



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday
March 5,
2025

COMMITTEE DAY REPORT

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 28th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- Twenty One bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 2nd Legislative Day, Thursday, March 6, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, March 6, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 3rd Legislative Day.

HB 52 Ad valorem tax; qualified disabled veterans; extend homestead exemption to unremarried surviving spouses or minor children

Bill Summary: HB 52 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-48, relating to homestead exemptions for qualified disabled veterans, to allow the unremarried surviving spouse or minor children of a disabled veteran to continue receiving the homestead exemption granted to the disabled veteran, regardless of whether the unremarried surviving spouse or minor children relocate to any other county in the state.

The bill must receive a 2/3 majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and subsequently be approved by Georgia voters during the general election held in November 2026.

Authorized By: Rep. Carmen Rice (139th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 02-19-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 111 Income tax; reduce rate of tax

Bill Summary: HB 111 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-20, relating to individual income tax rates, to lower the individual income tax rate effective on January 1, 2025 from 5.39 percent to 5.19 percent.

Authorized By: Rep. Soo Hong (103rd)
House Ways & Means
Committee:

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 02-12-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 112 Income tax; one-time tax credit for taxpayers who filed returns for both 2023 and 2024 taxable years; provide

Bill Summary: HB 112 provides a one-time income tax refund to taxpayers who filed returns for both the 2023 and 2024 tax years equal to the lesser of either the taxpayer's 2023 income tax liability or \$250 for a taxpayer filing as single; \$375 for a taxpayer filing as head of household; or \$500 for a married couple jointly filing a return. The refund will not be made available to nonresident alien individuals, individuals claimed as a dependent during the 2023 tax year, or an estate or trust.

Authorized By: Rep. Lauren McDonald III (26th) **Rule Applied:** Structured

House Committee: Ways & Means

Committee Action: 02-12-2025 Do Pass

HB 150 Combating Threats from China Act of 2025 - Higher Education; enact

Bill Summary: HB 150 creates the 'Combating Threats from Foreign Countries of Concern Act of 2025 - Higher Education.' The bill requires the university system to submit a quarterly report to the governor and the chairs of the House and Senate Higher Education Committees detailing the funding received by the system from a foreign country of concern, a foreign entity of concern, or a foreign individual of concern.

Authored By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th)
House Committee: Higher Education

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-19-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 159 Georgia Housing and Finance Authority; increase outstanding bond limit

Bill Summary: HB 159 revises the outstanding bond limit for the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority from \$3 billion to \$6 billion.

Authored By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th)
House Committee: Banks & Banking

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 185 Professions and businesses; repeal and reenact Chapter 11A, the Dietetics Practice Act

Bill Summary: HB 185 replaces the 'Dietetics Practice Act' with the 'Dietetics and Nutrition Act'. The Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians is renamed the Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists and Licensed Nutritionists. The board will consist of nine members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Authored By: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (36th)
House Committee: Regulated Industries

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 288 Appeal and error; declaratory judgments in instances involving accusations made by a prosecuting attorney regarding credibility of a peace officer; provide

Bill Summary: HB 288 requires that a prosecuting attorney, when placing an officer on a Giglio list, to notify both the officer and the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council for review. The bill allows for request for reconsideration of that action. The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council will develop the policies and procedures for notification.

Authored By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th)
House Committee: Public Safety & Homeland Security

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 360 Revenue and taxation; rehabilitation of historic structures; revise tax credit

Bill Summary: HB 360 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.8, relating to tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures, to allow a taxpayer preapproved by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to claim credits in tax year 2027, 2028, or 2029 for certified structures other than historic homes to receive the credit during tax year 2026.

A taxpayer must obtain a certificate of occupancy for the structure by December 31, 2026 to qualify, and eligible properties must be located within a 10-mile radius of the Cabbagetown Historic District.

