



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday
March 6,
2025

DAILY REPORT

28th
Legislative
Day

House Budget & Research Office
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 29th Legislative Day on Monday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Today on the Floor

Rules Calendar

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 Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 5

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

HB 54 Health; advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services; authorize

Bill Summary: HB 54 authorizes a licensed physician assistant to order home health care under the supervision of a licensed physician.

Authorized By: Rep. David Clark (100th)
House Committee: Health
Floor Vote: Yeas: 177 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-24-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 56 Education; grants to spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and prison guards who are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty; provide

Bill Summary: HB 56 expands eligibility for the Public Safety Memorial Grant to include spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, emergency medical technicians, or highway response operators who have died or been permanently disabled in the line of duty. The bill increases the maximum award amount from \$2,000 per academic year to \$18,000 per academic year, and increases the lifetime award amount from \$8,000 to \$72,000.

The bill provides for the distribution of grants to the child or spouse of a public school teacher or public school employee who has been killed or permanently disabled by an act of violence in the line of duty. Eligible students attending an approved school will receive no more than \$18,000 per academic year, with a maximum total award amount of \$72,000.

Authorized By: Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

House Committee: Higher Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

Committee Action: 02-26-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 87 Insurance; require health benefit policy coverage for medically necessary orthotic and prosthetic devices and their materials and components

Bill Summary: HB 87 states all benefits policies renewed on or after January 1, 2026 will include coverage for orthotic devices and prosthetic devices that are medically necessary for the following: activities of daily living, essential job-related activities, personal hygiene-related activities, and physical activities.

Coverage will be provided for no more than three orthotic devices or prosthetic devices per affected limb per covered person during any three-year period.

Coverage considered as habilitative or rehabilitative benefits will be comparable to coverage for other medical and surgical benefits, may be subject to the same cost-sharing requirements that apply to other medical devices, and may be limited for out-of-network providers. The bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the House Committee on Insurance and the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee regarding the implementation of coverage by July 1, 2032.

Authorized By: Rep. David Clark (100th)
House Committee: Health
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee Action: 02-24-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

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 Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 110 Nays: 60

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

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)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 175 Nays: 0

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

HB 127 Education; number of accumulated sick leave days for teachers and other school personnel; increase from three to five

Bill Summary: HB 127 increases the number of personal days school personnel may utilize accumulated sick leave for from three days to five days.

Authorized By: Rep. Brent Cox (28th)
House Committee: Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 3

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

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 Higher Education
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 145 Nays: 22

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

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 Banks & Banking
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 162 Nays: 10

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

HB 161 Georgia Bureau of Investigation; authority to issue subpoenas of electronic communication records for purposes of investigating certain cyber enabled threats to life and property; provide

Bill Summary: HB 161 revises the statute that allows the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to subpoena computers or electronic devices to include investigations of Title 16, Chapter 9, Article 8 (Identity Fraud) and O.C.G.A. 16-9-93 (Computer Crimes), 16-10-28 (Transmitting a False Public Alarm), 16-11-37 (Terroristic Threats and Acts), 16-11-39.1 (Harassing Communications), and 16-11-221 (Domestic Terrorism - Penalties).

The bill allows a court to find someone in contempt if they fail to obey these subpoenas, and restricts the subpoena from becoming public during the investigation or prosecution beyond the extent necessary for the issuance and compliance of the subpoena. This also removes the specific references to Code sections when the GBI can provide information in furtherance of a federal, local, or state criminal investigation so that it applies to all criminal investigations.

Authored By: Rep. Clint Crowe (118th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 158 Nays: 8

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

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 Regulated Industries
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 2

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

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)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

House Committee: Higher Education
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 2

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

HB 224 Highways, bridges, and ferries; construction or maintenance of roads upon military bases or installations paid for by the United States Department of Defense or other entities; authorize

Bill Summary: HB 224 authorizes the Georgia Department of Transportation to construct or maintain a private road on a military base or military installation when done through agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and when paid for by the Department of Defense.

Authored By: Rep. Josh Bonner (73rd)
House Committee: Transportation
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

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

HB 248 Income tax; tax credit for certain expenses incurred by taxpayers for certain geothermal machinery installations at residential dwellings; provide

Bill Summary: HB 248 adds O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.26, which creates an income tax credit of \$5,000 per year for up to five years per dwelling for eligible expenses related to installation of geothermal machinery in a residential dwelling. The tax credit will not exceed \$25,000 per dwelling and will be repealed on December 31, 2031. The aggregate cap for the program is \$2.5 million per year. The bill is effective on July 1, 2025 and applicable beginning on January 1, 2026.

Authored By: Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 3

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

HB 250 Better Small Business Employee Benefits Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 250 requires the Department of Labor to establish regulations and registration policies for professional employer organizations (PEO). The bill outlines a fee caps and a structure for each application type. The initial fee for a PEO and a PEO group must not exceed \$500 and the renewal fee must not exceed \$250. For limited and temporary registration the fee for a PEO must not exceed \$250 and not exceed \$250 per member for a PEO group. Any person administering professional employer services who violate this Code may subject to a penalty of no more than \$2,000 for each violation. Temporary help contracting firms and individuals who are not a PEO but share employees with a commonly owned corporation, trade, or business related to Section 414(b) and (c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are exempt from this Code section.

