

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## March 10, 2025

For those of us who have added enough legislative notches in our belts to accommodate a person with a 2 inch waist, it is not uncommon to while away the hours of long floor debates, reflecting on days of old. If you are lucky, a young advocate or lobbyist will be plunked in the red chair next to you (clearly wondering if they will look as tired as yourself should they continue in their current career) and offer you the chance to share a bit of historical context. Why just the other day, Crossover Day, a few of us hallway veterans had the chance to explain how, back in the day, you could enter the capitol building through any door and without a metal detector or showing an ID. We recounted amendments scrawled on paper by the likes of us and handed to lawmakers at the door of a chamber seconds before they were offered, how parties used to party together at the freight depot with live dance bands, and, unfortunately, how being called “honey”, “sweetheart” and “sugar” by lawmakers was the norm. (Part of me kind of misses the first two things, but definitely not that last one!) Some of us have even been around long enough to remember when bills were first put online! Imagine: no smart phones, no website, no DoorDash - plus the Clerk and Secretary of the Senate’s photocopy machines were as slow as [Zootopia sloths at the DMV](#). Now there are fewer floor amendments, and most are vetted more than 3 minutes before they are offered; I can’t remember the last time I saw a dance band (at the capitol or elsewhere!) and lawmakers, more often than not, call people by their names. We can stream Rules hearings from right outside the door when the room is full and if you just can’t stay awake in the gallery during that licensure bill discussion, you can grab a fresh cup of Joe from the space-age coffee vending machine in the 1st floor break room. What’s more, capitol toilets flush themselves like magic, and people no longer worry about being flattened like [Wile E. Coyote](#) on Mitchell Street (which did not used to be blocked off). Perhaps the one thing that remains the same is the importance of advocacy for kids and families. I hope as the world turns, as [cornbread](#) bakes and [Brunswick stew](#) simmers that we can work together to realize the hopes and dreams of our kids and caregivers with compassion, empathy and active listening, not to mention good policy!

So, with that, please read on to see what survived Crossover Day. If you are so inclined, take a moment to thank lawmakers for their tireless work on any of the bills that count for kids. (We have provided a few options in our Action Alert section below.)

See you next week!

—Polly

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## Budget Information

### Amended Fiscal Year 2025 - AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Yellow Highlight = Updates from final passage by both chambers

#### Dept. of Administrative Services

- **\$58.51 Million Added** and use existing funds (\$10,000,000) related to interest revenue accrued, to be used for year one of two for the Department of Community Health Integrated Eligibility System (IES) modernization project and the Department of Human Services \$TARS modernization project.
- **\$0 Added** for DCH Integrated Eligibility System (IES) in the amount of \$70,000,000 in state funds to match in the most efficient and effective CMS FMAP for an estimated total project cost of \$218,750,000, with \$35,000,000 in state funds appropriated in this appropriations cycle and an additional \$35,000,000 in state funds appropriated in the next appropriations cycle to match cash flows and actual costs of the project and the federal draw of matching funds.
- **\$4.3 Million Added** in Risk Management section of the budget to capitalize the COVID-19 indemnity fund.

#### Dept. of Agriculture

- **\$185 Million Added** Recognize \$100,000,000 in funds previously authorized through the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission and increase funds to provide an additional \$185,000,000 in disaster relief assistance to farmers and timber producers impacted by Hurricane Helene. (Total Funds: \$285,000,000)

#### Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

##### *Adult Developmental Disability Services*

- **\$2.6 Million Reduced** to reflect the delayed start date of the Macon Crisis Stabilization and Diagnostic Center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

##### *Adult Forensic Services*

- **\$436,920 Reduced** to reflect the delayed start date of a 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot in Dodge County.

##### *Adult Mental Health Services*

- **\$500,000 Transferred** from the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for the planning, design, and land acquisition of a new behavioral health crisis center in North Metropolitan Atlanta.

##### *Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities*

- **\$60,000 Added** to assist families in connection and engagement with children with disabilities.

#### Dept. of Community Affairs

- **\$0 Added** for the Georgia Fund to support water and wastewater infrastructure development through low-interest loans to local communities. Budget direction was given to “Reflect funds in Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority - Special Project.”

- **\$66.1 Million Added** for state direct investment in water and sewer infrastructure.
- **\$200 Million Added** to fund water and wastewater infrastructure development through low-interest loans to local communities not benefiting from funding appropriated in the Amended FY2025 budget for development and construction of additional surface water resources for Georgia's coastal region to meet growth in demand.
- **\$500,000 Added** for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to complete the state's five-year water plan update.
- **\$501.7 Million Added** to support the development and construction of additional surface water resources for Georgia's coastal region to meet growth in demand.
- **\$28 Million Added** for grants and loans for rural workforce housing
- **\$20 Million Added** for grants for rural site development.
- **\$25 Million Added** in payments to the Georgia One Authority for Hurricane Helene relief efforts

### **Dept. of Community Health**

#### ***Dept. Administration***

- **\$550,000 Added** to develop a pilot program to deploy predictive modeling to detect potential fraud, waste, and abuse within the state's Medicaid program.

#### ***GA Board of Dentistry***

- **\$263,396 Added** plus existing funds (\$83,100) for the implementation of new licensing software to enhance efficiency in licensure review.

#### ***GA State Board of Pharmacy***

- **\$237,167 Added** Utilize existing funds (\$192,566) and provide additional funds (\$237,167) for the implementation of new licensing software to enhance efficiency in licensure review.

#### ***Healthcare Access and Improvement***

- **\$21.97 Million Added** for one-time grants to public rural and critical access hospitals included in the major disaster declaration area to assist in financial stabilization and recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.)
- **\$160,000 Added** for one-time grants to eight federally qualified health centers included in the major disaster declaration area to assist in financial stabilization and recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.)
- **\$300,000 Added** for Side-by-Side Brain Injury Clubhouse.
- **\$250,000 Added** for school-based health centers.

#### ***Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled***

- **\$38.64 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$11.5 Million Added** for new high-cost drugs.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$4,703,106 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$6,731,771 in state general funds with nursing home provider fees.

#### ***Medicaid - Low Income***

- **\$5.84 Million Added** for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that the state provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19 in Medicaid effective January 1, 2024.
- **\$91.44 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$41,494,598 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

#### ***PeachCare for Kids***

- **\$449,825 Added** for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that the state provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19 in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) effective January 1, 2024.
- **\$16.51 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization.

#### **GA Board of Healthcare Workforce**

- **\$120,000 Reduced** to reflect savings in the implementation of a Behavioral Health Care Workforce Database.
- **\$79,402 Added** for two child and adolescent psychiatric fellowship positions.
- **\$12.5 Million Added** for start-up funds for graduate medical education.
- **\$1.5 Million Added** for graduate medical education
- **\$20 Million Added** for grants to hospitals for graduate medical education programs to support new and expanding rural residency programs south of State Route 540 with priority given to naïve sites.
- **\$25 Million Added** to replace and expand the existing Mercer School of Medicine building.
- **\$25 Million Added** for a new academic building for the Morehouse School of Medicine.
- **\$250,000 Transferred** nursing faculty loan repayment program from the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education program to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas program to include all loan repayment funds under the same program.
- **\$0 Added** for one-time scholarship funding for Georgia medical students attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) South Georgia.

#### **Dept. of Corrections**

##### **Administration**

- **\$2.5 Million Added** to develop a ten-year facility and population management plan, including target staffing ratios and classification review of offenders, to determine best future use of existing facilities and prioritize capital and security needs across the system.
- **\$1.01 Million Added** to develop and implement a statewide targeted marketing initiative to recruit and onboard new correctional officers.
- **\$900,000 Added** to develop and implement updated training curriculum for correctional officers.
- **Budget Direction:** *The Department of Corrections is directed to identify and facilitate the transfer of prisoners who have committed federal crimes to federal custody. Provide a status update on eligible offenders to the Office of Planning and Budget and the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by June 30, 2025.*
- **Budget Direction:** *The Department of Corrections is directed to identify and facilitate the transfer of international prisoners who are eligible under the 'International Prisoner Transfer Program'. Provide a status update on eligible offenders to the Office of Planning and Budget and the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by June 30, 2025.*
- **Budget Direction:** *The Department of Corrections is directed to work with the Board of Pardons and Paroles to identify eligible international offenders of non-violent crimes and facilitate the transfer of custody to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Provide a status update on eligible offenders to the Office of Planning and Budget and the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by June 30, 2025.*

##### **Detention Centers**

- **\$4.97 Million Added** to add correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios and reflect increased retention.

##### **Health**

- \$3.94 Million Added for the pharmacy services contract to support increased population
- \$15.79 Million Added for increased physical health contract risk share expenses for outside-the-wire care.

#### **Private Prisons**

- \$2.46 Million Added to add 188 private prison beds at Coffee Correctional Institution and 258 private prison beds at Wheeler Correctional Institution.
- \$2.57 Million Added to provide for a cost-of-living adjustment for employees at Coffee (\$712,681), Wheeler (\$790,763), Jenkins (\$416,435), and Riverbend (\$646,696) Correctional Institutions consistent with the state employee cost-of-living-adjustment provided in Fiscal Year 2025.

#### **State Prisons**

- \$46.02 Million Added to add correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios.
- \$32.41 Million Added for project backlog and major maintenance and renovation projects at facilities.
- \$20 Million Added to address critical capital maintenance and repairs.
- \$3.78 Million Added for additional facility maintenance personnel and regional support staff to address critical facility maintenance needs.
- \$80.22 Million Added for construction of four 126-bed modular correctional units to facilitate offender population movement necessary for capital and security improvements.
- \$34.26 Million Added for design and construction to replace locking control systems at various facilities.
- \$2.54 Million Added for project management resources to oversee capital projects.
- \$248,062 Added for a "tiger team" to support existing GDC locking team to address repairs needed on facility locks, locking controls, and security electronics.
- \$651,822 Added for skilled craftsman "tiger teams" focused on HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and fabrication needs in facilities.
- \$17.92 Million Added to prevent contraband through the use of managed access and drone detection systems.
- \$913,248 Added to implement an off-site mail screening solution to inhibit contraband and ensure the safety of facility staff.
- \$2.26 Million Added to continue operating the digital forensics unit through a contract.
- \$10.49 Million Added to purchase 2,200 body cameras and 1,800 tasers for increased facility security.
- \$2.51 Million Added for hardware and software licenses for additional officer tablets to improve documentation and information sharing on offender management.
- \$337,500 Added to replace 750 Chromebooks for technical education programs.
- \$662,700 Added for Technical College System of Georgia vocational education contracts.
- \$176,326 Added for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program contract.
- \$2.29 Million Transferred from State Prisons program to Detention Centers (\$1,572,489) and Transition Centers (\$718,679) programs for ongoing capital maintenance and repairs.
- \$7.16 Million Added for renovation, equipment and technology for the creation of an Over Watch and Logistics unit to increase safety of correctional officers and inmates throughout state facilities.
- \$6.23 Million Added for data intelligence advanced integration development
- \$0 Added for retention of experienced correctional officers to address compression beginning April 1, 2025.
- \$2.77 Million Transferred from State Prisons program to Offender Management program to recognize virtual court technology efficiencies in the appropriate program.

#### **Transition Centers**

- \$0 Added to add correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios and reflect increased retention.

#### **Dept. of Early Care and Learning**

- **\$100,000 Added** for startup grants of up to \$10,000 per provider to establish additional Summer Food Service Program meal sites in areas with high rates of child food insecurity.

#### **Pre-K Program**

- **\$7.42 Million Added** to provide salary parity between Pre-K teachers with K12 teachers by moving to the State Board of Education salary schedule.
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$3,549,690) for development costs of the new Pre-K Management System.

### **Dept. of Education**

#### **Agricultural Education**

- **\$600,000 Added** for one-time funding for agricultural improvements and facilities.
- **\$492,684 Reduced** for travel expenses and to reflect projected expenditures in personnel

#### **Central Office**

- **\$300,000 Added** for an adaptive sports program.

#### **Charter Schools**

- **\$265,501 Transferred** from the Charter Schools program to the State Charter School Commission Administration program pursuant to HB318 (2024 Session).
- **\$0 Reduced** to reflect projected expenditures in personnel.
- **\$0 Reduced** to reflect projected operations.

#### **Curriculum Development**

- **\$2,494,249 Added** for AP exams (\$2,244,870) and PSAT exams (\$249,424) due to increased utilization
- **\$0 Reduced** for an unused supplementary secondary math pilot program.
- **\$0 Reduced** to reflect projected expenditures in personnel.

#### **Information Technology Services**

- *Budget Direction:* The Department of Education shall provide information on the progress and purpose of the unappropriated Information Technology Centralization Project to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the House Budget and Research Office, and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office by March 30, 2025.

#### **Quality Basic Education Program (QBE) Equalization Grant**

- **\$24.34 Million Reduced** to reflect a data correction for Gainesville City and Hall County Tax Digests.

#### **QBE Local Five Mill Share**

- **\$214,870 Reduced** to adjust funds for the Local Five Mill Share for two new State Commission Charter Schools.

#### **Quality Basic Education Program**

- **\$203,344 Added** for the Completion Special Schools Supplement.
- **\$114.28 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment based on enrollment growth.
- **\$267,110 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant.
- **\$93,202 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the local charter school grant.
- **\$2.63 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment to the State Commission Charter School supplement for training and experience.
- **\$12.9 Million Added** for the State Commission Charter School supplement for a total supplement of \$248,482,930.

- **\$0 Added** to reflect a data correction for two locally approved charter schools, Drew Charter School (\$137,098) and The Kindezi School (\$698,068), in the Atlanta Public Schools system.
- **\$3.67 Million Reduced** to reflect corrected training and experience.
- **\$12.3 Million Added** to reflect growth in the Special Needs Scholarship.
- **\$291,068 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the training and experience for Discovery Regional High School.