Authored By: Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th)
House Committee: Ways & Means

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 370 Ad valorem tax; school districts; state-wide base year homestead exemption; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 370 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-34, relating to ad valorem property tax bill forms, to require school districts that opt out of the statewide base year homestead exemption provided for in O.C.G.A. 48-5-44.2 to include on the ad valorem property tax bill the amount of reserve funds held by the opted-out school district as of January 1 of that tax year and, provided the school district has not adopted a base year value homestead exemption through local legislation, language stating that the school district opted out of the statewide base year homestead exemption.

Authored By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 02-26-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 425 Revenue and taxation; purchase of an emergency power generator to convenience stores and grocery stores; provide tax credit

Bill Summary: HB 425 creates O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.27 to provide for a tax credit to be utilized for the purchase and installation of an emergency power generator, a transfer switch or switches, or lines or fuel tanks needed to provide power to a generator. The tax credit will only be claimed by eligible convenience stores or skilled nursing facilities. The credit will not exceed \$5,000 per tax year for no more than five taxable years, and will have an aggregate cap of \$5 million.

The credit is provided for qualified expenditures made between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026 and may not for an amount that exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability. The credit must be claimed on the taxpayer's 2026 tax return.

A "convenience store" is defined as a retail established that sells packaged or unprepared food or grocery items and has less than 10,000 square feet of retail floor space. A single corporate entity may not claim the credit for more than five of its establishments.

A "skilled nursing facility" is defined as an institution that provides inpatient skilled nursing care for individuals requiring medical or nursing care, or rehabilitation services.

The program will stand repealed on December 31, 2031.

Authored By: Rep. James Burchett (176th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 02-26-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 460 Evidence; exclude certain communications made between attorney and client when client is in a penal institution

Bill Summary: HB 460 specifies that communications between an attorney and their client that are made when a client is in a penal institution are subject to attorney-client privilege, in response to the Supreme Court of Georgia's decision in *Burns v. State* (2024).

Each penal institution must provide access to a nonrecording telephonic or electronic device for a client held in custody to communicate with their attorney. The contents of any wire, oral, or electronic communication intercepted or any evidence derived from that interception will not be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed at trial, hearing, or other proceeding in state court unless each party (at least 10 days before) has been furnished with a copy of the court order under which the interception was authorized.

Any aggrieved person in any trial, hearing, or proceeding may move to suppress the contents of any wire, oral, or electronic communication intercepted or evidence derived therefrom on the grounds that: A) the communication was unlawfully intercepted; B) the order of authorization was insufficient on its face; or C) the interception was not made in conformity with the order of authorization or approval. The motion must be made before the trial, hearing, or proceeding commences unless there was no opportunity to make the motion or the person was not aware of the grounds of the motion.

If granted, the contents or any evidence derived therefrom will be in violation of the law. The judge

has discretion to make available to the individual's counsel for inspection the portions of the intercepted communication or evidence derived therefrom, as the judge determines to be in the interests of justice.

Authored By: Rep. Esther Panitch (51st)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-19-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 484 General Assembly; digitization and electronic publication of Georgia Laws; provide

Bill Summary: HB 484 permits the publishing of the Georgia Laws to be electronic or in hardbound volumes. The Code Revision Commission is charged with providing assistance and oversight of the digitization and electronic publication of the Georgia Laws in a permanent digital repository.

Authored By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Committee: Code Revision

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2025 Do Pass

HB 485 Official Code of Georgia Annotated; various provisions enacted prior to 2013 which are contingent upon funding and which remain unfunded; repeal

Bill Summary: HB 485 repeals provisions of Georgia law enacted which are contingent upon funding and remain unfunded, as well as provisions that have been found unconstitutional. Provisions where portions were found unconstitutional have been repealed and reenacted. Terminology is amended to conform to other definitions in law.

Authored By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Committee: Code Revision

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-26-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 494 Motor vehicles; require mopeds to be covered by a form of minimum financial responsibility for accident damages

Bill Summary: HB 494 restricts individuals from operating mopeds on highways unless the moped is insured.

