tabled by the Senate (3/29/2021).

Passed out of Full Committee

[HR 427 - House Study Committee on the Public Funding, Transparency, and Membership of the State Bar of Georgia; create](#)

House Author: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Marietta)

Action: HR 427 received a Do Pass from the House Regulated Industries Committee (3/30/2021).

[SB 120 - Solicitors-General of State Courts; honorary office of solicitor-general emeritus; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)

(Includes language from [HB 333](#))

Action: SB 120 received a Do pass by Substitute from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/30/2021).

Committee and Subcommittee Hearings

[HB 618 - Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; elder abuse protections regarding wills; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Bert Reeves

Action: HB 618 received a hearing from the House Judiciary Civil Committee (3/30/2021)

Floor & Committee Meeting Schedule*

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 – Legislative Day 40 (Sine Die)

9:00 AM	House Rules	341 CAP
10:00 AM	House Floor Session	House Chamber
10:00 AM	Senate Floor Session	Senate Chamber

**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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