#### **School Security Grants**

- **\$50 Million Added** for security grants in the amount of \$21,635 per school allowing local school systems to enhance security system-wide.
- **Budget Direction:** The Department of Education shall provide an annual report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the House Budget and Research Office and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office regarding the utilization of the \$108,905,000 base funding for school security by Local Education Agencies. Reports shall be provided annually **on October 1, beginning October 1, 2025.**

#### **State Charter School Commission Administration**

- **\$0 Transferred** from the Charter Schools program (\$265,501) and provide additional funds (\$344,592) to implement the provisions of HB 318 (2024 Session), but rather reduce funds to reflect projected personal services.

#### **Technology/Career Education**

- **\$0 Added** existing funds for two full-time and two part-time positions and operations to sustain Great Promise Partnership operations as a part of work-based learning programs for at-risk students at the Department of Education.

#### **Employees' Retirement System of Georgia**

- **\$500 Million Added** to strategically invest in increasing the funded ratio in order to improve long-term financial viability of the pension system and support state retirees.

#### **Governor's Emergency Fund**

- **\$113 Million Added** for Hurricane Helene emergency response expenses and reflect \$5,000,000 in Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security to build out last mile network connectivity to public safety answering points to facilitate the transition to Next Generation 911 emergency services, and for rural hospitals that are ineligible for federal disaster relief funds.
- **\$50 Million Added** for state and local match (25%) of debris removal from local roads and rights of way due to Hurricane Helene.
- **\$5 Million Added** to provide relief for county facilities complying with federal law.

#### **Governor's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency**

- **\$5.75 Million Added** for Next Generation 911 and emergency services, and for rural hospitals that are ineligible for federal disaster relief funds.
- **\$1.5 Million Added** for start-up funds for a school threat assessment tracking system.

#### **Governor's Office of Student Achievement**



- **\$160,000 Added** for startup funds to establish a regional crisis recovery network in partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board to support student mental health in response to significant public safety or natural disaster incidents impacting schools or school systems.

## **Dept. of Human Services**

### ***Child Support Services***

- **\$5.77 Million in one-time funds added** to maintain software applications on the Georgia Technology Authority mainframe.
- **\$191,428 Added** to support the attainment of child support for out of state non-custodial parents.

### ***Child Welfare Services***

- **\$1.72 Million Added** for Court Appointed Special Advocates to replace federal funds deemed ineligible by the Administration for Children and Families.
- **\$1.7 Million of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Added** for the special victim's unit to support the rescue of sexually exploited foster children.

### ***Departmental Administration***

- **\$1.09 Million Eliminated** for rent for a multi-service building in Coweta County.
- **\$1.47 Million Added** to integrate Pathways and Georgia Access into the Georgia Gateway integrated eligibility system.

### ***Elder Community Living Services***

- **\$100,000 Added** for Project Healthy Grandparents.

### ***Federal Eligibility Benefit Services***

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$133,763) to enhance Medicaid disability evaluation capacity.
- **\$1.44 Million Added** to provide a \$3,000 additional salary enhancement for eligibility caseworkers effective April 1, 2025.
- **\$0 Reduced** for the staffing of 450 case managers, 75 supervisors, and one district manager for Medicaid redeterminations due to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expiration.
- **\$2.06 Million Reduced** for labor and wage data verification services.

### ***Out-of-Home Care***

- **\$38.59 Million state dollars Added (plus \$5.49 Million federal dollars)** for utilization growth and increased costs of care.
- **\$150,000 Added** for transitional housing for children aging out of foster care placements.

### ***Out-of-School Care Services***

- **\$100,000 Added** for out-of-school programs with locations in communities serving at-risk youth.

### ***Residential Child Care Licensing***

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$82,550) for one position and TRAILS electronic records management system enhancements to address new licensure and regulation responsibilities due to the creation of two new Child Caring Institution types in SB 377 (2024 Session) and HB 1201 (2024 Session).

## **Office of the Commissioner of Insurance**



**Reinsurance**

- **\$20 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures. FYI, the purpose of this appropriation is to provide affordable healthcare insurance premiums and to operate a healthcare exchange for individuals to review and enroll in healthcare insurance.

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation**

- **\$0 Transferred** from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for a gang case management system.
- **\$1 Million Added** for gang case management system
- **\$200,000 Added** for sexual assault centers with more than one location.
- **\$165,466 Added** for the start-up cost for two crime scene technical leaders and three digital forensic investigators.
- **\$96,472 Added** for the start-up cost to establish a Strategic Threat Assessment Group responsible for addressing threats to public officials, investigating homeland security matters, and partnering with critical infrastructure partners to provide support during major events occurring in the state.
- **\$490,700 Added** to replace federal funds with state funds for three human trafficking positions.
- **\$100,000 Added** for continued operation of the End Human Trafficking Georgia 24/7 Hotline.

**Dept. of Juvenile Justice****Community Service**

- **\$348,298 Added** for youth competency beds to address bed utilization costs.
- **\$1.1 Million Reduced** to align budget with expenditures.

**Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)**

- **\$3 Million Transferred** from Community Service program to Secure Detention (RYDCs) program to align budget with expenditures.
- **\$681,688 Added** to reflect increased retention of juvenile correctional officers.

**Dept. Of Law**

- **\$187,036 Added** for three positions to expand the Human Trafficking Unit to the Augusta regions effective April 1, 2025.

**Public Defender Council**

- **\$0 Added** for the Juvenile Conflict Defender Division manager position.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

- **\$14.55 Million Added** for outdoor recreation.
- **\$0 Added** for adaptive equipment and inclusive playgrounds for children with special needs.

**Dept. of Public Health**

**Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion**

- **\$250,000 Added** for a campaign to educate Georgians on the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer.
- **\$250,000 Added** for a campaign to educate Georgians on the adverse effects of vaping.

**Epidemiology**

- **\$270,000 Added** to study the impacts of social media on mental health for children in Georgia.

**Infant and Child Essential Health Promotion**

- **\$437,000 Added** for the cost of mailing Low THC Oil Patient registry cards pursuant to SB 495 (2024 Session).

**Public Health Formula Grants to Counties**

- **\$300,000 Added** one-time funds for health department equipment.

**Dept. of Public Safety****Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council**

- **\$325,000 Added** to provide mandatory training for newly elected sheriffs.

**Georgia Public Safety Training Center**

- **\$114,419 Added** for additional training for jailers in accordance with SB 37 (2024 Session).
- **\$258,328 Added** for two training instructors and supplies for increased basic law enforcement training.

**Office of Highway Safety: Georgia Driver's Education Commission**

- **\$522,437 Added** for driver's education and training in accordance with FY 2023 Joshua's Law Collections.

**University System of Georgia Board of Regents****Public Libraries**

- **\$1.43 Million Added** for one-time grants for public libraries included in the major disaster declaration area to assist in financial stabilization and recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene, instead of for one-time funding to increase the materials grant for public library systems from \$0.70 to \$1.00 per capita.

**Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives**

- **\$500,000 Removed** in unutilized one-time funds for rural community projects at the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation.
- **\$0 Added** for dental clinical training.
- **\$70,337 Added** for Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center.

**Regents Central Office**

- **\$75,000 Added** to explore alternative college admissions tests.

**Teaching**

- **\$17.75 Million Added** to reflect formula correction for FY 2025 cost-of-living adjustment in Teaching.

**Dept. of Revenue**

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize \$1,000,000,000 in prior year undesignated state funds surplus to provide a one-time additional refund for tax year 2024 of \$250.00 for single filers, \$375.00 for head of household filers, and \$500.00 for married filing jointly.

**Georgia Student Finance Commission*****Dual Enrollment***

- \$21.29 Million Added to meet projected enrollment.

***Engineer Scholarship***

- \$100,000 Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

***Georgia Military College Scholarship***

- \$250,000 Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

***HERO Scholarship***

- \$330,000 Reduced funds and surplus funds used instead to meet the projected need.

***HOPE Grant***

- \$2 Million Added to meet projected enrollment.

***HOPE Scholarships - Public Schools***

- \$6.1 Million Added to meet projected enrollment.

***Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant***

- \$300,000 Reduced funds and surplus funds used instead to meet the projected need.

***Public Safety Memorial grants***

- \$540,000 Replaced funds and surplus funds used instead to meet the projected need.

***North Georgia Military College Scholarship Grants***

- \$250,000 Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

***North Georgia ROTC Grants***

- \$1 Million Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

***Service Cancelable Loans***

- \$100,000 Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

***Tuition Equalization Grants***

- \$1.12 Million Reduced with direction to utilize surplus funds to meet the projected need.

**Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund**

- \$0 Added for capital projects statewide.

- **\$500,000 Transferred** for planning, design, and land acquisition for a new behavioral health crisis center in North Metropolitan Atlanta to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.
- **\$3.58 Million Added** to design a recovery center for victims of human trafficking.
- **\$30 Million Added** for GDC for design of new prison, statewide.
- **\$3 Million Added** for TCSG for One College and Career Academy.
- **\$6.57 Million Added** for GaDOE for Georgia School for the Deaf auditorium renovation and addition, Cave Spring, Floyd County.
- **\$0 Added** for debt defeasance to reflect the use of AFY 2024 and FY 2025 debt defeasance funds for Hurricane Helene relief.
- **\$6.5 Million Added** to design Student Support, Engagement, and Wellness Facilities, Savannah State University, Savannah, Chatham County.
- **\$2.65 Million Added** to Construction of the Middle Georgia STEM Academy, Houston County (GaDOE).
- *Budget Direction:* Reflect the redirection of \$100,000,000 in funds appropriated for debt defeasance to be used to provide disaster relief financial support for farmers and debris cleanup for timber producers impacted by Hurricane Helene as approved by the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission on November 1, 2024.
- *Budget Direction:* Redirect funds (\$35,837,500) from an unrealized construction project and utilize for one-time funding for design, construction, and equipment for a recovery center for victims of human trafficking.



## Justice, Public Safety, & School Discipline

### HB 123

(Werkheiser- 157th) In criminal cases involving a capital offense for which the death penalty is sought, the bill allows an accused person to file a pretrial notice of intent to raise a claim of intellectual disability. Such notice shall state that the accused has intellectual disability.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

### HB 627

(Persinger-119th) Expands crimes for which 13 through 16-year-olds may be tried as adults to include aggravated assault with a firearm (against anyone as opposed to just against a public safety officer).

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

### SB 29

(Williams-25th) Requires the collection of DNA samples of individuals arrested for the commission of a serious violent felony at the time such individuals are booked or otherwise processed by a detention facility. This includes children who are under the age of 17 who have allegedly committed a serious violent felony as described in O.C.G.A. 17-10-6.1. A detention facility is defined as "any place of confinement for juvenile or adult individuals accused of, convicted of, or adjudicated for violating a law of this state or an ordinance of a political subdivision of this state."

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House

### SB 61

(Dolezal-27th) This bill expands the list of offenses for which youth aged 13 to 17 are automatically tried as adults, adding 23 crimes, including aggravated assault with a firearm, school-related terroristic threats, and various attempted or conspiracy charges for violent offenses like murder, rape, and armed robbery. While these cases will initially be treated in superior court, they may be transferred to juvenile court after indictment. Additionally, the bill mandates that students in grade 6 or higher must authorize the release of records for certain

felony offenses, with noncompliance punishable by a fine or imprisonment. It also requires courts and child-serving agencies to notify local schools when a student is under electronic monitoring, intensive supervision, or home confinement, allowing schools to use the information for safety purposes. The bill defines and creates penalties for "terroristic threats" and "terroristic acts" against schools, with punishments ranging from a misdemeanor to felony charges with up to 40 years of imprisonment if a serious injury occurs. It also mandates annual site threat assessments of school buildings and facilities, which must be included in school safety plans submitted to the Department of Education.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 147](#)**

(Rhett-33rd) Requires the Department of Corrections, upon request from an eligible person, provide individuals released from custody with essential documents, such as vital records, to support post-release employment and to assist in obtaining identification cards or driver's licenses.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 160](#)**

(Kirkpatrick-32nd) Requires the installation of an intelligent speed assistance device upon a second conviction for stunt driving. The device will limit the vehicle's speed to a maximum of 70 miles per hour and must be installed within 10 days of issuance for a minimum of three months. The offender is responsible for installation costs. Failure to install the device will result in a misdemeanor charge.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Motor Vehicles Committee.

**[SB 185](#)**

(Robertson-29th) Prohibits the use of state funds or resources for sex reassignment surgeries, hormone replacement therapies, and cosmetic procedures intended to alter the appearance of primary or secondary sexual characteristics of inmates in state correctional facilities.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public & Community Health Committee.

**THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER**

**[HB 138](#)**

(Neal-79th) Adds de-escalation techniques and training that include scenario-based training and methods to training for all POST certified peace officers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 194](#)**

(Byrd-20th) Revises standards of self-defense or self-defense of self or others to exclude the use or threat of force against a law enforcement officer in a public location.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 214](#)**

(Bell-75th) Prohibits creative or artistic expression (i.e., the expression or application of creativity or imagination in the production or arrangement of forms, sounds, words, movements, or symbols, including music, dance, performance art, visual art, poetry, literature, film, and other such objects or media) as admissible evidence at trial.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 237](#) (Carpenter-4th) Prohibits the use of a defendant's creative or artistic expression (which excludes tattoos and hand signs indicating gang affiliation) as evidence in a criminal trial unless the prosecution clearly proves its relevance through a strict legal process. Courts must first determine in a separate hearing that the defendant intended the work to be taken literally, that it has a strong factual link to the alleged crime, and that it is supported by additional admissible evidence. If admitted, courts must minimize prejudice through redactions, jury instructions, and the least biased presentation of the material.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 301](#) (Gilliard-162nd) Time Served Act of 2025: Automatically restricts the criminal history of individuals convicted in a single incident who have completed their sentence and remained conviction-free for at least five years. This excludes serious violent felonies, sexual offenses, human trafficking, crimes against disabled or elderly individuals, sexual exploitation of minors, and offenses against law enforcement. The bill also requires the parole board to issue a certificate of employability if the parolee earns a high school equivalency diploma or higher, has no major disciplinary violations in the past year, and meets the board's job skills assessment criteria.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 368](#) (Sharper-177th) Requires law enforcement officers to inform drivers of the reason for a traffic stop and the suspected violation, provided the driver first presents a valid license.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 390](#) (Fleming-114th) HALO Act: Establishes a felony penalty for anyone who impedes, interferes with, threatens, or harasses a first responder performing their duties.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 458](#) (Cummings-39th) Revises the provision to classify fentanyl as a controlled substance, making it illegal to sell, manufacture, distribute, transport into the state, or possess.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 464](#) (Bell-75th) Grants immunity protections to a victim of aggravated assault who is not the predominant aggressor, aggravated battery, female genital mutilation, kidnapping, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, and armed robbery. Additionally, victims will not face penalties for violating a permanent or temporary protective order, restraining order, pretrial release, probation, or parole conditions due to a drug-related offense.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 496](#) (Clark-108th) Prohibits law enforcement to stop, search or request to search, a person or motor vehicle based solely on the scent of marijuana, cannabis, or hemp.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HB 497](#) (Clark-108th) Prohibits any sheriff, jailer, or other officer to require any person imprisoned in a penal institution to appear in any court for trial dressed in the uniform or dress of a prisoner or

inmate, or in any uniform or apparel other than ordinary civilian dress, or with a shaved or clipped head by or under the direction or requirement of any sheriff, jailer, or other officer, unless the head was shaved or clipped while such person was serving a term of imprisonment for the commission of a crime.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 673](#)**

(Lim-98th) Allows certain minor offenders adjudicated as adults to be permitted first offender treatment. The bill also provides for retroactive first offender treatment under certain circumstances for offenders who were adjudicated as minors previously. (Georgia's First Offender Act allows some first-time offenders to avoid a conviction by completing certain requirements. Note that it is an alternative to a conviction on the offender's record, rather than a substitute for punishment.)

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 675](#)**

(Cox-28th) Expands the definition of terrorism to include a person who knowingly intends to intimidate, injure, or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of government intimidation, or affect the conduct of government through mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. Increases the offense of terrorism to include imprisonment for no more than 20 years and/or a fine of not more than \$100,000.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 736](#)**

(Jones-60th) Establishes policies prohibiting bullying and cyberbullying, incorporating age-appropriate progressive discipline. Alternatives to suspension or expulsion may include student and parent meetings, counseling, anger management, health counseling, community service, and in-school suspension or detention.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 25](#)**

(McLaurin-14th) Allows offenders who have either maxed out their performance incentive credits or are serving life sentences and up for parole consideration to request a video conference with the parole board at least 30 days before their tentative parole date. During this meeting, they can present information regarding their offense, rehabilitation efforts, community support, and the impact of their release. Additionally, offenders can request written findings explaining the board's decision, including input from the victim's side and prosecution. If three board members tentatively deny parole, the remaining two members have 14 days to review and discuss before the decision is finalized.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 32](#)**

(Williams-25th) Increases the sentence for any person who willingly resists, obstructs, or opposes any law enforcement officer by committing violence to such officer from 3-15 years to 10-20 years.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 116](#)**

(Bearden-30th) Requires DNA collection from individuals charged with a misdemeanor or felony who are subject to an immigration detainer notice and expands the definition of detention facilities to include jails and municipal detention facilities.



STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 159**

(Jackson-41st) Requires the accused to submit a pretrial notice of intent stating whether they have an intellectual disability; if the court confirms the diagnosis, the state will not pursue the death penalty. Beginning July 1, 2025, if a jury finds the defendant guilty, the defendant may present evidence of an intellectual disability. The jury's verdict will include a separate finding specifying either the presence or absence of an intellectual disability.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 286**

(James-28th) Permits County and municipal jails to provide substance abuse and mental health treatment programs for inmates and applicants from drug court divisions and mental health court divisions. The bill also establishes procedures for voluntary admission into such programs.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.



## Child Welfare & Protection

**HB 136**

(Newton-127th) Expands tax credits to qualified organizations for expenses relating to wrap around services for justice involved youth and expands the wraparound services that are qualified expenditures. The bill also provides for such tax credits to be used by certain insurance companies against insurance premium tax liability.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

**HB 171**

(Thomas-21st) Prohibits distribution of computer-generated obscene material depicting a child and provides penalties and probation for such obscenities.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**HB 253**

(Clark-100th) "Ethan's Law": Requires that any judge hearing the issue of custody for a child appoint a licensed counselor to determine the best interest of the child in any unification or reunification treatments, programs, or services with the child's parent or legal guardian. Moreover, no judge shall order a family reunification or unification that result or require the following: 1. Violation of a court order requiring that a child have no contact with his or her parent or legal guardian, 2. An overnight, out-of-state, or multi day stay, 3. A transfer of physical or legal custody of the child, 4. The use of private youth transporters or private transportation agents engaged in the use of force, the threat of force, physical obstruction, acutely distressing circumstances, or circumstances that place the safety of the child at risk; or 5. A 90 day or more no-contact period between the child and his or her parent or legal guardian.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

**HB 325**

(Martinez-11th) A member of the organized militia who alleges stalking by another member may file a verified petition for a protective order under Georgia Code Section 16-5-90. Jurisdiction exists if there is

a connection between the alleged stalking and the militia, with a rebuttable presumption if either party is on state active duty or in Title 32 status during the alleged conduct. The petitioner files the request through their commander, who must forward it to the Office of the State Judge Advocate within 24 hours, and the respondent's commander serves the petition. A military judge may issue a temporary ex parte order if probable cause exists, and a hearing takes place within 10 to 45 days to determine whether to grant a temporary or permanent protective order. The order applies statewide and remains in effect unless the respondent leaves the militia, though it continues during active U.S. military service; appeals follow the same process as domestic relations cases.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**HB 433** (Ballinger-23rd) Allows the Department of Human Services to access GCIC (GA Crime Information Center) data for the purposes of employee oversight in certain circumstances.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HB 465** (Gilliard-162nd) Provides for the Autism Missing Person Alert System Act whereby certain entities must cooperate in the development of the alert system, with an emphasis on the search of waterways in locating missing individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

**HB 582** (Gunter-8th) Provides for defendants to support a justification defense by offering evidence of family violence, dating violence, or child abuse committed by the alleged victim, and provides for petitions for the opportunity to present such evidence. The bill also revises provisions for the defense of coercion and to provide for the application of such defense in all criminal cases. It also provides for resentencing for certain murder convictions and provides a privilege for participation in victim centered programs and victim-offender dialogues.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HR 428** (Reese-140th) Creates the House Study Committee on the Affordability and Accessibility of Georgia's Legitimation Process.

STATUS: House Judiciary Committee

**SB 8** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Adds juvenile court judges to the list of judges who may issue a warrant for the arrest of any offender against the penal laws, based on probable cause either on the judge's own knowledge or on the information of others given to the judge or officer under oath.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.

**SB 9** (Albers-56th) Prohibits distribution of computer-generated obscene material depicting a child and provides penalties and probation for such obscenities. The bill also defines an "artificial intelligence system" as a machine-based system capable of emulating human cognitive processes such as reasoning, learning, predicting, and communicating. It applies enhanced penalties to a range of offenses, including stalking, exploitation of vulnerable individuals, fraud, election interference, and various crimes under Title 16 of Georgia law. If a defendant knowingly and intentionally uses AI in committing one of these offenses, the court must impose additional penalties: for misdemeanors, a sentence of 6 to 12 months in confinement and a fine up to \$5,000; for felonies, a minimum of two years' imprisonment and a fine of at least \$5,000. If the felony already carries a minimum sentence of two years or more, the judge must add at least one additional year to the sentence. Prosecutors must notify defendants in writing before trial if they intend to seek an AI-related sentence enhancement. The judge must also specify the enhancement at sentencing.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

**SB 27** (Albers-56th) Establishes the offense of 'doxing' by criminalizing the malicious publication of private information online to intimidate, harass, or harm someone. A person commits the offense of aggravated doxing when such person posts another person's personally identifying information without their consent with the intent that another person engages in conduct that is likely to or does cause the person whose information is posted, or his or her close relation, to suffer death or bodily injury. Offenders face a misdemeanor for first-time offenses and a felony (1-3 years imprisonment) for serious harm, repeat offenses, or if an adult targets a minor. Victims can seek protective orders and sue for damages, including legal fees. Legal action can be filed where the communication originated, was received, or where the victim lives.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 42** (Hatchett-50th) Eliminates ambiguity in sentencing laws for the offenses of prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, and pandering. The rule of lenity, which now could allow for lighter sentencing, will no longer be an option for traffickers of minors.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

**SB 85** (Brass-6th) Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Act - Establishes a financial aid program to support foster youth pursuing postsecondary education. Administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), the scholarship provides grants covering tuition, room, board, meal plans, and books for eligible students attending approved institutions. To qualify, students must be under 26 years old, currently or formerly in foster care, an independent living program, or an adoption program, and either enrolled or accepted into an eligible institution within three years of completing high school. The GSFA contracts with a nonprofit grant coordinating organization to ensure 100% of appropriated funds are allocated to student grants. Eligible students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), maintain good academic standing, and comply with program regulations. The total award amount is adjusted based on other federal and state aid received. Institutions receiving funds must ensure proper certification of student eligibility and refunds for unused scholarships, with penalties for misreporting. The bill includes audits and compliance measures to prevent fraud and misrepresentation.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee.

**SB 98** (Cowsert-46th) Revises the definition of a county conservator and county guardian to a general county conservator. Provides clarity that if one individual serves as a both conservator and county guardian in the same matter, the individual is responsible for giving both separate bonds with good security.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to Judiciary Juvenile Committee.

**SB 100** (Robertson-29th) Andee's Law: allows individuals born in Georgia who are at least 18 years old and had a new birth certificate issued due to adoption, legitimation, or paternity determination to request a copy of their original birth certificate. The copy will be marked as unofficial and cannot be used for legal purposes. If the individual is deceased, their parent, sibling, or descendant may request the original birth certificate.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 110** (Anavitarte-31st) Clarifies definitions related to child neglect and independent activities under Georgia's juvenile code. Defines blatant disregard as the conscious exposure of a child to an obvious and imminent risk of harm without precautionary measures. Specifies that neglect does not include allowing a child to engage in reasonable independent activities if the child is deemed mature enough to do so safely. The bill defines "independent activity" as the activity of a child who is not under the direct supervision of a legal custodian or person acting in loco parentis and shall include, but shall not be limited to, playing indoors or outdoors alone or with other children; walking to or from school; running errands; or traveling to local commercial or recreational facilities. Additionally, it amends reckless conduct laws to ensure that allowing a child to engage in independent activities does not constitute a criminal offense unless it meets the legal definition of neglect.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee.

**SB 245** (Hodges-3rd) Includes grandparents within the category of persons who may seek to revoke or amend an existing grandparent visitation order.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 259** (Brass-6th) Grants physicians the right to seek an independent medical evaluation or specialty consultation when a child is in temporary protective custody. Requires them to inform DFCS of their findings, including whether a physical examination was performed, and which medical records were reviewed. The bill also allows any parent or legal guardian of a child who is taken into temporary protective custody to have the right to obtain an independent medical evaluation or pediatric specialty consultation of such child at his or her own expense unless prohibited by court order.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SR 310** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Additional Services and Resources for Transition Youth Age Youth in Foster Care.