Authored By: Rep. Dewey McClain (109th)
House Committee: Motor Vehicles

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-28-2025 Do Pass

HB 529 Georgia Online Automatic Renewal Transparency Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 529 relates to the 'Georgia Online Automatic Renewal Transparency Act' and allows consumers to have the option for a service contract to end after its specified period rather than being subject to an automatic renewal. The option to terminate a service contract after its specified period will be outlined in writing, which is signed by both seller and consumer.

The service provider must also inform the consumer of an increase in any charge on automatic renewals. Certain entities are exempt from this chapter, and further Code sections have minor language changes to create continuity with this new section.

Authored By: Rep. Carter Barrett (24th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 530 Courts; authorization for electronic filing of pleadings in probate court; provide

Bill Summary: HB 530 requires all probate courts on or before January 1, 2028, to provide electronic filing of all pleadings and any other documents related to civil matters in probate court. A court's electronic filing service provider may charge a fee not to exceed \$30 per filer per case, in addition to a convenience fee for credit card and bank drafting services.

A portion of the transaction fee will be retained by the probate court and remitted to the local governing authority. An attorney will be allowed unlimited access to view and download electronically filed documents, and the judge and their staff will have access to all electronically filed pleadings and documents.

Authored By: Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd)
House Judiciary
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-25-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 532 Conservation and natural resources; grants and special revenue disbursements; revise provisions

Bill Summary: HB 532 amends O.C.G.A. 12-6A-12 and 48-14-4, relating to annual grants for state-owned property and annual grants for counties with 20,000 or more acres of unimproved land owned by the Department of Natural Resources, by eliminating language that prohibited counties from receiving grant funding from both programs in any given year.

Authored By: Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 549 Peace officers; extend time frame for which reimbursement of total training expenses by a subsequent employer may be sought

Bill Summary: HB 49 extends the time frame for reimbursement of total training expenses by a subsequent employer of a peace officer to be sought to 36 months.

Authored By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th)
House Public Safety & Homeland Security
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-26-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 579 Professions and businesses; licensure to engage in trade; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 579 amends Title 43, related to professions and business, to make broad changes to the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Division and the division's director.

Section 1-1 grants the Professional Licensing Division the ability to allow applicants to take necessary examinations before starting an application, when appropriate. The bill requires the division director to maintain a roster of names and addresses for individuals that have received a cease-and-desist letter from a professional licensing board for practicing a profession without a license. An exception is provided for persons that fail to renew a license in a 45-day period.

Section 1-2 adds the ability to grant applications for license issuance, renewal, or reinstatement to the duties of the secretary of state's Professional Licensing Division director.

Section 1-3 of the bill grants the director of Professional Licensing Division the ability to approve applications for licensing, renewal, or reinstatement on behalf of professional licensing boards. The director will only approve applications if the applicant satisfies all requirements for licensure. If the director is unable to make a determination or an application is deficient, the director will forward the application to the relevant licensing board. The licensing board must approve or deny the application in a timely manner. A licensing board may still approve or deny a license before any review or determination has been made by the division director.

The division may utilize other methods of confirming required educational achievements in addition to receiving or requesting an applicant's official transcript.

Section 1-4 codifies the division director's ability to set expiration, renewal, and penalty dates with approval from the related professional licensing boards. The division director is also instructed to set renewal dates over a two-year period in a manner that, within reason, evenly distributes renewal dates.

A license shall remain renewable for up to 45 days after the expiration of a licensing, provided that the license holder meets all requirements of the license and has paid all fees due.

Section 1-5 allows the governor to remove a licensing board member for cause without a hearing.

Section 1-6 limits licensing boards to promulgating rules and regulations that solely protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Sections 2-1, 2-4, and 2-5 repeal Code sections establishing licenses for auctioneers, geologists, and hearing aid dealers and dispensers and replaces the licenses with a registration.

Sections 2-2 and 2-3 strikes provisions establishing separate standards committees for the Composite Board Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists and eliminates a requirement for multiple board members to review and approve an application.