Authored By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)
House Committee: Small Business Development
Floor Vote: Yeas: 165 Nays: 7

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

HB 266 Income tax; exempt income received as personal compensation for full-time duty in the active military service of the United States

Bill Summary: HB 266 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, relating to the computation of taxable net income, to exclude \$35,000 of income related to military retirement benefits for retired military members under 65, beginning in tax year 2027. The amount increases \$5,000 per year until reaching \$65,000.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee Action: 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee Substitute
Amendments:

HB 270 Eviction Service and Airplane Evictions Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 270 allows a judge or clerk in the relevant court to grant and issue a summons to a sheriff, lawful constable, or approved process server.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th)
House Judiciary
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

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

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 Public Safety & Homeland Security
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 146 Nays: 20

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

HB 291 Health; certification of community health workers; provide

Bill Summary: HB 291 creates the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee, which will be comprised of 11 voting members with specializations as outlined in the bill, and two nonvoting members who are representatives of the Department of Public Health. The committee will approve certified community health worker training programs, and all community health workers must be certified by the committee.

Authored By: Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd)
House Public and Community Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 4

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

HB 323 Bridging the Gap for ALS and Chronic Kidney Disease Act of 2025; enact

Bill Summary: HB 323 allows for Medicare policies to be issued and renewed for individuals under 65 years of age who are eligible due to disability or end stage renal disease.

Authored By: Rep. Karen Mathiak (82nd)
House Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 02-24-2025 Do Pass
Action:
Amendments:

HB 328 Revenue and taxation; increase annual aggregate limit for tax credits available for certain contributions to student scholarship organizations

Bill Summary: HB 328 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.16, relating to tax credits for student scholarship organizations, to increase the aggregate amount of tax credits allowed from \$120 million to \$140 million. A carry-forward provision allowing for any unused credit to be carried forward for three years is eliminated.

Any amount that has been preapproved but not contributed may be applied for and disbursed by the Department of Revenue at 95 percent of the amount otherwise allowed by this Code section.

Authored By: Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 98 Nays: 75

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

HB 331 Animals; prohibit transfer of certain domestic animals at certain locations

Bill Summary: HB 331 makes it unlawful for any individual to engage in the transfer of a dog, cat, or domestic rabbit in public spaces including roadsides; public right of ways; parkways; medians; public or commercial parking lots or sidewalks; parks; recreation areas; fairs; transient or seasonal flea markets; or other transient markets or outdoor locations.

This will not apply to people or entities that may be able to produce a valid animal shelter license, transfers at a residence or veterinary office, transfers as part of an event sanctioned by certain agricultural exhibitions, or prearranged transfers that take place at law enforcement facilities. Violators may be fined no more than \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 for third or subsequent offenses.

Authored By: Rep. Beth Camp (135th)
House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 161 Nays: 13

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

HB 341 Income tax; certain employers that offer individual coverage health reimbursement arrangements to employees; create tax credit

Bill Summary: HB 341 creates O.C.G.A. 48-7-40.10, which allows for a tax credit for small employers, defined as having 10 or fewer employees, that contribute to an individual coverage health reimbursement arrangement for employees. The maximum tax credit allowable is \$600 per covered employee during the first three years of the program's existence, \$400 per covered employee in the fourth year of the program, and \$200 per covered employee in the fifth year of the program. The aggregate amount of tax credits allowed is limited to \$5 million per year.

The employer must contribute at least \$100 per month toward an employee's coverage. Any amount of a tax credit that is unused may not be carried forward to be used against future tax liabilities.

Authored By: Rep. Mark Newton (127th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: Nays:
Floor Action: Recommit to Committee

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 351 Board of Natural Resources; modify powers and duties

Bill Summary: HB 351 pertains to solid waste management systems and the Board of Natural Resources. In the case that a solid waste management facility has been identified for future use, an applicant must submit written verification from its host local government that identifies the facility, describes its location by tax parcel identification number, states that the facility complies with local zoning if applicable, and states that the facility is developed in accordance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-13.1.

The bill further requires the host local government to notify the public at least 14 days and again at least seven days prior to a public meeting that details the new solid waste facility. Language relating to the Department of Community Affairs is replaced with the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

Authored By: Rep. John Corbett (174th)
House Natural Resources & Environment
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 175 Nays: 0

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

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 Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 3

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

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 96 Nays: 77

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

HB 371 Quality Basic Education Act; state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding; provide for an increase

Bill Summary: HB 371 amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-260, relating to capital outlay funds generally under the 'Quality Basic Education Act'. The bill provides for an increase of the state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding from \$300 million to \$375 million annually.

Authored By: Rep. John Corbett (174th)
House Education
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 2

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

HB 384 Crimes and offenses; uniform oaths to be sworn by all peace officers; provide

Bill Summary: HB 384 specifies that for O.C.G.A. 16-10-1 (Violation of Oath by Public Officer), which carries an existing penalty of imprisonment of one to five years, peace officers can only be subject to prosecution under the Code section for violations of their oath. No officer will be subject to prosecution for violation of their oath of office under the Code section unless the violation is predicated on the commission of a felony.

Section 2 amends O.C.G.A. 45-3-7 to create a specific oath that all officers must take after July 1, 2025. The oath will be before the chief executive officer of the agency or any authorized judicial official, and that oath will be filed in and entered into the records of that agency. Agencies can add additional language, although it must be aspirational only and of no legal effect in any criminal proceeding. This also makes any aspirational language that is added have no legal effect in any civil or criminal proceeding.