STATUS: Senate Children & Families Committee

#### **THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSSOVER**

**HB 57** (Cameron-1st) Expands the definition of incest to include step-grandparents and step-grandchildren.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 191** (Moore-91st) Permits the court to deliver a citation by certified mail, directly to the party's place of employment, known relative, or by any other reasonable means to either party if found to be avoiding delaying a hearing.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 256** (Wiedower-121st) Adds fictive kin and relative caregivers to the Foster Parents Bill of Rights. The bill also allows the right to a fair, timely, and impartial investigation of licensing complaints, including due process and the option to have a certified volunteer advocate present, with all related communications kept confidential; a request for mediation or an administrative review of licensing decisions and must receive clear explanations of any corrective action plans citing specific licensing standards; a certified volunteer advocate present at all meetings with the department, protection from retaliation for filing complaints, and the ability to seek independent legal counsel regarding their status.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 421** (Taylor-173rd) Establishes the offense of traveling into the state to meet a minor for indecent purposes.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 434** (Ballinger-23rd) Moves from OCGA Title 19 to OCGA Title 16 provisions related to adoption services as described here: Makes it unlawful for any unauthorized person, organization, or entity to advertise adoption services unless they are a licensed child-placing agency, a qualified adoptive parent with an approved home study, or an attorney representing such a parent. It explicitly prohibits offering or accepting financial inducements to persuade a biological parent to relinquish a child, except for allowable payments covering medical, legal, and reasonable living expenses for the birth mother. Violations, including fraudulently obtaining adoption-related funds or making false pregnancy claims for financial benefit, are classified as felonies, punishable by fines up to \$10,000 and imprisonment from one to ten years, with potential restitution to victims. The bill also allows civil lawsuits for damages, including treble damages and attorney's fees, for those harmed by violations. Certain personal communications regarding adoption, particularly when facilitated by a licensed attorney, are exempt from these restrictions.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 435** (Ballinger-23rd) Expands statute to include employees of the Division of Family & Children Services in the exclusions protects the procurement of sexual exploitation of children when completed in the capacity of their official job duties.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 490** (Bazemore-69th) Requires for employees at hotels to complete a human trafficking training within six months of being employed by a hotel during a two-calendar year period. Any proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of a hotel who is knowledgeable of such premises is being utilized for trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude and fails to report such shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 500** (Smith-18th) Increases the monthly maximum benefit for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance to 40% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) based on family size, with a monthly maximum of up to 75% of that amount per family. Extends the lifetime limit from 48 months to 60 months. The bill also allows a family to have up to \$5000 in assets/savings and to own one vehicle, which is not counted as an asset provided it is used for work, training, or education preparatory to employment or job search. The bill also allows a \$4,650.00 exclusion of the equity value of one additional vehicle when computing assets.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 527** (Tran-80th) Revises the membership and certain parameters of the state child abuse protocol.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 552** (Kahaian-81st) Clarifies definitions related to child neglect and independent activities under Georgia's juvenile code. Specifies that neglect does not include allowing a child to engage in independent activities if the child is deemed mature enough to do so safely. This bill outlines that independent activities of a child may include: travel independently to and from school by walking, running, bicycling, public transit, or other means, travel independently to and from nearby commercial or recreational facilities, engage independently in outdoor play, remain in a vehicle without an adult present if the circumstances do not create imminent risk of harm to the child, including but not limited to if the temperature inside the vehicle is not and will not become dangerously hot or cold or the child has the capacity and ability to open the door or windows of the vehicle in case of need, remains at home without an adult present as long as the parent or guardian returns home same day by ensuring the child has the capacity and ability to contact the parent guardian or responsible adult rapidly when needed, makes provisions for the child to be cared for and protected in the event of any reasonably foreseeable emergency and in the event the child is left unsupervised outside the home without an adult present of the parent or guardian is following relevant guidelines as published by the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services. Further, this bill prevents any parent or guardian from being detained, arrested, investigated, or charged criminally, under the gross deviation standard of child cruelty when the parent acts on good faith in the care for their child.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 626** (Lupton-83rd) Stephanie Colquitt-Shurman Act of 2025: Extends the evidence retention period from 12 months to 30 years for cases where the victim chooses not to immediately report a sexual assault.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 636** (McQueen-61st) Reduces the penalty for prostitution from a misdemeanor to a system of fines. A first offense carries a \$75 fine, while second and subsequent offenses incur a \$100 fine. All fines will be made available to the Department of Human Services and directed to the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 639** (Wiedower-121st) Provides that a juvenile court may direct that reasonable efforts to eliminate the need for placement of an alleged dependent child shall not be required and shall cease if the court determines by clear and convincing evidence and makes written findings of fact that a parent of such child has been convicted of murder or murder in the second degree of another one of their children. The bill adds requirements for DFCS and the court pertaining to written findings, revises requirements for non-reunification hearings and requires the court to consider the child's attachments when ruling on a petition to terminate parental rights.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 671** (Rice-139th) Provides for a right of action against any person who knowingly or negligently engages in restricted sexual conduct in the presence of a minor or who knowingly or negligently allows, permits, encourages, or requires a minor to be present while another engages in sexually explicit conduct. The bill also gives the Department of Revenue full power and authority to suspend or revoke the license of any hotel or food service establishment or any establishment holding a license for the sale of alcohol when it is determined that such establishment admitted a minor to be present while another engaged in sexually explicit conduct or restricted sexual conduct.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 92** (Merritt-9th) Georgia Red Flag Protective Order Act - Establishes a process for issuing temporary and long-term risk protection orders to restrict firearm possession by individuals deemed dangerous to themselves or others. A petitioner must provide the respondent's name and address and submit an affidavit under oath, detailing statements or actions that demonstrate a significant risk. A superior court hearing must be held within 14 days of issuing a temporary order. If the court finds clear and convincing evidence that the respondent poses a danger, it may issue a risk protection order for up to 12 months. The order must include the reason for issuance, start and end dates, any required mental health or chemical dependency evaluations, and instructions for surrendering all firearms and ammunition to law enforcement. It also prohibits the respondent from possessing, purchasing, or attempting to acquire firearms or ammunition while the order is in effect. The respondent has the right to request a hearing to challenge the order and may request another hearing after any extension. The Administrative Office of the Courts will develop standardized petition forms, instructions, and training materials for court staff to ensure consistent implementation of the process.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 211** (James-28th) Creates and implements a statewide alert system of behalf of missing persons (adults) with autism spectrum disorder.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 296** (Avaviarte-31st) Establishes the offense of operating a school bus while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The penalty includes imprisonment for no less than one year and no more than five years, a fine between \$1,000 and \$5,000, or both. If convicted of causing an accident while operating a school bus and endangering its occupants, the first 90 days of any imprisonment cannot be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld by the sentencing court.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.





## Health & Behavioral Health

- HB 81** (Ballard-147th) "Interstate Compact for School Psychologists"- Joins Georgia to state pathway that allows school psychologist to obtain and practice in schools in any member state. If passed, the Act would become effective once 7 states are in the compact.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
- HB 87** (Clark-100th) Requires health insurance benefits to cover medically necessary orthotic devices and prosthetic devices for affected persons during a three-year period. Additionally, healthcare insurance beneficiaries are to be provided with at least two distinct healthcare professionals under their coverage for each issuance and renewal of their coverage. Allows health insurers to deny coverage for the replacement or repair of an orthotic or prosthetic device if the damage or loss is due to misuse, malicious damage, gross neglect, loss, or theft.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.
- HB 124** (Scoggins-14th) Requires the State Health Benefits Plan to cover healthcare services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) in accordance with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
- HB 144** (Newton-127th) Includes dentistry in the tax credit for medical preceptor rotations, providing \$1,000 per physician or licensed dentist and \$750 per APRN, with a total annual cap of \$6 million.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.
- HB 154** (Richardson-125th) Designates ambulance services as essential services.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.
- HB 196** (Kelley-16th) Amends the State Health Benefits Plan by establishing a transparent reimbursement structure for drugs dispensed for self-administration. The bill mandates that insurers reimburse pharmacies based on a transparent, index-based pricing system, such as the national average drug acquisition cost or Georgia's estimated acquisition cost, plus a professional dispensing fee. The legislation prohibits insurers from passing dispensing fees to beneficiaries through cost-sharing measures like deductibles. Additionally, it prevents insurers from circumventing these reimbursement requirements through discount programs or alternative pricing methods. Violations of these provisions would allow affected pharmacies or beneficiaries to seek legal remedies.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
- HB 197** (Hawkins-27th) Implements a callback telecommunications system or website in which a provider or provider's appropriately qualified designee can communicate a potential treatment plan for a patient.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee.

**[HB 227](#)** (Dickey-134) Revised Georgia's Medical Cannabis laws. Replaces language of "Low THC oil" to "medical cannabis" and keeps consistent criminal provisions to include "hemp" or "medical cannabis." The bill expands the duties of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission to include public awareness efforts on the potential benefits of medical cannabis for eligible patients, and specifically directs that marketing does not "include any medical claim, unless such claim is supported by reliable scientific evidence; make any false or misleading claim; or be attractive to children or otherwise directly or indirectly targeted to individuals under 21 years of age." It also removes or relaxes certain medical criteria for eligibility.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**[HB 291](#)** (Taylor-173rd) Establishes the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee in order to oversee qualifications and certify community health workers. The bill also establishes grounds for complaints related to the practice of certified community health workers, and implements procedures for the review, investigation, and resolution of such complaints. The bill also provides for criminal background checks and some other criteria for CHW certification.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**[HB 322](#)** (Hawkins-27th) Requires applicants with a doctoral degree in dentistry from a non-accredited dental school to meet the following criteria for a teacher's or instructor's license: Hold a valid dental license from another state, country, or territory, submit a recommendation letter from the dean or director of their teaching institution to the prospective employer, have never failed the Georgia licensure examination, have never had a dental license revoked in Georgia or any other jurisdiction, maintain a current CPR certification. Furthermore, the bill authorizes the licensee to practice dentistry only while an employee of such accredited school or college or only in connection with programs or training clinics affiliated with or endorsed by such school or college.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**[HB 352](#)** (Seabaugh-34th) Expands Medicaid coverage for glucose monitors to include Medicaid recipients with gestational diabetes.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

**[HB 422](#)** (McCollum-30th) Mandates the State Health Benefits Plan to offer at least two high-deductible health plans from different insurance providers. Allows covered employees to make pre-tax contributions to their high-deductible health plans through payroll deductions. This applies to local education school boards who are further encouraged to ensure that individuals who are enrolled can make pretax contributions.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee.

**[HB 473](#)** (Stephens-164th) Expands the list of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

- [HB 506](#)** (Hilton-48th) Provides Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.
- [HB 567](#)** (Dempsey-13th) Adjusts criteria for teledentistry as well as requirements for insurance coverage for such.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.
- [HB 577](#)** (Gaines-120th) "Georgia Nicotine Vapor Products Directory Act (HB 577)" - Establishes a state-managed directory of authorized nicotine vapor products, requiring all products sold in Georgia to be listed for compliance with federal and state laws. The bill grants the Commissioner of Revenue authority to certify products, enforce compliance checks, and penalize violations through fines, license revocations, and product seizures. Manufacturers must submit FDA approval documentation, and non-listed products will be banned and removed from the market. Dealers and distributors are subject to unannounced inspections, and violations incur escalating penalties. The bill mandates annual reporting on compliance and enforcement efforts and will only take effect if funding is specifically appropriated.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.
- [HB 584](#)** (Petrea-166th) Reassigns licensing and oversight of drug abuse treatment and education programs, narcotic treatment programs, community living arrangements, and adult residential mental health programs from the Department of Community Health to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.
- [HB 612](#)** (Dempsey-13th) Adds the state's Commissioner of Insurance to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The bill also establishes a parity compliance review panel under the BHCC to which health care providers will be required to report suspected mental health parity violations.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee.
- [HB 677](#)** (Dempsey-13th) Establishes protocols for the placement of children who remain in hospitals or psychiatric residential treatment facilities after being medically cleared for discharge because their parent, guardian, or legal custodian fails to resume custody within 48 hours. The bill requires the formation of a task force, including a care coordinator, a licensed psychiatrist, and representatives from the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the child's health insurer, and Medicaid care management organizations—to ensure the child is placed in an appropriate environment without delay.
- STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.
- [SB 5](#)** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Provides that each insurer that utilizes prior authorization requirements shall implement and maintain a program that allows for the selective application of reductions in prior authorization requirements based on the stratification of healthcare providers performance and adherence to evidence-based medicine. Such program shall promote quality, affordable healthcare and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens for both the insurer and the healthcare provider.
- STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Recommended Do Pass by the House Insurance Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.

**SB 30** (Watson-1st) Prohibits the prescription or administration of puberty-blocking medication to a minor if such procedure or treatment is performed, prescribed, or administered for the purpose of attempting to alter the appearance of or affirm such minor's perception of his or her sex if such appearance or perception is inconsistent with such minor's sex.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House

**SB 39** (Tillery-19th) Prohibits coverage of expenses for gender-affirming care under the State Health Benefit Plan or with any state funds and prohibits state healthcare facilities and healthcare providers employed by the state from providing gender-affirming care. Exceptions are made for medically necessary treatments unrelated to gender dysphoria, disorders of sex development, partial androgen insensitivity syndrome, and similar conditions permitted under the State Health Benefit Plan as of January 1, 2026.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.

**SB 72** (Brass-6th) Creates a pathway for patients who are terminally ill to be considered for individualized investigational treatment by providing written informed consent. Provides that medical insurance is not required for related treatments and prohibits sanctions against physicians or manufacturers for any harm done to such patients.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.

**SB 79** (Goodman-8th) Revises the threshold amounts of fentanyl and related substances required to constitute offenses such as possession, sale, distribution, and manufacturing. It also increases penalties for these offenses and amends sentencing provisions for trafficking in fentanyl and other controlled substances. Additionally, bond will not be granted for individuals charged with trafficking any Schedule II controlled substances.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.

**SB 91** (Tillery-19th) Prohibits the Board of Community Health from entering into, executing, or renewing a contract or contracts with any pharmacy benefits manager that owns or has an ownership interest in any retail pharmacy or any legal entity that contracts with or uses such pharmacy benefits manager.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.

**SB 130** (Hodges-3rd) Expands the definition of eligible loan recipient hospitals to include teaching hospitals that contract with the state to offer residency or fellowship programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and medical facilities with a certification number for Medicare and Georgia Medicaid services. Additionally, requires that residents or fellowship physicians receiving loans under this program must be U.S. citizens.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

**SB 131** (Hodges-3rd) Creates the Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System to collect and disseminate non-identifying descriptive data on licensed healthcare professionals in the state. The data provided by the state licensing boards shall include the healthcare professionals' age, race, gender, ethnicity, location of practice, and license type.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Regulated Industries Committee.

**SB 140** (Dolezal-27th) Permits doctors of optometry to dispense and sell pharmaceutical agents to patients.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 162** (Hufstetler-52nd) Requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to implement a data management software system to automate the credentialing process of physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed physician assistants, and anesthesiologist assistants by no later than January 1, 2026.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 195** (Hufstetler-52nd) Allows pharmacists to dispense a 30- to 60-day supply of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or administer a long-term injectable PrEP dose. It also permits pharmacists to distribute a 28-day supply of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) under CDC guidelines for eligible patients, provided they notify the patient's primary care doctor. No prescription from a licensed practitioner is required if the pharmacist completes a Georgia State Board of Pharmacy training program covering pharmacology, contraindicated medications, financial assistance programs, and relevant federal CDC guidelines on PrEP and PEP.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.

**SB 220** (Brass-6th) Revises Georgia's Medical Cannabis laws. Replaces language of "Low THC oil" to "medical cannabis" and keeps consistent criminal provisions to include "hemp" or "medical cannabis." The bill expands the duties of the Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission to include public awareness efforts on the potential benefits of medical cannabis for eligible patients or healthcare institution. It also removes the requirement that qualifying medical conditions must be severe or in the end stage to receive a registration card. Additionally, individuals with a valid registration card may lawfully possess or purchase up to 20 ounces of medical cannabis, provided it is labeled by the manufacturer and contained in its original bottle.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 233** (Jones II-22nd) Extends the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission until December 31, 2026, and officially changes some of the subcommittees, in particular, replacing subcommittees as follows: Involuntary Commitment replaced by Addictive Diseases, and Workforce and System Development with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**HR 8** (Schofield-63rd) Creates the "State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and Screening in Communities of Color."