Section 3-1 corrects a reference to an auctioneer license to reflect the change to a registration.

Section 4-1 sets the bills effective date as July 1, 2026.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th)
House Appropriations
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-27-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 583 Motor vehicles; increase number of free license plates issued to certain veterans

Bill Summary: HB 583 increases the number of free license plates issued to disabled veterans from one to two.

Authored By: Rep. Lydia Glaize (67th)
House Motor Vehicles
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-28-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 647 Mulberry, City of; change corporate limits

Bill Summary: HB 647 annexes certain described property into the City of Mulberry.

Authored By: Rep. Sandy Donatucci (105th)
House Intragovernmental Coordination
Committee:

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-28-2025 Do Pass
Action:

Committee Actions

Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.

Education Committee

HB 133 Student Character Development Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 133 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-692.4, which allows local education agencies to create policies for public school students to attend courses in religious moral instruction provided by a person or organization independently of a public school, and allows students to receive academic credit for such courses should the local school board permit credit.

The bill requires local education agencies to adopt certain policies that prohibit students who participate in such courses from being counted as absent from school.

Authored By: Rep. David Clark (100th)
House Education
Committee:

Committee 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 383 Georgia High School NIL Protection Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 383 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2105, known as the 'Georgia High School NIL Protection Act', to provide for high school student athletes and prospective student athletes to receive name, image, or likeness compensation.

The bill provides for the automatic expiration of contracts that provide name, image, and likeness compensation to student athletes after the student athlete graduates or is no longer enrolled, and allows for professional representation of student athletes and prospective student athletes. The bill requires written notice to high school student athletes outlining the effects of receiving money or other things of value on the student's future eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Authored By: Rep. Brent Cox (28th)
House Education
Committee:

Committee 03-05-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 442 Education; students shall not be counted absent from school due to performing in certain productions; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 442 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-692.4, which requires that student performers will not be counted absent from school due to performing in certain productions for no more than 25 school days. The bill authorizes the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop such certification forms and promulgate rules, regulations, and authorizations by parents or guardians relating to the education records of student performers.

Authored By: Rep. Tremaine Teddy Reese (140th)
House Education
Committee:

Committee 03-05-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HR 174 State Board of Education; appointment of state school superintendent effective not later than January 1, 2031; provide - CA

Bill Summary: HR 174 amends the state constitution so as to provide for appointment of the state school superintendent by the State Board of Education effective not later than January 1, 2031.

The State Board of Education will be elected for four-year terms by the members of the House of Representatives and Senate whose respective districts are embraced or partly embraced by each congressional district of this state; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th)
House Education
Committee:

Committee 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

HB 249 Public utilities; solar power facility agreements; revise provisions

Bill Summary: HB 249 requires operators of solar power facilities who lease property from landowners to provide the Environmental Protection Division with evidence of financial assurance, which must be given to the landowner. Any operator of a solar power facility who fails to comply with the conditions of this Code will receive a fine of \$1,000.

Authored By: Rep. Robert Dickey (134th)
House Committee: Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Higher Education Committee

HB 88 State veterinary education; biomedical technicians to be eligible for the state student loan forgiveness program; provide

Bill Summary: HB 88 establishes a student loan repayment program for students who have completed a program of study in veterinary technology and who practice in rural counties in Georgia. Only those who have been practicing veterinary technology for 10 years or less are eligible for loan repayment.

The loan repayment is limited to a maximum total award of \$30,000 or less per eligible applicant, distributed at a rate of \$10,000 per 12 months of service. The board is authorized to provide loan repayment to no more than five applicants per year, subject to availability of appropriated funds.

Authored By: Rep. Imani Barnes (86th)
House Committee: Higher Education

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 217 Education; make Dual Achievement Program a permanent state-wide program

Bill Summary: HB 217 extends the Dual Achievement pilot program sunset date to July 1, 2031. The bill provides for the distribution of Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula earnings from the State Board of Education to the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) board based on the number of eligible students participating in the program.

