

SENATE FIRST READERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DAY

SB 626. By Senator Hufstetler of the 52nd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to provide for certain consumer financial assistance and protections with regard to medical debt arising from certain healthcare services received by patients at hospitals; to provide for an appeal of financial assistance eligibility or charity care determination; to provide for incorrect determination protections; to prohibit certain financing products; to provide for payment plans; to prohibit debt collection under certain circumstances; to provide for enforcement; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to Health and Human Services Committee.

SR 965. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Wicks of the 34th, Orrock of the 36th and Davenport of the 17th:

A RESOLUTION honoring Chief Latosha Clemons for her historic leadership, trailblazing service, and distinguished contributions to fire service and public administration; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 966. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Wicks of the 34th, Albers of the 56th, Jackson of the 41st, Davenport of the 17th and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring and commending Dr. A. Lois Keith for her lifetime of exemplary leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the National Council of Negro Women; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 967. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Orrock of the 36th, Kemp of the 38th, McLaurin of the 14th and Howard of the 35th:

A RESOLUTION honoring Claire Lewis "Yum" Arnold for her visionary leadership, entrepreneurial excellence, and distinguished contributions to business, philanthropy, and civic life; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 968. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Watson of the 1st and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Dr. Gyimah Whitaker; and for other purposes.

Referred to Rules Committee.

SR 969. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Orrock of the 36th, McLaurin of the 14th, Howard of the 35th and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring Karon Mauney for her outstanding leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedicated service to the Cartersville and Bartow County community; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 970. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Hatchett of the 50th, McLaurin of the 14th, Jones II of the 22nd, Mangham of the 55th and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring and commending Justice Verda M. Colvin for her historic achievements, leadership, and distinguished service in the legal profession; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 971. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Albers of the 56th, Orrock of the 36th, Jackson of the 41st, Kemp of the 38th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Anna Roach; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 972. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, James of the 28th, Strickland of the 42nd, Jones of the 10th and Anderson of the 43rd:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Mrs. Shakila Henderson-Baker for her dedicated service to the Newton County Board of Education and the Georgia School Boards Association; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 973. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Strickland of the 42nd, Jones of the 10th and Davenport of the 17th:

A RESOLUTION honoring Chairwoman Carlotta Harrell for her distinguished public service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Henry County and the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 974. By Senators Lucas of the 26th, Jackson of the 41st, Wicks of the 34th, Jones II of the 22nd, Mallow of the 2nd and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing March 19, 2026, as Pace Day at the Capitol; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 975. By Senators Harrell of the 40th, Watson of the 1st, Davenport of the 17th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Echols of the 49th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending the March of Dimes and recognizing March 10, 2026, as March of Dimes March for Change at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 976. By Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Wicks of the 34th, Harbison of the 15th, Sims of the 12th, Jones of the 10th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending and congratulating the Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival for its outstanding efforts to foster a long and steady friendship between the City of Conyers and country of Japan; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 977. By Senators Payne of the 54th, Hickman of the 4th, Parent of the 44th, Kemp of the 38th, Sims of the 12th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing October 5-9, 2026, as Georgia Pre-K Week; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 978. By Senators Burns of the 23rd, Hickman of the 4th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Orrock of the 36th, Howard of the 35th and others:

A RESOLUTION creating the Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Funding; and for other purposes.

Referred to Appropriations Committee.

SR 979. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Kemp of the 38th, Wicks of the 34th, Davenport of the 17th and Anderson of the 43rd:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Dorothy Norwood; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 980. By Senators Halpern of the 39th, Harrell of the 40th, Jackson of the 41st, Parent of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd and others:

A RESOLUTION honoring District Attorney Sherry Boston for her historic leadership, distinguished legal career, and dedicated service as District Attorney of DeKalb County; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 981. By Senators Harbison of the 15th, Robertson of the 29th, Mallow of the 2nd, Wicks of the 34th, Harrell of the 40th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending Ladena P. Harbison; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 982. By Senators Harbison of the 15th, Robertson of the 29th, Mallow of the 2nd, Wicks of the 34th, Harrell of the 40th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending Celeste H. Teal; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 983. By Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Parent of the 44th, Payne of the 54th, Brass of the 6th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Senator Ed Harbison; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 984. By Senators Summers of the 13th, Tillery of the 19th, Harbison of the 15th, Rhett of the 33rd, Goodman of the 8th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing March 15, 2026, as James Warren Spires Day; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 985. By Senators Cowsert of the 46th, Dolezal of the 27th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Payne of the 54th and Gooch of the 51st:

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Thomas "Tommy's" Barber Shop; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 986. By Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 17th, Wicks of the 34th, Jones II of the 22nd, Halpern of the 39th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending the Salem High School Band; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 987. By Senators James of the 28th, Echols of the 49th, Brass of the 6th, Rhett of the 33rd, Cowsert of the 46th and others:

A RESOLUTION commending and congratulating Elana Meyers Taylor; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 988. By Senators Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th, Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 17th, Mangham of the 55th and others:

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to cancel the proposed plutonium pit plant at the United States Department of Energy's Savannah River Site; and for other purposes.

Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.

SR 989. By Senators Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th, Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 17th, Mangham of the 55th and others:

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to reinstate and fully fund radiological and water quality protections for the Savannah River and surrounding communities; and for other purposes.

Referred to Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.

SR 990. By Senators Albers of the 56th, Strickland of the 42nd, Dickerson of the 21st, Payne of the 54th, Goodman of the 8th and others:

A RESOLUTION recognizing June 9, 2026, as FSGS Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 991. By Senators Merritt of the 9th, Rahman of the 5th, Anderson of the 43rd and Harrell of the 40th:

A RESOLUTION recognizing March 17, 2026, as Grayson Day at the Capitol; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 992. By Senators Merritt of the 9th, Rahman of the 5th, Anderson of the 43rd and Harrell of the 40th:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Rochelle Wright; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

SR 993. By Senators Merritt of the 9th, Rahman of the 5th, Anderson of the 43rd and Harrell of the 40th:

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Laura Barrett Drake; and for other purposes.

Read and Adopted.