Authored By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 397 Elections; allow municipalities to opt in to providing advance voting on Saturdays for municipal elections

Bill Summary: HB 397 allows for the removal of a State Election Board member at any time the General Assembly is in session by a majority vote, or at any time the General Assembly is not in session by the president of the Senate or the speaker of the House. A State Election Board member appointed to fill a vacancy may be removed in the same manner as a member elected by the General

Assembly.

Authored By: Rep. Tim Fleming (114th)
House Governmental Affairs
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 159 Nays: 13

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 2

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

HB 429 Ad valorem tax; exempt vehicles owned by a natural person for which a title was issued before March 1, 2013

Bill Summary: HB 429 creates O.C.G.A. 48-5-472.1 to exempt motor vehicles owned before March 1, 2013 from an annual ad valorem tax.

The bill will become effective on January 1, 2027.

Authored By: Rep. David Wilkerson (38th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 166 Nays: 0

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

HB 430 Sexual Offender Risk Review Board; venue for certain petitions regarding state sexual offender registry; provide

Bill Summary: HB 430 clarifies that a non-resident who is on their state's sex offender registry, at the time of changing residences, is required to register on Georgia's sex offender registry when moving into this state. Petitions for release from sex offender registration requirements must be served on the sheriff, and the chief superior court judge, of the county of intended residence. Further, the local court is required to hold a hearing on these petitions if requested by the sheriff, or chief superior judge, of the county of intended residence.

The court is also required to send a copy of any order releasing a person from sex offender registration requirements to the sheriff of the county of intended residence.

Authored By: Rep. Steven Sainz (180th)

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured

House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0

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

HB 433 Human Services, Department of; authorized to access restricted and sealed information to conduct employee oversight in certain circumstances; provide

Bill Summary: HB 433 authorizes the Department of Human Services to have access to restricted and sealed information at the Georgia Crime Information Center to verify eligibility for prospective or existing foster parents or adults in the home of such foster parents, as well as to verify eligibility for prospective and existing employees and contractors.

Authorized By: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)
House Committee: Public Safety & Homeland Security
Floor Vote: Yeas: 177 Nays: 0

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

HB 439 Revenue and taxation; revise deductions allowed to dealers

Bill Summary: HB 439 revises law regarding deductions allowed to dealers by allowing a deduction of three percent on the first \$10,000 of the combined total amount of all sales and use taxes reported, rather than the first \$3,000.

Authorized By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Committee: Banks & Banking
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

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

HB 445 Ad valorem tax; language required to be included in notices of current assessment; revise

Bill Summary: HB 445 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-306 relating to the annual notice of current assessment, contents, posting notice, and new assessment description by requiring that the option to appeal directly to a hearing officer for tangible personal property with a fair market value of greater than \$200,000 be included on the notice of assessment.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-311 relating to county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals by allowing a taxpayer with tangible personal property having a fair market value greater than \$200,000 to appeal directly to a hearing officer. A former or current appraiser IV or chief appraiser may serve as a hearing officer for taxable personal property other than wireless property following the submission of an application, a list of counties within which the hearing officer is willing to serve, and a resume to the Georgia Real Estate Commission and the Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board. The hearing officer may not serve in the county of which they previously served as an appraiser IV or chief appraiser.

Authorized By: Rep. Chuck Martin (49th)
House Committee: Ways & Means
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

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

HB 447 Crimes and offenses; crimes of gift card theft, gift card forgery, and gift card fraud; provide

Bill Summary: HB 447 creates three new sets of criminal penalties for gift card theft, forgery, and fraud.

Gift card theft is committed when either A) a person has intent to defraud and acquires or retains possession of a gift card or gift card redemption information without consent of the cardholder, card issuer, or gift card seller, or B) a person has intent to defraud and uses, for the purposes of obtaining money, goods, services, or anything else of value, a gift card or gift card information that has been obtained in violation of subsections (b), (c), or (d) of the Code section.

Gift card forgery is committed when a person has intent to defraud, and alters or tampers with a gift card or its packaging.

Gift card fraud is committed when a person has intent to defraud and devises a scheme to obtain a gift card or gift card information from a cardholder, card issuer, or gift card seller by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.

A person convicted of any violation of these new crimes will be imprisoned for between one and 10 years and a maximum fine of \$5,000.

Authored By: Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 2

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

HB 451 Quality Basic Education Act; local boards shall be authorized to provide instruction in hunting safety in grades six through 12; provide

Bill Summary: HB 451 amends the Quality Basic Education Act to allow local school boards to offer hunting safety instruction for students in grades six through 12. Each local board of education is also authorized to establish curriculum for hunter safety instruction based on the hunter education courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources. The State Board of Education will adopt instructional standards no later than April 1, 2026.

Authored By: Rep. Charles Cannon (172nd)
House Game, Fish, & Parks
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 159 Nays: 16

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

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 Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

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

HB 466 State symbols; marsh tacky horse as official Georgia heritage horse breed; designate

Bill Summary: HB 466 designates the Marsh Tacky horse as the official heritage horse breed of Georgia.