Authored By: Rep. Soo Hong (103rd)
House Committee: Higher Education

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 419 Education; require possession of opioid antagonists by institutions within University System of Georgia

Bill Summary: HB 419 prevents the prohibition of possession of an opioid antagonist on university system or technical college system property or at university system or technical college system sponsored activities.

The bill requires institutions and units to acquire and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists in a secure location, subject to available funding from community funding sources. For institutions or units that maintain an automated external defibrillator, the bill requires such institutions or units to maintain an opioid antagonist storage compartment within three feet of said automated external defibrillator, subject to available funding from community funding sources.

The bill authorizes university system and technical college system personnel to administer opioid antagonists when necessary in specified situations.

Authored By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)

House Committee: Higher Education

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 541 Education; tuition equalization grants; expand definition of an approved school to include certain institutions which offer programs in nursing

Bill Summary: HB 541 expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions that offer baccalaureate programs in nursing, have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least 10 years, have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

These institutions must also have a four-year average passage rate of at least 80 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination, and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved institutions for the tuition equalization grant program, not the Dual Enrollment program or HOPE scholarships or grants.

Authorized By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)
House Committee: Higher Education

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 602 Education; denial of state funds for loans, grants, and scholarships for any student convicted of a criminal offense; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 602 denies state funds for any loans, grants, or scholarships to any student who engages in materially and substantially disruptive conduct on campus that results in a criminal conviction. The bill requires institutions to comply with the provisions of this law in order to remain eligible for students to receive state funds for loans, grants, and scholarships.

Authorized By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th)
House Committee: Higher Education

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

HB 686 Georgia Sports Betting Act; enact

Bill Summary: Bill Summary: HB 686 references the following:

Section 1-1: Authorizes the Georgia Lottery Corporation to carry out responsibilities related to the Georgia Lottery game of sports betting.

Section 2-1:

Part 1: Creates the 'Georgia Sports Betting Act', and provides definitions related to implementation. It prescribes the powers, duties, and rulemaking authority of the Georgia Lottery Corporation, in relation to the control of sports betting in this state.

Part 2: The Georgia Lottery Corporation will issue licenses to offer, operate, and manage sports betting to qualified applicants who satisfy specified criteria. Specified application fees and annual licensing fees are required, depending on the type of license issued. All licenses are valid for a period of five years unless suspended or revoked. Specified persons, including coaches or players, are not eligible to apply for or obtain a license.

The Georgia Lottery Corporation is authorized to issue not more than 16 Type 1 sports betting licenses. Proposition bets on collegiate sporting events are prohibited.

Part 3: An annual privilege tax of 24 percent of the adjusted gross income derived from online sports betting will be imposed on and paid monthly by online sports betting services providers. If a Type 1 sports betting licensee does not contract with a sports betting services provider, the Type 1 sports betting licensee must pay the privilege tax. The privilege tax will be paid to the Georgia Lottery Corporation and distributed to the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund. The state treasurer

must invest the money held in such trust fund in the same manner as other invested state funds, as authorized by the State Depository Board.

Any interest earned will be held in the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund and disbursed in the same way as the other moneys within the fund. The money within the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund must be appropriated annually by the General Assembly for constitutionally-approved educational purposes.

All funds collected by the Georgia Lottery Corporation for fees, fines, and penalties are to be separately held and used to pay the operating expenses associated with the administration of provisions of this article.

Each Type 1 licensee or its sports betting services provider must report specified information to the Georgia Lottery Corporation by January 15 of each year.

Part 4: Any person who knowingly allows a minor to place a wager; offers, accepts, or extends credit to a bettor in the form of a marker; targets minors in sports betting advertising; offers or accepts wagers on high school sporting events; or accepts a wager from an individual prohibited from placing a wager will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$25,000 per violation, or a total of \$50,000 for violations arising out of the same transaction or occurrence.