STATUS: House Public & Community Health Committee

**HR 72** (Hawkins-27th) Creates a House Study Committee on Cancer Care Access.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the House Health Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.

**HR 304** (Au-50th) Creates a House Study Committee on the Cost and Effects of Smoking.

STATUS: House Public & Community Health Committee

**HR 368** (Sainz-180th) Creates the Joint Study Committee on Intoxicating Cannabinoids in Consumable Hemp Products.

STATUS: House Motor Vehicles Committee

**HR 397** (Cooper-45th) Creates the House Study Committee on Healthcare Quality and Reporting.

STATUS: House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

**HR 512** (Hagan-156th) Creates a House Study Committee on the Addiction Epidemic and Solutions for Recovery.

STATUS: House Health Committee

**SR 311** (Robertson-29th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Recovery Residences.

STATUS: Senate Health & Human Services Committee

**SR 342** (Strickland-42nd) Creates the Senate Study Committee on Certified Peer Specialist & Addiction Recovery Programs.

STATUS: Senate Health & Human Services Committee

**SR 344** (Orrock-36th) Creates the Senate Study Committee on a Single-payer Healthcare Program.

STATUS: Senate Health & Human Services Committee

#### **THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSSOVER**

**HB 20** (Scott-76th) Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules requiring all certificated public school personnel to receive annual training in depression and suicide awareness and prevention. The bill also establishes the Student Mental Health Screenings Grant Program and requires GaDOE to develop a model policy for student depression and suicide awareness, plus help schools establish certain healthcare related partnerships to conduct mental health screenings.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 26** (Scott-76th) Requires DBHDD to establish a school-linked behavioral health grant program to identify early interventions in K-12 schools for students that may have mental health or substance use disorders.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

- HB 59** (Glaise-67th) Reduces the legal counselor ratio from 1 counselor to 450 students to 1 counselor to 250 students.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 83** (Au-50th) Increases the taxes on packs of cigarettes from 37¢ to 57¢ per pack.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 84** (Au-50th) Increases the taxes on packs of vapor products from 7% of the wholesale price to 15%.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 96** (Park-107th) Increases the taxes on packs of cigarettes from 37¢ to \$1.37 per pack.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 97** (Park-107th) Provides the expansion of Medicaid for low-income individuals making less than 138% of the (FPL).  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 100** (Douglas-78th) Requires that health insurers cost share the price of prescription drugs with enrollees, covering at least 80% of the rebates they receive or anticipate receiving for each drug.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 101** (Douglas-78th) Requires for the Board of Community Health to report annually the amount of prescription drug rebates and related concessions applied to the premium reductions for state health benefits plan participants.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 102** (Cooper-45th) Facilitates the establishment of the Georgia Quality Reporting Project, which would gauge the quality of treatment for opioid use disorder and healthcare overall, improve the quality of care, reduce the overall cost of medical treatment, and foster clinical research.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 109** (Bonner-73rd) Provides for a five-year pilot program for the purpose of creating emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment, and healing units or EmPATH units in hospitals.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 139** (Jones-25th) Prohibits drug manufacturers and wholesalers from withholding or limiting the supply of medications to pharmacies which participate in the federal 340B drug discount program.  
STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.



**HB 170** (Mathiak-82nd) Healthcare benefit providers must provide a written record of all payments and reimbursements made to an injured party within 30 days of receiving a written request from the treating healthcare provider.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 209** (Romman-97th) Declares ambulance service, whether provided by a public, private nonprofit, or private for-profit entity, as an essential service.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 218** (Dempsey-13th) Lowers the age from 50 to 18 years old at which hospitals shall offer inpatient vaccinations for the influenza virus prior to discharge.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 231** (Neal-79th) Requires all health benefit policies to include coverage, either as part of the policy or through a required endorsement, for complementary and alternative therapies provided by a licensed physician, acupuncturist, chiropractor, or massage therapist. Additionally, policies must offer optional coverage, either in part or through an endorsement, for complementary and alternative therapies provided by a qualified herbalist, homeopath, or naturopath, provided the therapy is prescribed by a licensed physician.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 251** (McDonald III-26th) Permits for a certified registered nurse anesthetist to order and administer anesthesia and an anesthesia plan in coordination with a licensed physician (as opposed to under direct supervision of a licensed physician).

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 258** (Buckner-137th) "PeachCare for Adults Act" - Expands healthcare coverage to adults aged 18 to 64 with incomes at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and not enrolled in Medicaid. Enrollees will not pay a monthly premium unless their income is at least 100% of the FPL. In that case, the premium will be the lower of either the cost of the second-lowest silver-level plan in the state's health insurance marketplace or 2% of the enrollee's gross income. The program does not impose work requirements, and all Medicaid providers will be automatically recognized as providers under this program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 265** (Sainz-180th) Expands the provisions to include THC and other cannabinoids as listed hemp products that are not to be sold or distributed in this state if such product has a total concentration that exceeds 0.3% for dry products and 150 milligrams per serving in the form of gummy.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 298** (Kelley-16th) Requires hospitals to develop and implement a written nurse staffing plan to ensure adequate nurse staffing and skill levels for patient care. Each hospital must establish a standing nursing staff committee, with the chief nursing officer as a voting member and at least 75% of the committee composed of registered nurses (RNs) who provide direct inpatient care for at least half of their work hours. All proceedings, records, and reports of the committee shall be deemed confidential review organization records. If unsafe staffing conditions arise, DCH must refer the report to its Healthcare Facility Regulation Division for further investigation.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 326** (Au-50th) State Health Benefit Plan Non-Opioid Coverage Parity Act - Requires the State Health Benefit Plan to provide equal coverage for qualifying non-opioid pain management drugs. Prohibits the plan from offering greater coverage for opioid pain management drugs or imposing prior therapy or authorization requirements on non-opioid alternatives.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 332** (Herring-145th) Creates an advisory workgroup to update, amend, or develop tools and protocols for screening children for trauma within the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 334** (Crawford-89th) Sickle Cell Disease Protection Act - Requires DCH to conduct an annual review of all medications, forms of treatment, and services that are eligible for coverage under the Medicaid program for those with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 335** (Crawford-89th) Requires athletic associations to collaborate with DBHDD to develop and share mental health education materials for student athletes, parents, school staff, and coaches. Public and participating private schools (grades 6–12) must provide annual mental health resources to parents, and coaches must review training materials each year before coaching. The bill limits liability for schools and athletic associations regarding student mental health decisions and encourages youth athletic organizations to adopt similar policies.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 336** (Crawford-89th) Requires local school systems that provide health information to parents and guardians, including immunizations, infectious diseases, and medications, to also include information on sickle cell disease for students in grades six through twelve. This information includes a description of the disease, risk factors, warning signs, recommended actions if symptoms appear, screening processes, and the importance of consulting a primary care provider to develop a treatment plan after a diagnosis.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 341](#)** (Newton-127th) Allows eligible employer taxpayers with fewer than 100 employees who contribute at least \$100 per month to an individual coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to receive a tax credit of up to \$600 per covered employee for the first three years, \$400 in the fourth year, and \$250 in the fifth year. Employers must submit a preapproval application by October 1 of the preceding year to qualify for the credit. The department of Revenue Services will review properly completed applications and notify approved taxpayers of their certified credit amount by November 1 each year. Effective date July 1, 2025, and applicable beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 382](#)** (Stephens-164th) Revises the definition of the Schedule I controlled substances psilocybin to exclude drugs containing crystalline polymorph psilocybin that are approved by the Federal and Drug Administration (FDA).

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 420](#)** (Taylor-173rd) Requires certain health insurance benefit policies to cover genetic testing for cancer and certain cancer imaging without cost-sharing.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 459](#)** (Carter-93rd) Requires the Department of Community Health to develop and implement statewide, culturally relevant public awareness campaigns on cardiovascular health, including risk factors, prevention, and treatment. The department must also collaborate with schools, colleges, and local organizations to educate youth on cardiovascular health and disease. These efforts aim to enhance research and improve access to screenings and preventive services.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 499](#)** (Buckner-137th) Creates a sales and use tax exemption for menstrual discharge collection devices.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 522](#)** (Gullet-19th) Prohibits health care providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to their vaccine status of COVID-19.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 554](#)** (Townsend-179th) APEX Now Program: Provides support for mental health services to students and school personnel experiencing incidents of violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, and other crisis situations. Established within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the program will create a mental health crisis plan, provide a 24-hour online and telephonic hotline, and facilitate mental health evaluations within 24 hours for urgent cases. Schools will have access to designated mental health providers, and parents can provide prospective consent for services. The program also ensures statewide telehealth contracts for mental health services, protects school personnel from retaliation for making referrals, and allows funding for equipment, training, and uninsured students. The Department of Education will oversee implementation, with regulations set to ensure statewide access and effectiveness.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 564** (Berry-56th) Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Suicide Prevention Program to develop a mental health crisis plan to rapidly provide mental health services to students experiencing incidents of violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, or other crisis situations.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 573** (Stephens-164th) Removes dentists from participation with Medicaid care management organizations.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 605** (Lim-98th) Requires the Department of Public Health to continue to operate the "Georgia Tobacco Quit Line" 24/7 to help Georgians quit smoking, vaping, and using all form of tobacco products.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 607** (Lim-98th) Creates a two-year pilot program under the Department of Public Health that provides home visiting in homes of children with asthma to access and provide education about the home environment and potential asthma triggers and make recommendations to reduce exposure to such triggers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 654** (Campbell-35th) Prohibits insurers or third-party administrators from conditioning payment of any medical test or procedure or prescription drug benefit on prior authorization, preapproval, or precertification for members of the state health benefits plan or of private insurance.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 657** (Hagan-156th) Mandates that peer specialists who work for Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) must be certified by DBHDD. The bill further requires that all recovery community organizations for substance use employ certified peer specialists to provide peer services; and creates, subject to funding, a state-wide recovery community organization to act as the coordinator for the statewide recovery community organization network.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 658** (Holcomb-101st) Ensures that key consumer protections from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) remain in place in Georgia if the ACA is repealed. It mandates that health insurance plans cover preventive services at no extra cost, allow dependents to stay on their parents' plans until age 26, and prohibit annual or lifetime coverage limits. The bill also bans insurers from denying coverage or charging higher premiums based on preexisting conditions. Additionally, it prevents insurers from canceling policies for reasons other than nonpayment or fraud. These provisions would apply to all health insurance policies issued in the state if the ACA is repealed.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 660** (Cox-28th) Prohibits the use of state dollars, including through the state health benefits plan or public benefits, for gender reassignment surgery, or any other transition-related intervention except if a child's medical procedure is of congenital defect, precocious puberty, disease, or physical injury. The bill also prohibits state healthcare facilities, healthcare providers employed by the state, state-owned or operated correctional facilities and healthcare providers employed by such facilities from providing any transition related intervention.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 717** (Cooper-45th) Requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish rules and regulations for the administration of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in clinics. This will apply to any physician, anesthesia assistant, or certified registered nurse anesthetist administering psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in a clinic. Administration of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in a clinic shall only be performed by a physician licensed in this state with advanced airway management training, a certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed in this state under the direction and responsibility of a duly licensed physician, or an anesthesia assistant licensed in this state under the direct supervision of a duly licensed physician. A review of the prescription drug monitoring program database shall be completed for each patient and documented in the patient's medical record before the administration of any psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 50** (Lucas-26th) PeachCare Plus Act of 2025-Expands Medicaid eligibility for individuals earning less than 138% of the federal poverty level. Mandates that by October 31, 2026, Georgia's Department of Community Health will submit a federal waiver request to enroll eligible individuals in state or federal marketplace healthcare plans, covering all associated premiums and costs. The program will remain in effect as long as federal funding covers at least 90% of expenses, with state savings directed to the Indigent Care Trust Fund. The bill also establishes an Advisory Commission on the PeachCare Plus Program, to assist in drafting, reviewing, and implementing the waiver request and provide ongoing recommendations for program success.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 60** (Hufstetler-52nd) Increases regulation and duties of pharmacy benefits managers to include the duties to balance the interest of the care of the insured, health plans, and providers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 80** (Summers-13th) Revises the definition of 'rural hospital organization' to include rural freestanding emergency departments.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 113** (Dixon-45th) Establishes a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 142** (Jackson-41st) Provides that a board-approved medical school may issue a provisional medical license to an international medical graduate who has practiced for at least three of the past ten years, holds a valid Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certificate, has passed USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 (Clinical Knowledge), secured full-time employment with an institution, and meets any additional board requirements. After two years with a provisional license in good standing, passing USMLE Step 3, and securing full-time employment in an underserved area, the individual may apply for a limited license. After an additional two years with a limited license, they become eligible for a full medical license.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 192** (Esteves-35th) Requires the Department of Insurance to establish an affordability program by September 30, 2025, which includes state premium subsidies for enrollees earning up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), additional cost-sharing reductions for individuals earning below 250% of the FPL, and a state-funded plan for those earning below 200% of the FPL. The affordability program will become effective on January 1, 2026, in the event that the United States Congress allows the enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act expire on December 31st, 2025.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 205** (Watson-11th) Requires the State Health Benefits Plan to cover healthcare services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) in accordance with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 262** (Halpern-39th) Requires health insurance policies in Georgia to cover preventive services without cost-sharing, ensuring access to screenings, immunizations, and other preventive care as recommended by nationally recognized clinical guidelines. The bill defines preventive services broadly, including evidence-based screenings, immunizations, and services for women, infants, children, and adolescents. It also ensures that the law does not interfere with health savings account eligibility under federal tax rules. The Georgia Commissioner of Insurance is tasked with reviewing compliance annually, starting in 2026, and issuing necessary regulations by October 2025.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 265** (Still-48th) Requires health insurance benefits to cover medically necessary orthotic devices and prosthetic devices for affected persons during a three-year period. Additionally, healthcare insurance beneficiaries are to be provided with at least two distinct healthcare professionals under their coverage for each issuance and renewal of their coverage. Allows health insurers to deny coverage for the replacement or repair of an orthotic or prosthetic device if the damage or loss is due to misuse, malicious damage, gross neglect, loss, or theft.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 269** (Hatchett-50th) Includes a nurse examiner at an emergency receiving facility, evaluating facility, or treatment facility in the list of professionals who can determine and certify that a patient admitted to or examined at a facility is a mentally ill person requiring involuntary treatment, and who can discharge a patient meeting outpatient care criterion. The bill also sets criteria for when outpatient treatment is recommended, that written notice must be provided to the referring facility within three days. This notice must include a copy of the service plan, notification of the consequences if the patient does not adhere to the service plan, and any other necessary clinical information.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 277** (Tillery-19th) Revises the definition of drug to include alcohol and other related substances in regard to drug abuse treatment and education programs.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 287** (Halpern-39th) Establishes the Georgia Parties Advisory Group within the Department of Community Health (DCH) to advise, consult, and provide recommendations to the department. Additionally, requires DCH and DBHDD to mandate that Medicaid-covered home and community-based service agencies submit annual reports, beginning January 1, 2026, detailing the number of employees, employee demographics, and payroll status of care workers they employ or engage with.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 290** (Anavitarte-31st) Establishes the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee in order to oversee qualifications and certify community health workers. The bill also establishes grounds for complaints related to the practice of certified community health workers, and implements procedures for the review, investigation, and resolution of such complaints.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 297** (Robertson-29th) Creates a sales tax exemption for menstrual discharge collection devices.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 325** (Harbin-16th) Authorizes a school chaplain to be employed or to serve as a volunteer as a school counselor for students as assigned, with discretion, by the local school superintendent or local board of education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SR 201** (Harrell-40th) A resolution urging Governor Brian Kemp to include full-time caregivers for the elderly, sick, and disabled in the Georgia Pathways health insurance program.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE SENATE.