Authorized By: Rep. Mike Cameron (1st)
House Special Rules
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 1

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

HB 471 Health; licensed general hospitals and birthing centers make available a water safety education video to parents or guardians of newborn infants; require

Bill Summary: HB 471 requires hospitals and birthing centers to provide a water safety education video to parents or guardians on site after the delivery of an infant. The video will be developed by the Department of Community Health.

Authorized By: Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st)
House Public and Community Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

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

HB 483 Crimes and offenses; protections for inspectors of code enforcement; provide

Bill Summary: HB 483 adds a definition for "inspector of code enforcement", which includes those employed by or under contract with cities and counties who inspect buildings and businesses to ensure they are in compliance with the law. The bill also adds inspectors to the list of the enhanced penalties for simple assault, aggravated assault, simple battery, battery, and aggravated battery.

Authorized By: Rep. Brian Prince (132nd)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 5

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

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.

Authorized By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Code Revision
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 173 Nays: 0

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

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.

Authorized By: Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd)
House Code Revision
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 175 Nays: 0

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

HB 491 Game and fish; remove an exception for use of air guns to hunt wildlife

Bill Summary: HB 491 removes a sunset date related to hunting wildlife with an air gun. The bill also makes it unlawful to take any catfish species from state waters using a bow and arrow except

under certain conditions.

Authored By: Rep. Johnny Chastain (7th)
House Game, Fish, & Parks
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 3

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

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 Motor Vehicles
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 160 Nays: 14

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

HB 506 Social services; Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments; provide

Bill Summary: HB 506 requires the Department of Community Health to provide Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatment. Coverage will not limit one's number of tobacco cessation attempts.

Authored By: Rep. Scott Hilton (48th)
House Public and Community Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 142 Nays: 31

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

HB 511 Insurance; deductions from taxable income for contributions by taxpayers to catastrophe savings accounts and interest earned on such accounts; provide

Bill Summary: HB 511 creates O.C.G.A. 48-7-28.5 to allow for the creation of a catastrophe savings account to be used during qualifying catastrophic events. The account will be a savings or money market account, and can only be used for catastrophic weather events declared a disaster or emergency by the state's governor. A qualifying expense is either an insurance deductible and any expenses related to the qualifying damage to a taxpayer's primary residence that is not covered by insurance.

The contribution limits are set at no more than \$2,000 if a taxpayer's deductible is less than \$1,000; twice the taxpayer's deductible for deductibles over \$1,000, up to \$25,000; or up to \$250,000 if a taxpayer is self-insured. A taxpayer is granted a deduction on contributions to the account, interest income will be exempt from tax, and excluded from the taxpayer's income when making a qualifying distribution from the account.

Authored By: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 177 Nays: 0

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HB 513 Local government; criteria for service delivery strategy; revise provisions

Bill Summary: HB 513 provides for the use of additional funding sources related to county services jointly funded by the county and one or more municipalities. The bill requires the county to provide an annual report of the funding of such jointly funded services.

Authored By: Rep. John LaHood (175th)
House Governmental Affairs
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 1

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

HB 521 Local government; deannexation of certain properties; revise procedures

Bill Summary: HB 521 provides for the deannexation of property owned by a county. The bill provides that proposed annexations by application of 100 percent of affected landowners in counties that meet specified criteria are contingent upon the adoption of a resolution by the governing authority of the impacted county.

Authored By: Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)
House Governmental Affairs
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 165 Nays: 10

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

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.

O.C.G.A. 13-12-3 is revised to reflect service contracts of more than one year having automatic renewal enforceable if the consumer has received written or electronic acknowledgement of renewal, and the consumer has provided an affirmative written or electronic response that they do not wish to terminate their contract.

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.

Automatic renewal violations of provisions within the Georgia Online Automatic Renewal Transparency Act will render service contracts void.

Authored By: Rep. Carter Barrett (24th)
House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 169 Nays: 2

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

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 0

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

HB 531 Appeal and error; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state or a city or county in this state; provide

Bill Summary: HB 531, known as the 'Municipal Sovereign Immunity Act', subjects municipal tort claims to the limitations on liability of the state found in 'The Georgia Tort Claims Act', where no claimant will recover a sum exceeding \$3 million from a single occurrence and a municipality's aggregate liability per occurrence will not exceed \$5 million.

Caps on liability will not be disclosed or suggested to the jury during the trial. No award for damages

will include punitive or exemplary damages or interest prior to judgment, and where a judgment is obtained, the judgment will bear interest at an annual rate of seven percent. Claims will be presented to the municipality within 12 months of the occurring event.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th)
House Judiciary
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 161 Nays: 13

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

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 0

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

HB 535 Penal institutions; credit for time served regarding probation revocation sentencing; provide

Bill Summary: HB 535 addresses the Georgia Court of Appeals' case in Kellum v. State (2023). Regarding time served calculations for a person who has been incarcerated, that person will be given full credit for each day served in confinement, since the date of the commission of the violation, per O.C.G.A. 17-10-11 (Granting of Credit Generally/Use in Determining Parole Eligibility), excluding time tolled per O.C.G.A. 42-8-36 (Duty of Probationer to Inform Officer of Residence/Tolling /Unpaid Moneys).