Any individual not ineligible for specified reasons, is 21 years of age or older, and is physically located in this state may place a wager as part of the Georgia Lottery Corporation's game of sports betting. Specified individuals and categories of individuals are prohibited from placing a wager on sporting events or online sports betting platforms in this state.

The Georgia Lottery Corporation must establish rules and regulations to ensure individuals specifically prohibited from wagering on specified sporting events or online sports betting platforms are not permitted to collude with otherwise eligible individuals to directly impact the outcome of a sporting event. Any ineligible individual who places a wager will be guilty of a misdemeanor, indefinitely prohibited from placing a wager, required to forfeit the proceeds of any illegal wager, and will be subject to specified fines.

Specified bets, including betting on injuries and penalties, are prohibited. A professional sport governing body or sporting events operator may request to the Georgia Lottery Corporation that certain types or categories of bets be restricted, limited, or prohibited.

Part 5: Before placing an online sports betting wager, each bettor must register and create a player account with an authorized online sports betting licensee. The licensee is responsible for ensuring minors and other ineligible individuals are not able to gain unauthorized access to betting platforms. A bettor is not permitted to create more than one account with a licensee. Licensees must utilize geofencing technology to ensure that online sports betting is only available to bettors physically located in this state.

Licensees must provide methods for bettors to self-impose limits on their betting activities. The Georgia Lottery Corporation is required to work with national and local organizations to provide services to individuals with problem gambling behaviors or gambling addiction issues. Sports betting advertisements must prominently include messaging related to problem gambling and access to gambling addiction resources. The Georgia Lottery Corporation is required to submit an annual report to the governor, president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives providing information related to problem gambling in the state.

Part 6: Licensees are not required to use official league data or official event data for determining results of specified sports wagers in certain specified instances.

Part 7: The Georgia Lottery Corporation is authorized to inspect the books and records of licensees to ensure compliance with state law. Licensees must report suspicious or corrupt betting activities to the Georgia Lottery Corporation and to the appropriate professional sports governing body or sporting events operator.

The Georgia Lottery Corporation is authorized to conduct investigations and hearings to ensure that licensees are in compliance with state law. The corporation is authorized to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license to any licensee in violation of state law or the corporation's established rules and regulations. The corporation must establish a schedule of fines related to licensee violations and specified fines are required for certain offenses, including knowingly accepting wagers from minors.

Sections 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3: Provides for exceptions and clarifications to several places in Code to allow for legal online sports betting.

Section 4-1: Exempts online sports betting wagers from state sales and use tax.

Authorized By:	Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st)	Committee	03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee
House	Higher Education	Action:	Substitute
Committee:			

HR 450 General Assembly; authorize sports betting in Georgia; provide by law - CA

Bill Summary: HR 450 proposes an amendment to the Georgia constitution to authorize the General Assembly to provide by law for sports betting in the state.

Authorized By:	Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st)	Committee	03-05-2025 Do Pass
House	Higher Education	Action:	
Committee:			

Industry and Labor Committee

HB 311 Advancing Fair Employment for All Ages Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 501 is the 'Advancing Fair Employment for All Ages Act', and it removes the age cap that applies to age discrimination claims in the state by making it apply to those 40 years of age or older rather than between 40 and 70 years of age.

Authorized By:	Rep. Kim Schofield (63rd)	Committee	03-05-2025 Do Pass
House	Industry and Labor	Action:	
Committee:			

Insurance Committee

HB 101 State employees; annual public report on the amount of prescription drug rebates and other price concessions applied to premium reductions; provide

Bill Summary: HB 101 defines terms related to prescription drug rebates, and introduces transparency requirements within the state employees' health insurance plan. The bill mandates the Board of Community Health to prepare and publish an annual report detailing the total prescription drug rebates and price concessions applied to premium reductions for plan participants beginning July 1, 2026.