## Maternal & Infant Care

**HB 520** (Mathiak-82nd) Provides for the licensure and regulation of midwives, with renewals every two years. Establishes an advisory board for Licensed Midwives and mandates healthcare coverage for midwifery services under health insurance plans, including Medicaid.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER but has a hearing in House Health in committee nonetheless TODAY (MONDAY).

**HB 89** (Cooper-45th) Amends the duties of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to include review of psychiatric or other clinical records provided by healthcare facilities and pharmacies. Additionally, this bill establishes the "Regional Perinatal Center Advisory Committee" which shall advise the Commissioner of Public Health on related perinatal centers and adequacy of the regional perinatal system. The bill also sets provisions for the consideration of any hospital wishing to be designated as a regional perinatal center and allows for the authorization of release of a copy of the record of a deceased patient or deceased former patient to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

**HB 94** (Lumsden-12th) Requires health insurance benefits to cover standard fertility preservation services when medically necessary treatments such as radiation therapy, and chemotherapy have potentially infertility side effects.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

**HB 329** (Hilton-48th) Allows certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants to administer or perform artificial insemination if delegated and authorized by a physician or surgeon. Additionally, if both spouses provide written consent authorizing the procedure, the certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant is relieved of civil liability.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**HB 428** (Franklin-160th) Grants the right to access in vitro fertilization.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**HB 471** (Cheokas-151st) Requires licensed general hospitals and birthing center make available a water safety education video to parents or guardianship of newborn infants within 24 hours of birth.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**SB 101** (Robertson-29th) Revises current statute to include newborn screenings for Duchenne muscular dystrophy in the list of prevention of serious illness, severe physical or developmental disability, and death caused by inherited genes.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public & Community Health Committee.



**THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER**

**HB 25** (Scott-76th) Allows GA DHS to apply for a waiver allowing SNAP and WIC beneficiaries to purchase diapers and menstrual hygiene products with the benefit once the US Department of Agriculture makes such an application available.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 46** (Davis-87th) Ensures additional representation of healthcare and mental health experts, community members, and relevant nonprofits on the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. Also addresses Committee vacancies and establishes privacy protocols.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 149** (Barnes-86th) Creates a three-year pilot program to provide postpartum care program through mobile health clinics in counties that do not have a hospitals or birth centers offering obstetric care or fewer than 60 obstetric providers per 10,000 births.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 263** (Bennett-94th) Creates a three-year pilot program to provide Medicaid coverage for doula care for pregnant Medicaid recipients. Reimbursements may include up to 5 doula visits for each Medicaid recipient.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 347** (Kendrick-95th) Mandates state compensation for pregnant women who would have chosen to terminate their pregnancies but are legally prohibited due to a detectable fetal heartbeat. Compensation includes coverage for medical, psychological, and living expenses related to pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care, as well as automatic eligibility for public assistance programs like TANF, SNAP, and WIC. Additional benefits include home nurse visits, child-related tax credits, child support in certain cases, coverage of medical expenses for disabilities in the mother or child, funeral and lost wages compensation if the mother or fetus dies, and a fully funded 529 education savings plan. To receive compensation, a woman must file an affidavit with the Department of Human Services (DHS), which will assign a case manager to oversee prenatal and postnatal care, ensure access to benefits, and conduct regular check-ins. The General Assembly is required to establish a dedicated fund to cover these expenses and support DHS in implementing the program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 350** (Cameron-1st) Adds ambulance services and newborn safety devices to the list of places where a mother can surrender a newborn without legal repercussions. The bill also defines newborn safety device and provides criteria for operation and oversight.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 441** (Dunahoo-31st) Bans abortion.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 488** (Westbrook-163rd) Mandates that no person limited services pregnancy center shall disseminate to the public any untrue or deceptive materials or advertisements related to the nature of emergency contraception, abortion, or other related products or services. Failure to comply to these provisions, enforcement from the Attorney General and local District Attorneys with jurisdiction may impose civil actions on the person or entity that can result in the paying for and disseminating corrective and appropriate advertising, restitution damages made to the person(s) adversely affected by the false information, and mandatory notice(s) signage in the waiting area examination area. Of note, the bill requires the Attorney General to develop a portal on its public website to receive, review, and investigate public complaints of noncompliance and the portal must be understandable for someone with a fifth grade reading level, accessible to people with disabilities, and take an average user no more than ten minutes to complete the complaint form.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 588** (Drenner-85th) Requires private health insurance coverage, for fertility diagnostic care, treatment, and preservation services. Prohibits insurers from imposing a waiting period, considering prior diagnoses or fertility treatments, or placing limitations on coverage based on an enrollee's use of donor gametes, donor embryos, or embryo transfer to a surrogate. Insurers may only impose coverage limitations based on an enrollee's medical history.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 589** (Drenner-85th) Permits the Department of Community Health to apply for an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to allow Medicaid to cover fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment, and fertility preservation services. Such amendment would prohibit denial of fertility coverage based on an enrollee's prior diagnoses, previous fertility treatments, or factors such as race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability, or physical disability. If the federal agency (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) permits, Medicaid would provide coverage for fertility preservation, infertility diagnoses, medically necessary ovulation-enhancing drugs, and related medical services.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 598** (Roberts-52nd) The bill restores the right to abortion and legal protections for providers as well as provisions relating to a physician's obligation in performance of abortions, among other provisions. The bill also provides for exceptions to the notice requirement of a pending abortion to the parent or guardian of an unemancipated minor by a physician or their qualified agent under the "Parental Notification Act".

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 649** (Bennett-94th) Requires all health insurance policies in Georgia provide medically necessary coverage for maternal mental health screenings during pregnancy and the first year postpartum. It requires screenings at key points, including the first prenatal visit, later stages of pregnancy, postpartum checkups, and pediatric visits. Healthcare providers must conduct these screenings using evidence-based tools and provide referrals and educational materials as needed. The bill also establishes a quality metrics program to track screening rates, treatment access, and outcomes, with a focus on addressing disparities. Additionally, it creates a three-year pilot program for remote maternal mental health screening and monitoring, prioritizing high-risk populations and rural communities through telehealth services. The state may allocate funding for technology, provider training, and program evaluation to support these initiatives.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 672** (Park-107th) Requires every perinatal facility to implement an evidence-based implicit bias program for all healthcare professionals involved with the perinatal care of patients. Each perinatal facility is further required to provide a certificate of training completion to another perinatal facility upon request. Additionally, the Department of Public Health shall collect and track data on severe maternal morbidity health conditions and all pregnancy-related deaths and publish at least once every three years, provided that the data has been aggregated by state regions and the data has been disaggregated by racial and ethnic identity.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 729** (Miller-62nd) Establishes a state-funded program to help pregnant women access obstetric care in maternity care deserts. Creates a student loan repayment program, in coordination with the Department of Public Health and the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, to increase the number of obstetric providers in low-access maternity care areas. Repayment occurs annually over up to five years and does not cover the full loan amount. Creates a grant program for perinatal facilities in low-access maternity care areas to recruit and retain talent, upgrade facilities, and build partnerships with larger medical centers for training, resources, and obstetric care support.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HR 274** (Westbrook-163rd) A resolution encouraging the GA General Assembly to appropriate an additional \$2 million annually to the Georgia Pregnancy and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, in lieu of all moneys currently being appropriated to fund crisis pregnancy centers.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE.

**HR 426** (Schofield-63rd) Urges the General Assembly to support the creation of a Black Maternal Health Caucus.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE.

**SB 136** (James-28th) Provides for the licensure and regulation of community midwives and creates the Certified Community Midwife Board.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 183** (Islam Parkes-7th) Creates a sales and use tax exemption for baby products including child diapers, child restraint devices or booster seats, cribs, and strollers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 196** (Orrock-36th) Mandates that no person limited services pregnancy center shall disseminate to the public any untrue or deceptive materials or advertisements related to the nature of emergency contraception, abortion, or other related products or services. Failure to comply to these provisions, enforcement from the Attorney General and local District Attorneys with jurisdiction may impose civil actions on the person or entity that can result in the paying for and disseminating corrective and appropriate advertising, restitution damages made to the person(s) adversely affected by the false information, and mandatory notice(s) signage in the waiting area examination area. Of note, the bill requires the Attorney General to develop a portal on its public website to receive, review, and investigate

public complaints of noncompliance and the portal must be understandable for someone with a fifth grade reading level, accessible to people with disabilities, and take an average user no more than ten minutes to complete the complaint form.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 197** (Jackson-41st) Eliminates the Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 200** (Moore-53rd) Recognizes that life is protected and valued at the time of moment of conception and is afforded all the rights and privileges of the U.S Constitution.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 246** (Harrell-40th) Clarifies that a natural person does not include an unborn child and shall not be included in certain population-based determinations. Provides exceptions to unemancipated minors seeking an abortion if the unemancipated minor such notice to the parent or guardian may lead to physical or emotional harm to the unemancipated minor and the unemancipated minor is capable of giving informed consent (freely without coercion) to the abortion (in the presence of professional judgment of the healthcare professional). Prohibits any healthcare professional or healthcare professional's qualified agent from being liable for civil damages or criminal penalty for his or her decision to give or not to give notice to a parent or guardian of an unemancipated minor. Prohibits the state from regulating or banning benefits, facilities, services, or information to deny or interfere with a person's decision to give birth or obtain an abortion (including those in physical or legal custody) and the option to choose sterilization. Authorizes healthcare professionals acting under the lawful scope of practice to perform abortions.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 258** (James-28th) Establishes the Midwife-led Birth Centers Grant Program within the Department of Public Health to promote statewide access to midwife-led birth centers through grants to participating organizations. Funding covers services such as medical care, pregnancy tests, STI testing, ultrasound services, prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum maternal care, nutritional services and education, housing, employment assistance, child assistance, information on healthcare benefits, and other related healthcare services. The program also provides for the licensure and regulation of midwives. An advisory board for licensed midwives is established, and midwifery services are covered under health insurance plans, including Medicaid.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 307** (Islam Parkes-7th) Requires continuing education requirements for all physicians to include one hour on maternal health, including preventive and emergency care of pregnant and postpartum mothers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 308** (Islam Parkes-7th) Mandates Medicaid coverage for postpartum mental health care services for mothers, including screenings for depression and anxiety, and mental health support for one year after pregnancy.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SR 207** (Orrock-36th) A resolution urging the GA General Assembly to appropriate an additional \$2 million annually to the Georgia Pregnancy and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, in lieu of all moneys currently being appropriated to fund crisis pregnancy centers.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE SENATE.



## Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time

**HB 175** (Jones-25th) Revise the provisions to require comprehensive background checks for early care and education programs and Head start programs. Further, it requires all early care and similar programs to provide documentation of each background check on personnel or risk revocation of licensure.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

**SB 89** (Strickland-42nd) Increases the amount of a tax credit based on the federal tax credit for certain child and dependent care expenses to 40 percent of such federal tax credit and creates a state child tax credit in the amount of \$250 per child for qualifying filers. The bill also expands the existing tax credit for employers providing child care by decreasing the number of children who use the facility that are required to be children of employees from 95% to 75% and by increasing the amount of the credit.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Ways & Means Committee.

**SR 121** (Strickland-42nd) Recognizes After School Day at the Capitol on February 12th, 2025.

STATUS: READ AND ADOPTED.

**SR 128** (Strickland-42nd) Recognizes Early Childhood Education Day at the Capitol on February 12th, 2025.

STATUS: READ AND ADOPTED.