Authored By: Rep. Tyler Smith (18th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 178 Nays: 0

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

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 164 Nays: 0

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

HB 567 Professions and businesses; authorize and regulate teledentistry by licensed dentists

Bill Summary: HB 567 authorizes teledentistry by licensed dentists, while establishing requirements and restrictions. The bill allows for the coverage of teledentistry healthcare services under dental benefits plans.

Authored By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)
House Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee
Action:
Amendments:

HB 571 Professions and businesses; licensing of radiologist assistants; provide

Bill Summary: HB 571 provides definitions related to radiologist assistants, and puts their licensing and regulation under the purview of the Georgia Composite Medical Board. The board will appoint

an advisory committee on radiologist assistants.

Authored By: Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)
House Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 162 Nays: 11

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

HB 577 Georgia Nicotine Vapor Products Directory Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 577 amends O.C.G.A. 48-11-1 through 48-11-30 to require the Department of Revenue to develop a directory for registrations of nicotine vapor products, which are defined as products containing nicotine and vapor device designed to deliver consumable vapor that contains nicotine. The term will not include a consumable vapor product that is contained in or utilizes an open system.

The registration for each brand will require information such as the name under which the vapor product transacts, license information, principal place of business of the manufacturer, and the brand name, category, flavor and description. A fee of \$1,000 is when the manufacturer first submits a certification for a product and \$250 annually per product thereafter.

The commissioner will provide manufacturers that submit registrations with deficiencies an opportunity to make corrections prior to removing the product from the directory. If a product is removed from the directory, then dealers and distributors will have 30 days from the date notice is received of the removal to either sell or return for full refund the product in its inventory. After 30 days, sale of the product removed from the directory will be illegal.

The bill provides for civil penalties directed towards vapor product dealers or vapor product distributors that make available for sale any product that is not included in the directory.

By January 31 of every year after the program goes into effect, the Department of Revenue will provide a report on the directory, including products included on the directory, revenue, and expenditures related to the administration of the program.

The bill will only be effective upon appropriation for the specific purposes set forth in the bill.

Authored By: Rep. Houston Gaines (120th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 159 Nays: 12

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

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 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 sets the bills effective date as July 1, 2026.

Authored By: Rep. Matt Reeves (99th)
House Appropriations
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 158 Nays: 2

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

HB 582 Georgia Survivor Justice Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 582 is the 'Georgia Survivor Justice Act'. When a defendant in a prosecution under Title 16, Chapter 5 (Crimes Against the Person) raises a justification defense under O.C.G.A. 16-3-21, the defendant may offer relevant evidence that they had been subjected to acts of family violence, dating violence, or child abuse that was committed by the alleged victim to establish that the defendant was justified in using force or deadly force.

This evidence can include seeking law enforcement assistance, seeking services from a counselor or social worker, seeking medical attention, showing effects of battering and post-traumatic stress disorder, or relevant protective orders.

Section 3 limits the exception for murder to malice murder in which a person is immune from criminal liability due to coercion, and extends it to when there is imminent death of a third party.

Section 4 revises O.C.G.A. 16-5-1 to say that a person convicted of felony murder and sentenced to death or life imprisonment when the predicate felony offense was cruelty to children in the second degree will be resentenced to imprisonment of between 10 and 30 years, if that predicate offense occurred prior to July 1, 2014.

Section 6 allows a defendant to present evidence, at the time of sentencing, that they were subjected to acts of family violence, dating violence, or child abuse, and that those acts were a significant contributing factor to the offense that the defendant is being sentenced for.

This section allows the following evidence to be introduced: hearsay; character evidence; evidence indicating they sought assistance from law enforcement, a counselor or social worker, or medical professionals; prior statements regarding these acts; evidence of the effects of battering and post-traumatic stress disorder; evidence pertaining to the alleged perpetrator's history of other types of these acts; expert testimony; or any other evidence that the court determines is credible and has sufficient probative value.

The judge may impose a different sentence if they believe that the defendant was subjected to these types of acts and that they were a significant contributing factor to the offense, or if the best interests of justice and welfare of society would be served. If the judge finds that one of those elements are met and the person was convicted of a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment, then they will be sentenced to imprisonment for between one and 30 years.

If that person was convicted of a felony other than one punishable by life or imprisonment or death, then they will be sentenced to imprisonment for between one and one-half the maximum period of time for which they could have been sentenced, by one-half the maximum fine to which they could have been subjected, or both.

Section 7 provides for the evidentiary privilege in court proceedings for communications made in the context of victim-centered practices or victim-offender dialogues, as provided in O.C.G.A. 24-5-511, which is created in Section 8.

Section 8 creates the evidentiary privilege for communications made at any time while preparing for participating in a victim-centered practice or victim-offender dialogue. This information is not subject to discovery in court proceedings or public inspection. Parties involved in these practices or dialogues can refuse to share their communications relating to this and prevent others in court from doing so. Facilitators of these programs are immune from civil damages for statements, actions, omissions, or decisions made in the course of these practices or dialogues unless it was grossly negligent and made with malice or made with willful disregard for the safety or property of any party to the practice or dialogue.

Authored By: Rep. Stan Gunter (8th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 166 Nays: 2

Rule Applied: Modified-Structured
Committee
Action:
Amendments:

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:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

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

HB 586 Revenue and taxation; intangible recording tax; revise notes

Bill Summary: HB 586 amends O.C.G.A. 48-6-60, 48-6-66, and 48-6-68, relating to the application of the intangible recording tax, by changing the period length in the definitions of a long-term note secured by real estate, the placement of a lien upon real estate, and bonds for a title in the absence of a security deed from three years to seven years.