Authorized By:	Rep. Demetrius Douglas (78th)	Committee	03-05-2025 Do Pass
House	Insurance	Action:	
Committee:			

HB 649 Insurance; coverage for comprehensive maternal mental health screening and care; provide

Bill Summary: HB 649 requires health insurance providers to cover the cost of maternal mental health screenings and treatment coverage in Georgia. The bill outlines requirements for screenings to be conducted at specific intervals, including the first prenatal visit and postpartum checkups. The bill establishes quality metrics to track screening rates and treatment effectiveness.

Authorized By:	Rep. Karen Bennett (94th)		
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**House
Committee:** Insurance

**Committee
Action:** 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Substitute

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 344 Motor vehicles; school bus cameras; revise penalty amount for violations captured by recorded images

Bill Summary: HB 344 revises the penalties for violations captured by a school bus camera under O.C.G.A. 40-6-163 to be a misdemeanor rather than a high and aggravated misdemeanor. It also provides a judge the ability to fine an individual between \$500 and \$1,000 for a violation rather than the current value, which is set at \$1,000. The ticket issued must also include an explicit statement that the person has a right to contest the penalty in court. The money remitted to the government through these fines must be allocated equally among all schools within the jurisdiction for school safety purposes.

Authored By: Rep. Don Parsons (44th)
**House
Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Committee
Action:** 03-05-2025 Tabled

Public and Community Health Committee

HB 657 Mental health; qualifications of recovery community organizations for substance use; provide

Bill Summary: HB 657 requires that peer specialists working with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to be certified by the department. Recovery community organizations for substance use are required to focus on supporting recovery, be a nonprofit organization or established under one, have an operating or advisory board with a majority of members in recovery, provide nonclinical peer support services, and employ certified peer specialists.

Recovery organizations must also support all recovery pathways, be accountable to the recovery community, and cooperate with the department. The department will designate a state-wide recovery community organization to coordinate the state's network, subject to appropriations, to which recovery organizations will accountable to.

Authored By: Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th)
**House
Committee:** Public and Community Health

**Committee
Action:** 03-05-2025 Do Pass

HB 668 Crimes and offenses; change references to assistance and guide dogs to service dogs

Bill Summary: HB 668 replaces provisions referencing "assistance dogs" to "service dogs", which are defined as domestic canines trained to assist physically or mentally impaired persons. Dogs are not considered "service dogs" if they have been trained solely to provide comfort, companionship, or emotional support to someone regardless of disability status.

Additionally, anyone that knowingly causes death or harm to a service dog will be guilty of a felony which is punishable to one to five years imprisonment and a maximum \$10,000 fine. This will not apply if a service dog is the aggressor.

People that raise and train service dogs must adhere to certain standards. Anyone that misrepresents themselves to use or train a service dog will be guilty of a misdemeanor which is punishable by a maximum \$2,000 fine and 30 days imprisonment. Services dogs undergoing training are extended the same access of certain spaces as trained services dogs.

Authored By: Rep. Brad Thomas (21st)
**House
Committee:** Public and Community Health

**Committee
Action:** 03-05-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Substitute

Small Business Development Committee

HB 704 State government; auditor produce certain monthly and annual reports; replace requirement

Bill Summary: HB 704 changes the requirement for the state auditor to submit a monthly report to the General Assembly on the architectural and engineering firms in the agencies, departments, authorities, and public corporations of the state to an annual report.

Authored By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st)
House Committee: Small Business Development

Committee Action: 03-05-2025 Do Pass

Committee Meeting Schedule

This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change. To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit www.legis.ga.gov to view all upcoming events.

Thursday - March 6, 2025

03/06/2025	8:00 AM	JUDICIARY NON-CIVIL (House)	132 CAP	VIDEO Agenda
03/06/2025	9:00 AM	RULES (House)	341 CAP	VIDEO Agenda
03/06/2025	10:00 AM	FLOOR SESSION (LD28) (House)	House Chamber	VIDEO
03/06/2025	1:00 PM	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (House)	403 CAP	VIDEO