HB 1367. By Representatives Roberts of the 52nd, Bazemore of the 69th, Silcox of the 53rd, Cannon of the 58th, Au of the 50th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act creating one or more community improvement districts in unincorporated Fulton County, approved April 3, 1987 (Ga. L. 1987, p. 5460), as amended, particularly by an Act approved April 2, 1998 (Ga. L. 1998, p. 4065), so as to provide for the appointment of a certain number of board members in the case of vacancies on the board; to provide for special elections for certain vacancies; to provide for notice; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1460. By Representatives Reese of the 140th, Hugley of the 141st and Buckner of the 137th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend An Act establishing the State Court of Muscogee County, approved December 20, 1884 (Ga. L. 1884-85, p. 455), as amended, so as to modify provisions relating to the salaries of the solicitor-general, the chief assistant solicitor-general, and other assistant solicitors-general; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1461. By Representatives Reese of the 140th, Hugley of the 141st and Buckner of the 137th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act establishing compensation for the clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, approved February 6, 1952 (Ga. L. 1952, p. 40), as amended, so as to change the provisions relating to the salary of the clerk of superior court and the chief deputy clerk; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1462. By Representatives Reese of the 140th, Hugley of the 141st and Buckner of the 137th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide for the creation of the Columbus Music Commission; to provide for a short title; to provide for findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for membership, terms of office, and vacancies; to confer powers and impose duties on the commission; to provide for bylaws; to provide for a quorum; to provide for audits; to provide for venue; to provide for tax exemptions from levy and sale; to provide for liberal construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1484. By Representative Leverett of the 123rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to authorize the governing authority of the City of Bowman to levy an excise tax pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 48-13-51 of the O.C.G.A.; to provide procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1488. By Representatives Williams of the 168th and DeLoach of the 167th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to establish the Hinesville Conference Center and Tourism Authority; to provide for the purpose of the authority; to provide for definitions; to provide for the membership of the authority; to provide for the election of officers, quorum, bylaws, and procedures at meetings; to provide for expenses of members; to provide for filling vacancies; to provide for the powers of the authority; to provide for an executive director; to provide for the use of funds by the authority; to provide for severability; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1500. By Representatives Reeves of the 99th, Hong of the 103rd, Clark of the 100th, Park of the 107th, Beckles of the 96th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act creating a new charter for the City of Suwanee, approved April 9, 1999 (Ga. L. 1999, p. 3729), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 3, 2023 (Ga. L. 2023, p. 4425), so as to change the corporate limits of such city; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1503. By Representatives Fleming of the 114th and Crowe of the 118th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide a homestead exemption from City of Covington ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for the total amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, automatic repeal, mandatory execution of election, and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1504. By Representatives Crawford of the 89th, Tran of the 80th, Drenner of the 85th, Lupton of the 83rd, Mitchell of the 88th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act creating the State Court of DeKalb County, formerly known as the Civil and Criminal Court of DeKalb County, approved February 14, 1951 (Ga. L. 1951, p. 2401), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 3, 2021 (Ga. L. 2021, p. 3624), so as to authorize the charge and collection of technology fees; to provide for a court administrator; to revise provisions related to compensation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1514. By Representatives Glaize of the 67th, Olaleye of the 59th, Panitch of the 51st, McQueen of the 61st, Dawson of the 65th and others:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act providing for the number of members and for the election of members of the Board of Education of Fulton County, approved February 10, 1984 (Ga. L. 1984, p. 3591), as amended, so as to change the date of election of the president of said board; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1515. By Representatives Leverett of the 123rd and Powell of the 33rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide a homestead exemption from Madison County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$75,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 70 years of age or older; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, contingent effective dates, automatic repeal, mandatory execution of election, and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1527. By Representative Powell of the 33rd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide a homestead exemption from City of Franklin Springs ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes for the full assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older; to provide for definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and the procedures relating thereto; to provide for applicability; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, automatic repeal, mandatory execution of election, and judicial remedies regarding failure to comply; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1530. By Representatives Barton of the 5th and Ridley of the 6th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act to repeal and replace the charter of the City of Fairmount, approved April 17, 1975 (Ga. L. 1975, p. 3136), as amended, so as to provide that future mayors shall be elected to four-year terms of office; to conform compensation provisions with general law; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1534. By Representatives Westbrook of the 163rd, Stephens of the 164th, Petrea of the 166th, Jackson of the 165th and Hitchens of the 161st:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend an Act creating the State Court of Chatham County, approved December 18, 1819 (Ga. L. 1819, p. 16), as amended, particularly by an Act approved May 30, 2003 (Ga. L. 2003, p. 3667), so as to provide for an additional judge of the State Court of Chatham County; to provide for the election, powers, duties, jurisdiction, privileges, immunities, and compensation of such additional judge; to authorize the governing authority of Chatham County to provide facilities, office space, supplies, equipment, and personnel for such judge; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1535. By Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Panitch of the 51st, Holland of the 54th and Roberts of the 52nd:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to authorize the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia, to exercise all redevelopment and other powers provided for under Article IX, Section II, Paragraph VII(b) of the Georgia Constitution and Chapter 44 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Redevelopment Powers Law," as amended; to provide for a referendum; to provide for effective dates; to provide for automatic repeal under certain circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1537. By Representatives Herring of the 145th, Paris of the 142nd, Jones of the 143rd, Griffin of the 149th and Washburn of the 144th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide a homestead exemption from Bibb County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$17,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are between the ages of 65 and 74; to provide a homestead exemption from Bibb County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$32,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are between the ages of 75 and 84; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.

HB 1538. By Representatives Herring of the 145th, Paris of the 142nd, Jones of the 143rd, Griffin of the 149th and Washburn of the 144th:

A BILL to be entitled an Act to provide a homestead exemption from Macon-Bibb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$17,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are between the ages of 65 and 74; to provide a homestead exemption from Macon-Bibb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$32,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are between the ages of 75 and 84; to provide a homestead exemption from Macon-Bibb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of the full assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are 85 years of age or older; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.