Authored By: Rep. Bruce Williamson (112th)
House Ways & Means
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 1

Rule Applied: Structured
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass
Action:
Amendments:

HB 593 Baker County; probate judge; provide nonpartisan elections

Bill Summary: HB 593 provides nonpartisan elections for the probate court judge of Baker County.

Authored By: Rep. Gerald Greene (154th)
House Intragovernmental Coordination
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 150 Nays: 20

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

HB 614 Local government; prohibit use or ignition of consumer fireworks in proximity to certain facilities housing equines; authorize

Bill Summary: HB 614 allows a county governing authority or municipal corporation to adopt ordinances prohibiting firework usage within 100 yards of commercial facilities housing equines. Similarly, the county governing authority or municipal corporation may issue special event permits that allow the usage of fireworks within the 100 yard range.

Authorized By: Rep. Jan Jones (47th)
House Committee: Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Floor Vote: Yeas: 168 Nays: 1

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

HB 618 Property; require any seller of real property to make certain disclosures regarding flood damage to such real property

Bill Summary: HB 618 requires a seller of real property to disclose any actual knowledge of physical flood damage, flood-related insurance claims, flood-related repairs made to the property, repetitive loss designations, flood insurance maintenance requirements, any part of property located within a floodplain, and any erosion control structures affecting the property. Disclosures will be made in writing with relevant dates, and any violations will be subject to civil remedies.

Authorized By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st)
House Committee: Judiciary
Floor Vote: Yeas: 170 Nays: 2

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

HB 627 Courts; juvenile proceedings; use of a deadly weapon; revise a provision

Bill Summary: HB 627 clarifies that aggravated assault with a firearm is included within the definition of "Class A designated felony act" in the Juvenile Code.

Authorized By: Rep. Holt Persinger (119th)
House Committee: Judiciary Non-Civil
Floor Vote: Yeas: 156 Nays: 2

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

HB 630 State Board of Registration; remove used car division and the used parts division; provisions

Bill Summary: HB 630 revises requirements for the State Board of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers to be composed of 10 members. The bill revises requirements for applicants and existing applicants. In addition, both divisions within the board are merged to provide for more flexibility.

Part II of the bill revises who can certify licensees for applied behavior analysis to include the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board, or its successor.

Authorized By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st)
House Committee: Regulated Industries
Floor Vote: Yeas: 165 Nays: 3

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

HB 635 State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors; revise provisions

Bill Summary: HB 635 revises board requirements and licensing requirements related to the State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors. This removes the limitation on the amount of terms that board members can serve, and allows certain members of the board to have prior experience as a public building official rather than be currently in that position. A residential light commercial contractor or commercial general contractor must have at least four years of aggregate, academic credits from college-level courses in specific fields.

The board also has the ability to revoke licenses if a licensee knowingly enters into a contractual agreement to lawfully engage in or provide the use of their license to engage in contracting or

perform the functions of a contractor.

Authored By:	Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Regulated Industries	Committee	03-03-2025 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 171 Nays: 2	Amendments:	

HB 638 MARTA; prohibit stopping or parking of a motor vehicle other than a transit vehicle in a designated transit vehicle lane in the City of Atlanta

Bill Summary: HB 638 prohibits parking or stopping in a transit vehicle lane in the City of Atlanta unless authorized by an official traffic control device, occurs during an emergency situation, or is otherwise authorized by law and provides for enforcement by automated transit vehicle lane monitoring devices.

The bill establishes civil monetary penalties for violation differentiated by whether the violation was enforced via a law enforcement officer or an automated transit vehicle lane monitoring device with recorded images. The bill provides for disbursement of funds collected, device and records inspections, and a sunset date of January 1, 2030.

Authored By:	Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Transportation	Committee	03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 145 Nays: 22	Amendments:	

HB 645 Health; COVID-19 testing of staff members in long term-care facilities; repeal certain provisions

Bill Summary: HB 645 removes the COVID-19 testing requirement for new residents and staff in long-term care facilities.

Authored By:	Rep. John LaHood (175th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Human Relations & Aging	Committee	03-04-2025 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 123 Nays: 45	Amendments:	

HB 646 Coroners; provide minimum salaries

Bill Summary: HB 646 revises minimum salaries and compensation provisions for coroners, setting the minimum pay at \$17,700 and increasing based on population ranges.

Authored By:	Rep. Patty Stinson (150th)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Public Safety & Homeland Security	Committee	03-03-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Committee:		Action:	Substitute
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 170 Nays: 4	Amendments:	

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)	Rule Applied:	Modified-Structured
House	Intragovernmental Coordination	Committee	02-28-2025 Do Pass
Committee:		Action:	
Floor Vote:	Yeas: 98 Nays: 76	Amendments:	

HB 652 Motor fuel tax; electricity delivered by certain electric vehicle charging stations; provide exception

Bill Summary: HB 652 amends Georgia's motor fuel tax code to clarify taxation of electricity used as a motor fuel through electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The bill introduces a fuel tax exemption for EV charging stations owned or operated by nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, as long as they meet certain requirements.