**HR 527** (Hilton-48th) Recognizes October 6-10, 2025, as Georgia Pre-K Week.

STATUS: READ AND ADOPTED

### THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER

**HB 118** (Townsend-179th) Requires childcare learning centers and family child care learning homes maintain at least one portable airway clearance device and each employee that cares or supervises children be trained in CPR.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 269** (Townsend-179th) Requires childcare learning centers to maintain a commercial general liability insurance policy or policies affording coverage for bodily injury and property in an amount not less than \$500,000 for a single occurrence and \$1 million in the aggregate.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[HR 234](#) (Olaleye-59th) Recognizes February 12, 2025, as Afterschool Day at the State Capitol.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[SR 237](#) (Hickman-4th) Urges the Professional Standards Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Early Care and Learning, the Office of Student Achievement, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, and the Georgia Student Finance Commission, to provide recommendations to support the state's K-12 education workforce and teacher and school leader pipeline.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE SENATE.



## K-12 Education

[HB 37](#) (Leverett-123rd) Requires each school system to provide a notice of whether: 1. Social Security taxes will be withheld from the employee's pay, 2. The employee is eligible to be included in a plan with coverage for the benefits of Title II and, 3. if the employee is eligible to be included in one or more plans. This applies to new, current, and nearly new employees of local school systems.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

[HB 81](#) (Ballard-147th) "Interstate Compact for School Psychologists"- Joins Georgia to state pathway that allows school psychologist to obtain and practice in schools in any member state. If passed, the Act would become effective once 7 states are in the compact.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.

[HB 105](#) (Wade-9th) Increases payment of indemnification for public school personnel in the event of death or disability from \$75,000 to \$150,000.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

[HB 127](#) (Cox-28th) Increases the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons from three days to five days.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

[HB 192](#) (Gambill-15th) Revises from a graduation plan to an individual college and career plan for students and now includes grades 6–12. Requires the State Workforce Development Board to create a High-Demand Career List, which must be shared with the State Board of Education to guide the implementation of these plans. QBE grants must align with the High-Demand Career List, and the career plans will incorporate Georgia MATCH and GAFutures accounts.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**[HB 200](#)** (Bazemore-69th) Establishes a three-year pilot immersive writing program for public school students for 2nd to 5th grade to improve literacy skills. Provides playground construction requirements for new elementary school being constructed after July 1, 2027, which must include components of a communication board, one learning American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet panel or one learning Braille alphabet panel.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

**[HB 217](#)** (Hong-103rd) Extends the Dual Achievement Program (a dual enrollment pilot program with the Technical System of Georgia), for five more years. Credits for unemancipated minors 16-18 who participate in the program will also count toward their resident high school's graduation rate and process. The bill requires an agreement between TCSG and a local school system, and students will be able to earn a high school diploma and a TCSG certificate simultaneously.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**[HB 229](#)** (Neal-79th) Exempts materials used in the construction of capital outlay projects for educational purposes from local sale or use taxes approved and funded through a constitutionally authorized education special purpose local option sales tax (ESPLOST). Effective date is July 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2033. This exemption only applies to projects for local school systems that have in effect certain homestead exemptions from property taxation.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

**[HB 235](#)** (Townsend-179th) Allows public school teachers, public school employees, and postsecondary employees to receive leaves of absence, without loss of pay or use of sick leave for not more than seven days for bone marrow donation, and not more than 30 days for the purpose of organ donation. Such notice must be given to the employer no less than seven days prior to any leave of absence scheduled.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

**[HB 267](#)** (Bonner-73rd) "Riley Gaines Act" - Defines male and female sports and who may participate in those sports, allows for some co-ed sports. The bill also provides for separate restroom and changing areas for males and females in schools, for sleeping arrangements on school trips to be made according to sex with exceptions for family members; requires any collector of vital statistics throughout this state to identify each individual as either male or female and replaces the term "gender" throughout the Code with "sex". Applies to public K-12 schools, interscholastic athletics, and postsecondary institutions. The bill was amended in an attempt to ensure enforceability of current Georgia "Hate Crimes" Law.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**[HB 268](#)** (Persinger-119th) Ensures children in state custody can enroll in local schools and receive appropriate education, mandates grants for school-based behavioral health coordinators, and authorizes Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) to mediate student records disputes. The bill also strengthens data privacy laws by clarifying custodial definitions and requiring the state's Chief Privacy Officer to issue guidance on student information sharing. It accelerates student records transfer, making critical records (such as disciplinary history and threat assessments) available to new schools and requiring rapid parental access. Additionally, the bill mandates annual training for staff and students on suicide and violence prevention, establishes anonymous reporting systems, and requires student-led violence prevention clubs. It also creates a formal behavioral threat assessment system, requiring schools to develop structured processes for identifying and managing potential threats, with state oversight. The legislation enhances coordination between schools and law enforcement, requiring police to notify schools about student threats and encounters. A new statewide School Safety Database (S3) will track behavioral threats and ensure timely interventions, with strict data governance rules. Other provisions require all schools to maintain locked doors for security, adopt progressive discipline plans for students who make threats, and implement family reunification plans for emergencies. (For a more thorough summary, click here. [https://024d2608-0225-4a65-9e75-25d868da6eb4.usrfiles.com/ugd/024d26\\_31131a77339448b6a0ea5baf73cbb01a.docx](https://024d2608-0225-4a65-9e75-25d868da6eb4.usrfiles.com/ugd/024d26_31131a77339448b6a0ea5baf73cbb01a.docx))

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**[HB 307](#)** (Ballard-147th) Clarifies that the three-cueing model is not the primary method for literacy instruction or considered high-quality material, though it may be used in supplemental resources. It revises dyslexia definitions, repeals a Reading Recovery provision, and establishes a three-year review cycle for state-approved literacy screeners. The bill requires the Georgia Department of Education to publish an annual dyslexia handbook and provide teacher training on the science of reading. The bill also extends the deadline for districts to create and implement plans for removing devices from classrooms, with plans due by Jan. 1, 2026, and implementation by July 1, 2026. It adds the Georgia Coach Coordination Council within the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), which will employ a coordinator to guide literacy coaching efforts throughout the state.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education and Youth Committee.

**[HB 328](#)** (Carpenter-4th) Increases the annual aggregate limit for tax credits available for donations to student scholarship organizations from \$140 million to \$200 million per year. Allows for the State Revenue Commissioner to approve, deny, or prorate additional requested aggregate amounts of tax credits that have not been reached by a qualified scholarship organization.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**[HB 340](#)** (Hilton-48th) Distraction-Free Education Act - Forbids public school students in kindergarten through 8th grade from using personal electronic devices during the school day unless otherwise protected by Individual Education Plan or medical plan.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

**[HB 371](#)** (Corbett-174th) Increases the State Board of Education's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding of QBE from \$300 million to \$347 million annually starting in fiscal year 2027.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.



**[HB 451](#)** (Cannon-172nd) Permits local school boards to offer hunting safety courses, the curriculum of which shall be based on the hunter education courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources, as an elective for grades six through twelve beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**[SB 1](#)** (Dolezal-27th) "Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act"- Establishes regulations requiring that interscholastic sports competitions be categorized based on the student-athlete's sex assigned at birth. Sports are designated as male, female, or coed, depending on the student-athletes actively participating in interscholastic competitions. Provides guidelines and restrictions for reasonable accommodations for student-athletes, including access to single-occupancy restrooms, changing areas, or sleeping quarters as needed. Extends the right to appeal decisions made by a covered entity to the superior court of the county where the local school is located for any student aggrieved by such decisions. The bill states that judgements on a student's ability to play will not be based on "visual inspection of such student's external sex organs." Additionally, the bill applies to local school systems, public schools, and participating private schools, as well as postsecondary schools.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to the House Education Committee.

**[SB 4](#)** (Dolezal-27th) Eliminates the word "micromanage" in state statute, provides for public complaints with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission by residents 18 or older who allege ethics code violations by members of local boards of education. The bill also eliminates required school board training beyond the 15 hours when first elected and for those on the high-risk audit list and prescribes required and prohibited training programs topics and provides for a sanction for school board trainers who do not comply. Training cannot encourage lobbying of the legislature and cannot include statements, recommendations, or suggestions "that are for or against current, pending, past, or future legislation affection public schools or local school systems."

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House

**[SB 17](#)** (Anavitarte-31st) Ricky and Alyssa's Law- Requires local school systems to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting directly to emergency services and first responders. It states that each local school system may implement additional strategies or systems to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency, but that no local school system shall be required to procure or implement new or additional capabilities if, as of July 1, 2026, the system has a functioning mobile panic alert system in place with capabilities that meet the requirements of this legislation. The bill also authorizes the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to adopt rules and regulations for the requirements for school mapping data.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 44](#)** (Watson-11th) Reduces the minimum required millage rate from 14 mills to 10 mills for a school system to qualify for equalization grants.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 63](#)** (Dixon-45th) Requires each local school system that offers the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, PreACT, or ACT or an advanced placement exam to students enrolled in such local school system post the exams on their school system websites and make them free of charge for home school students who reside in that local school system.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 82](#)** (Dixon-45th) Allows local boards of education to reconsider the denial of local charter school petitions and requires the Office of Charter School Compliance to prepare guidelines for local boards of education for the evaluation of charter school petitions.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 93](#)** (Kemp-38th) Prohibit the three-cueing system from inclusion in high-quality instructional materials or structured literacy with the exception of expressed agreement by a parent for a student's Individualized Education Program.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 123](#)** (Kennedy-18th) Prevents students from being expelled solely for absenteeism. Each local school system must establish policies to identify and support chronically absent students, including attendance review teams and intervention plans for students and their parents or guardians. School systems with a chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or higher must create a district-level attendance review team, while schools with a 15% or higher rate must establish their own school-level attendance review teams. These teams must meet at least monthly, review individual student cases, and develop intervention plans. They may include administrators, counselors, social workers, teachers, and parents to ensure effective support for students.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 124](#)** (Still-48th) Mandates that the School Superintendent and the Department of Education take all necessary steps to implement federal agency guidance. Additionally, students with a parent on active military duty in the state qualify for a Promise Scholarship until they return to public school, graduate, turn 20, or, for special education students, turn 21. Mandates that within 15 calendar days of receiving a guidance document from a federal agency which the State School Superintendent or the State Board of Education deems relevant and applicable to the duties, responsibilities, or business of the Department of Education, the Department of Education shall publish such guidance document on a dedicated web page.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 126](#)** (Dixon-45th) Lowers the age of eligibility from 18 to 16 for certain students to be enrolled in a completion special school.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 148](#)** (Hatchett-50th) Directs the Department of Education to establish a pilot program at select elementary and secondary school properties to assess implementation strategies and design standards for outdoor learning spaces. The bill also includes language replicated in HB 147 and SB 247 which increases the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons from three days to five days.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 152](#)** (Dolezal-27th) Allows biological or adopted children of individuals who have been foster parents in the last ten years to qualify for Promise Scholarship funds regardless of their school attendance zones. Foster children are not eligible.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**[SB 179](#)** (Dixon-45th) Requires schools to transfer academic and disciplinary records of transferring students within 10 days by a school superintendent or school principal and mandates written reports to school officials and parents regarding law enforcement encounters with students. Parents would have access to student records within five days. It requires parents to disclose felony charges of a student to the school. Parents who do not disclose felonies or disciplinary issues may be charged. The bill introduces evidence-based suicide awareness, prevention training, and youth violence prevention programs, along with student violence prevention clubs and an anonymous statewide reporting system for potential threats. It also establishes criminal penalties for making terroristic threats or committing violent acts on school property, including felony charges for serious offenses. The legislation provides guidelines for the surrender and return of firearms in relation to school threats and outlines responsibilities for state agencies in implementing these provisions.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 236](#)** (Wicks-34th) Allows students whose parents or guardians are on active duty to be eligible for enrollment in the public school of the attendance zone in which they physically reside and to use their permanent change of station military orders in place of a lease or proof of residency. Permits for high school junior and seniors to remain enrolled in his or her current school placement until graduation despite any changes in physical residency.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 252](#)** (Halpern-39th) Allows municipalities to lease out, grant easements over, or convey certain property to an independent school system operating in such municipality for a valuable consideration. The bill states that if such property is conveyed, the governing authority of such municipality shall subsequently replace such property with one or more properties which are determined by such governing authority to be, in the aggregate, of substantially equivalent benefit to the citizens of such municipality.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SR 217](#)** (Kennedy-18th) Creates a Senate Study Committee on Combating Chronic Absenteeism in Schools.

STATUS: Recommended Do Pass by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.