Authored By: Rep. Todd Jones (25th)
House Technology and Infrastructure
Committee: Innovation
Floor Vote: Yeas: 167 Nays: 4

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

HB 677 Health; certain placement procedures for children upon discharge from a hospital or psychiatric residential treatment facility; provide

Bill Summary: HB 677 establishes discharge procedures for a child who has received psychiatric care at a hospital or psychiatric residential treatment facility in the event the child's legal guardian fails to resume custody of such child.

Authored By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)
House Health
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 173 Nays: 1

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

HB 718 Women's Golf Week; first week of April each year; provide

Bill Summary: HB 718 designates the first week of April of each year as Women's Golf Week in Georgia.

Authored By: Rep. Sheila Jones (60th)
House Special Rules
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 174 Nays: 1

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

HR 7 George C. Trulock, Jr. Memorial Highway; Grady County; dedicate

Bill Summary: House Resolution 7 is the annual House road dedication package. The resolution includes:

HR 7, dedicating the portion of State Route 38/Highway 84 from the East Whigham City Limit to the West Whigham City Limit in Grady County as the George C. Trulock, Jr. Memorial Highway;

HR 31, dedicating the bridge on U.S. Highway 29/State Route 8 over South Fork Broad River in Madison County as the R. George Strickland, Jr. Memorial Bridge;

HR 96, dedicating the portion of State Route 155 from I-285 to Snapfinger Road in DeKalb County as the Dr. Gregory B. Levett, Sr. Parkway; and

HR 303, dedicating the interchange of Interstate 75 and US 280 in Crisp County as the Honorable Johnny Floyd Interchange.

Authored By: Rep. Joe Campbell (171st)
House Transportation
Committee:
Floor Vote: Yeas: 172 Nays: 0
Floor Action: Adopted (Resolution)

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee 03-04-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute
Amendments:

HR 128 Watkins, Mr. Joseph Samuel; compensate

Bill Summary: HR 128 authorizes the Department of Administrative Services to compensate the following five wrongfully convicted and incarcerated individuals as follows:

Mr. Joseph Samuel Watkins shall receive \$1,688,527.40 in the form of an annuity, paid in equal monthly installments over 10 years beginning in 2026, after an initial lump sum payment of \$535,000;

Mr. Daryl Lee Clark shall receive \$1,917,128 in the form of an annuity, paid in equal monthly installments over 10 years beginning in 2026, after an initial lump sum payment of \$632,652;

Mr. Michael Woolfolk shall receive \$1,350,000 in the form of an annuity, paid in equal monthly installments over 10 years beginning in 2026, after an initial lump sum payment of \$445,500;

Mr. Mario Stinchcomb shall receive \$975,000 in the form of an annuity, paid in equal monthly installments over 10 years beginning in 2026, after an initial lump sum payment of \$321,750; and

Mr. Sedrick Moore shall receive \$1,691,280 in the form of an annuity, paid in equal monthly installments over 10 years beginning in 2026, after an initial lump sum payment of \$558,122.40.

The resolution stipulates that none of the compensation recipients may receive compensation prior to signing a release and waiver of any future claims against the State of Georgia or if the individual has a pending lawsuit against the state.

Authored By: Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th)
House Committee: Appropriations
Floor Vote: Yeas: 151 Nays: 12
Floor Action: Adopted (Resolution)

Rule Applied: Modified-Open
Committee Action: 03-04-2025 Do Pass
Amendments:

Postponed Until Next Legislative Day

HB 555 Georgians First Residential Property Protection Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 555 prohibits business enterprises from owning an interest in more than 2,000 single-family residences in the state on and after January 1, 2029. Any claimant may bring a civil action against a business enterprise to recover actual damages or \$15,000 for each violation, whichever is greater, in addition to costs. Actions must be brought within four years from the last date a business enterprise acquired an interest in a residential property.

An interest in residential property held by a violating enterprise will be subject to public sale, with the attorney general or relevant district attorney able to bring an action to direct a public sale. The proceeds derived from the sale will be paid into the registry of the superior court that ordered the sale.

Authored By: Rep. Derrick McCollum (30th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

HB 686 Georgia Sports Betting Act; enact

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.

Authored By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

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.

Authored By: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

Committee Actions

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

Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

HB 10 Georgia Booking Photo Privacy Protection Act; enact

Bill Summary: HB 10 prohibits law enforcement agencies that arrest an individual from releasing a booking photo to the public or posting it on a public website, until the individual has been convicted of the relevant offense.

Certain exceptions are made, including for news media organizations which can request a booking photo from the law enforcement agency so long as the representative of the news organization provides an affidavit that attests that the news organization is not primarily in the business of publishing and disseminating booking photos, the use of the photos will be in compliance with O.C.G.A. 35-1-19, and the organization does not accept fees to remove booking photographs. The affidavit must include the legal name and all trade names of the news media organization.

The bill prohibits people and businesses from engaging in the business of publishing or posting booking photographs on a publicly-available website or in a publication when they also accept a fee or other form of payment to remove that booking photograph. A person whose booking photograph was illegally published can make a request to the registered agent of the person or entity that published the photograph, and within 10 days of that request, the publisher must remove that booking photograph without charge.

A person whose booking photograph was illegally published or disseminated may also bring a civil claim to enjoin those actions if the image is not removed within 10 days after the request for removal. The court is required to impose a penalty of \$1,000 per day for noncompliance with the injunction and will also reward attorneys' fees and relevant court costs.

These additional penalties are deposited directly into the general fund of the state treasury. If a person or business later republishes that booking photo, then the depicted individual can bring a civil claim to enjoin the continued publication or dissemination of the photograph. The court is required to impose a penalty of \$5,000 per day for noncompliance with the injunction.

Authored By: Rep. Kim Schofield (63rd)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:

Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 35 Courts; private attorney appointed to act as district attorney pro tempore; revise compensation

Bill Summary: HB 35 provides that when a private attorney is appointed as a district attorney pro tempore due to a conflict of interest with a case, the reference to receiving the same rate as, and having the same funds appropriated to, the district attorney is removed.

The bill states that the private attorney will receive a minimum monthly compensation equal to the lesser of \$250 per hour, as certified by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia (PAC), or 90 percent of the monthly salary of the district attorney whose place they took. These attorneys are allowed to engage the services of others, who will receive monthly compensation of up to \$110 per hour, as certified by the PAC. The hourly rates are indexed to the Consumer Price Index.

Authored By: Rep. Jordan Ridley (22nd)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:

Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 57 Crimes and offenses; incest; include step-grandparent and step-grandchild relationship

Bill Summary: HB 57 adds a step-grandparent and step-grandchild to O.C.G.A. 16-6-22(a)(4), which is a list of people prohibited from having "sexual intercourse or sodomy" with one another.

Authored By: Rep. Mike Cameron (1st)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:

Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 285 Law enforcement agencies; judicial procedure for purging a person's involuntary hospitalization information; provide

Bill Summary: HB 285 allows a person who has had their mental health information submitted to a probate court as part of an involuntary hospitalization to petition the court after one year from the hospitalization. Current law requires the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) to automatically purge the records after five years. No petition for relief may be filed within a period of two years from the date of the final order on a previous petition for relief. At the hearing, the court will consider the circumstances surrounding the hospitalization, the mental health and criminal history records, the petitioner's reputation concerning character evidence, and changes in the petitioner's condition or circumstances.

The court will use a preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether the petitioner will not likely act in a manner dangerous to themselves or that endangers public safety. A record will be kept of the hearing, and it is exempt from disclosure as a public record.

Authored By: Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:

Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass
Action:

HB 384 Crimes and offenses; uniform oaths to be sworn by all peace officers; provide

Bill Summary: HB 384 specifies that for O.C.G.A. 16-10-1 (Violation of Oath by Public Officer), which carries an existing penalty of imprisonment of one to five years, peace officers can only be subject to prosecution under the Code section for violations of their oath. No officer will be subject to prosecution for violation of their oath of office under the Code section unless the violation is predicated on the commission of a felony.

Section 2 amends O.C.G.A. 45-3-7 to create a specific oath that all officers must take after July 1, 2025. The oath will be before the chief executive officer of the agency or any authorized judicial official, and that oath will be filed in and entered into the records of that agency. Agencies can add additional language, although it must be aspirational only and of no legal effect in any criminal proceeding. This also makes any aspirational language that is added have no legal effect in any civil or criminal proceeding.

Authored By: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th)
House Judiciary Non-Civil
Committee:

Committee 03-06-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Action: Substitute

HB 464 Crimes and offenses; immunity for a prospective offender while seeking assistance from law enforcement as a victim of certain offenses; provide

Bill Summary: HB 464 provides immunity to anyone who, in good faith, seeks police assistance while being a victim of a violation of: 1) aggravated assault; 2) aggravated battery; 3) female genital mutilation; 4) kidnapping; 5) rape; 6) aggravated sexual battery; or 7) aggravated sodomy.

Those who have immunity cannot be arrested, charged, or prosecuted for any crime, if the evidence for that incident resulted solely from seeking the assistance. Individuals with this immunity also cannot be subject to related penalties for a violation of a temporary protective order, temporary restraining order, permanent protective order, or permanent restraining order; or sanctions for a violation of a condition of pretrial release, probation; or parole based on a drug violation.

Authored By: Rep. Eric Bell (75th)

**House
Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Committee
Action:** 03-06-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Substitute

HB 675 Crimes and offenses; criminal offenses related to material support of terrorism; provide

Bill Summary: HB 675 creates a new criminal penalty if a person provides material support or resources to, or if the person conceals, disguises, or supports, an act of terrorism. The penalty for this crime is a maximum term of 20 years of imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$100,000, or both.

This also creates a new criminal penalty if a person knowingly provides material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization. The penalty for this crime is a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a maximum fine of \$100,000, or both. The person must have knowledge that the organization is a designated foreign terrorist organization or that the organization has engaged in acts of terrorism.

A person will not be prosecuted under these provisions if their activity was authorized by a governmental or law enforcement agency of the state or federal government, or if it was activity by an attorney providing legal services to an individual accused of violating a criminal law. The attorney general is required to create guidelines for law enforcement investigations conduct pursuant to these crimes to ensure protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties.

Authored By: Rep. Brent Cox (28th)
**House
Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Committee
Action:** 03-06-2025 Do Pass by Committee
Substitute

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.*

Tuesday - March 11, 2025

03/11/2025	8:00 AM	SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (House)	506 CLOB	VIDEO	Agenda
03/11/2025	2:00 PM	MARTOC (House)	506 CLOB	VIDEO	