**[SR 301](#)** (Davenport-17th) Creates the Senate Rosenwald School Study Committee.

STATUS: Senate Education & Youth Committee

**THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER**

**HB 127** (Cannon-172nd) Reduces the actual or equivalent millage rate required millage rate from 14 mills to 10 mills for a school system to qualify for equalization grants.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 20** (Scott-76th) Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules requiring all certificated public school personnel to receive annual training in depression and suicide awareness and prevention. The bill also establishes the Student Mental Health Screenings Grant Program and requires GaDOE to develop a model policy for student depression and suicide awareness, plus help schools establish certain healthcare related partnerships to conduct mental health screenings.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 26** (Scott-76th) Requires DBHDD to establish a school-linked behavioral health grant program to identify early interventions in K-12 schools for students that may have mental health or substance use disorders.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 27** (Scott-76th) Provides for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration to support students living in poverty under QBE funding formula for schools.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 42** (Davis-87th) Revises the calculation for student transportation programs and remove the requirement of regular transportation services to be funded prior to other transportation services. Requires the State Board of Education to collaborate to determine actualized costs for transportation programs.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 47** (Davis-87th) Provides QBE funding to eligible public schools to enhance safety and infrastructure.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 48** (Davis-87th) Establishes the Refugee and International Students Equalization (RISE) program to provide comprehensive wrap-around services for eligible K-12 students from other countries.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 59** (Glaize-67th) Reduces the legal counselor ratio from 1 counselor to 450 students to 1 counselor to 250 students.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 104](#)** (Cox-28th) Establishes regulations requiring that interscholastic sports competitions be categorized based on the student-athletes sex assigned at birth rather than gender. Sports are designated as male-men, or boys, and female-women, or girls, or coed.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 106](#)** (Barnes-86th) Authorizes local school boards and related bodies to offer driver education training courses as an elective to high school students.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 133](#)** (Clark-100th) "Student Character Development Act" - Requires (by August 1, 2025) that all local education agencies adopt policies allowing students to be excused for at least one hour per week to attend religious moral instruction, known as a "released time course." Participation requires parental consent, and transportation must be arranged by parents or the sponsoring organization, which also assumes full responsibility for the student during the course. Public school funds cannot be used for these programs, except for minimal administrative costs, and courses cannot be held on school property unless under a neutral equal-access policy.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 173](#)** (Taylor-173rd) Requires the DOE to provide all parents and guardians of students entering sixth grade with information on recommended adolescent vaccinations for meningococcal meningitis disease, HPV, and TDAP.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 198](#)** (Chastain-7th) States that school systems of public elementary and secondary schools shall allow access to patriotic societies like the Boy Scouts of America if requested by such an entity. If access is denied, a written explanation must be provided to the requesting entity.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 202](#)** (Hilton-48th) Establishes a program for the purposes of promoting and supporting the approval of new local charter school petitions by local boards of education and provides incentive grants to local boards of education that approve new local charter school petitions.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 221](#)** (Cannon-58th) Requires public schools to provide equal accommodations for teams of both genders, including equivalent funding, facility access, and the like. The bill also requires the GaDOE to report annually on local school systems to include information regarding expenditures and participation rates for each gender. Additionally, the bill allows for students to file a lawsuit should the provision of this bill be violated.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 245](#)** (Olaleye-59th) Revises QBE formula by adding a program for students in foster care, living in poverty or in unstable housing as defined by federal law (McKinney-Vento Act) to the table of quality basic education instructional programs with certain weights and student-teacher ratios.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 293](#)** (Miller-62nd) Repeals the Code Section 20-2-11 relating to the participation or advocating of divisive concepts, which repeals a provision which prohibits basing certification and classification of certain professional personnel upon completion of training programs which advocate for certain concepts.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 294](#)** (Miller-62nd) Requires the State Board of Education to review and update necessary policies, guidelines, and processes for awarding units of high school credit to students based on a demonstration of subject area competency for the 2025-2026 school year. The State school superintendent shall not authorize any denial, delay, or otherwise interfere with the approval of any performance-based assessment identified and approved by the state board.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 310](#)** (Olaleye-59th) Provides grants of up to \$7,500 to eligible student teachers to support teacher recruitment, distributed in installments during their student teaching. The State Board of Education administers the program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 313](#)** (Dunahoo-31st) Requires all public and elementary and secondary schools to display the Ten Commandments at the main entrance of the main building, the main entrance of the school library, media center and the main entrance of the cafeteria by July 1, 2025. Schools cannot use public funds to purchase such but are required to accept donated copies.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 333](#)** (Herring-145th) Requires that the state minimum salary schedule for professionals in elementary and secondary education be updated each year based on annual inflation or deflation for the immediately preceding calendar year.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 372](#)** (Ballard-147th) Eliminates the requirement that specific subject areas, such as special education or a current dyslexia or reading endorsement, be designated as highest-need for the hiring of certain Teachers Retirement System of Georgia beneficiaries, instead granting public schools the authority to determine these areas, with an extension to 2030.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 386](#)** (Barnes-86th) Changes the sales tax exemption period for clothing and school-related supplies from July 30-31 to beginning the last Thursday in July to midnight on the following Sunday.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 436](#)** (Griffin-149th) Repeals sunset date of June 30th, 2035, of the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act, making the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act a permanent scholarship program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 437](#)** (Lim-98th) Requires the State Board of Education to set standards for foreign language interpreters in educational settings. Local school systems must provide limited-English-proficient parents with easily understandable information on key topics, including enrollment, school programs, discipline policies, report cards, and language assistance. They must also inform parents about available interpretation services, how to request an interpreter, their right to a neutral interpreter, and a contact for concerns or complaints.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 442](#)** (Reese-140th) Provides that student performers shall not be counted absent from school due to performing in certain productions, subject to certain conditions, for no more than all or part of 25 school days; to authorize the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop such certification forms and promulgate rules and regulations.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 487](#)** (Ballard-147th) Requires students to complete a computer a science course or in order to graduate high school beginning in 2031. This course requirement may be earned by students in grades eight through twelve and must be made available in a traditional classroom setting, blended learning environment, or an online technology-based format. Moreover, this course requirement is not set to increase the number of credits required for graduation.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 505](#)** (Hilton-48th) Changes the Individual Graduation Plan for high schoolers to the Career Development Plan and incorporates students' extracurricular activities and a portfolio showcasing their resume, skills, awards, and activities. The plan must also contain concrete strategies and steps for achieving students' postsecondary goals. High school students without an existing plan must complete it within 90 days of enrollment. Requires the GaDOE to develop an electronic platform for the creation and revision of career development plans which will be made accessible to school personnel, students, and parents. The electronic platform will include information regarding in demand high work ready certifications and technical skills by Georgia employers. The bill also requires GaDOE to use de-identified data collected through this platform developed to evaluate the effectiveness of career development plans.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 517](#)** (Berry-56th) Establishes a program providing a total of \$3 million annually in grants to local school systems and public schools for remedial education services aimed at addressing literacy and math deficiencies in students from kindergarten through 12th grade at public schools ranked in the lowest 5% statewide.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 542](#)** (Berry-56th) Requires private schools who participate in the Promise Scholarship accounts to comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by fully implementing the most recent Individualized Education Program or Section 504 plan for each student. Requires parents of students to provide copies of their child's Individualized Education Plan within ten days of enrollment in such participating school.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 546](#)** (Kahaian-81st) Requires each local school system that offers the PSAT/NMSQT, ASVAB, SAT, PreACT, or ACT or an advanced placement exam to students enrolled in such local school system post the exams on their school system websites and make them free of charge for home school students who reside in that local school system.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 550](#)** (Bell-75th) Requires all participating schools in the Georgia Promise Scholarship account to prepare school safety plans.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 554](#)** (Townsend-179th) APEX Now Program: Provides support for mental health services to students and school personnel experiencing incidents of violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, and other crisis situations. Established within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the program will create a mental health crisis plan, provide a 24-hour online and telephonic hotline, and facilitate mental health evaluations within 24 hours for urgent cases. Schools will have access to designated mental health providers, and parents can provide prospective consent for services. The program also ensures statewide telehealth contracts for mental health services, protects school personnel from retaliation for making referrals, and allows funding for equipment, training, and uninsured students. The Department of Education will oversee implementation, with regulations set to ensure statewide access and effectiveness.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 564](#)** (Berry-56th) Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Suicide Prevention Program to develop a mental health crisis plan to rapidly provide mental health services to students experiencing incidents of violence, threats of violence, natural disasters, or other crisis situations.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 565](#)** (Townsend-179th) Increases the annual aggregate limit for tax credits for donations to nonprofit corporations awarding grants to public schools from \$15 million for tax year 2024 to \$25 million per calendar year.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 580](#)** (Barnes-86th) Requires each local school board to provide cursive writing instruction beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, with specific grade levels to be determined by the State Board of Education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.



- [HB 599](#)** (Donatucci-105th) Extends (to June 30, 2030) the program to permit public school systems to employ certain retired public school teachers as classroom teachers in a full-time capacity.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 631](#)** (McQueen-61st) Mandates a minimum base salary for teachers, administrators, and other certified professional personnel employed by local school boards with bachelor's degrees based upon the national average living wage determined by the State Board of Education.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 634](#)** (Barrett-24th) Revises the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship to allow exceptions for expedited completion of a student's first Individualized Education Program. Allows for direct deposit payments that have been restrictively endorsed by parents into the account of such school and also adds more requirements for the reporting of certain data by the GaDOE on the scholarship program.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 643](#)** (Townsend-179th) Authorizes local boards of education or other governing bodies of each public and private elementary and secondary school (public and private) to install key boxes at each school building in locations determined in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies. Such box is installed in a location that permits law enforcement officers and emergency-management personnel emergency access to such building, contain keys and other access control devices necessary to access each building a room located on the school grounds, and accurate maps of the entire school ground. The bill also protects relevant school entities from civil liability for any damages arising out of the installation and use of key boxes and protects key staff from the same unless it is shown that such employee acted with gross negligence or bad faith.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 674](#)** (Paris-142nd) Requires the State Board of Education to adopt content standards for instruction and local boards of education to provide instruction in financial literacy and money management for grades four and five.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 694](#)** (Lupton-83rd) Establishes a five-year school pilot program to increase the effectiveness of school counseling and postsecondary preparation services. Local boards of education are required to submit an application to the GaDOE outlining a plan which can include partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Priority shall be given to local education agencies that identify participating schools with dropout rates or percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals that exceed the statewide average.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- [HB 706](#)** (Adesanya-43rd) Requires each local school board to add educational programs and activities of Black American History.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 740](#)** (Scott-76th) Implements grade promotional standards for students in kindergarten, grade one, and two; mandates that students will not be promoted to the following grade if promotional standards for grade readiness, as set by the Office of Student Achievement, are not met.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HR 174](#)** (Dubnik-29th) Constitutional Amendment which provides appointment of the state school superintendent by the State Board of Education and for the election of members of the State Board of Education for two-year terms by the members of the House of Representatives and Senate whose respective districts are embraced or partly embraced by each congressional district of this state.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.

**[HR 275](#)** (Glaize-67th) A resolution supporting raising the minimum high school dropout age in GA from 16 to 17 years old.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE.

**[SB 22](#)** (Tillery-19th) Requires the DOE to publish federal guidance documents within 15 calendar days.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 38](#)** (Dolezal-27th) Imposes educational development impact fees on high-growth school systems experiencing a 20% or greater student enrollment increase over a 10-year period. The affiliated Constitutional Amendment is SR 52.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 41](#)** (Jackson-41st) Requires public schools to provide equal accommodations for teams of both genders, including equivalent funding, facility access, and the like.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 54](#)** (Jones-10th) Requires the State Board of Education to establish a statewide emergency alert system by 2026 for schools to notify law enforcement and first responders of threats. By 2027, a secure threat database will track verified school safety threats, with students only added after investigation and social worker evaluation. Schools must provide mental health support for affected students, and the Board may consult state security agencies to implement these measures.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 65](#)** (Mallow-2nd) Mandates that all children prior to their sixth birthday be enrolled and attend a full day kindergarten program for one school year prior to enrolling in the first grade which shall be provided for all public schools of the state.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 115](#)** (Parkes-7th) Revises the sales tax exemption dates for clothing and school related supplies from July 30, 2016 through July 31st, 2016 to August 7th through August 13 of each year.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 120](#)** (Harbin-16th) Prohibits public schools, local education agencies, and public postsecondary institutions from promoting, supporting, or maintaining any programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Any postsecondary institution that violates this shall be subject to the withholding of state funding or state administered federal funding which includes scholarships, loans, and grants.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 128](#)** (Esteves-35th) Provides for grants by the State Board of Education to local units of administration to support students living in poverty under QBE funding formula for schools.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 134](#)** (Sims-12th) Repeals sunset date of June 30th, 2035, of the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act, making the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act a permanent scholarship program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 150](#)** (Hickman-4th) Lowers the required years of creditable service for public school beneficiaries from 30 to 25 and shortens the retirement election period from one year to 60 days. The program is now extended through June 30, 2034.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 171](#)** (Anavitarte-31st) Requires the State Board of Education to establish an advanced mathematics pathway for local school systems, allowing students in grades three through eight to take high school-level mathematics. Annual reports on the program's implementation and outcomes must be submitted to the Senate Education and Youth Committee.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 181](#)** (Anavitarte-31st) Provides that no public school, local education agency, or public postsecondary institution shall, directly or indirectly, accept funding from or enter into a contract with a foreign adversary or individuals or entities working on behalf of such foreign adversary.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 225](#)** (Anderson-43rd) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race due to a protective hairstyle or length in any student dress or grooming policy, program or activity conducted by an educational institution.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 249](#)** (Dixon-45th) Requires students to complete a computer a science course or in order to graduate high school beginning in 2031. This course requirement may be earned by students in grades eight through twelve and must be made available in a traditional classroom setting, blended learning environment, or an online technology-based format. Moreover, this course requirement is not set to increase the number of credits required for graduation.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 250](#)** (Dixon-45th) Creates the Wesley's Law Grant Program and requires the Department of Education to provide up to \$3 million in grant funding for the purpose of providing annual grants to participating local school systems or public schools, including charter schools, to acquire and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 253](#)** (Halpern-39th) Establishes a three-year pilot robotics program starting in the 2026-2027 school year for up to 10 eligible public high schools ranked in the lowest 25% statewide.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 263](#)** (Mallow-2nd) Expands jurisdictional authority of school security personnel to include a specified area surrounding school property within five miles of school property.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 295](#)** (Avaviarte-31st) Requires local school systems to maintain and publish, within 60 days of from the initiation of a contract, a registry of all contracts worth more than \$10,000 involving state funds and the details of the contract. This will become effective January 1, 2026.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 300](#)** (Jones-10th) Establishes a program to support the recruitment of teachers by providing grant funds to be paid by public schools to student teachers participating in the required student teaching component of their teacher education programs. The maximum grant funds allowed to each student teacher is \$7,500 and can be distributed in installments during the student teaching component of their education programs.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 309](#)** (Mangham-55th) Repeals the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 325](#)** (Harbin-16th) Authorizes a school chaplain to be employed or to serve as a volunteer as a school counselor for students as assigned, with discretion, by the local school superintendent or local board of education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SR 52](#)** (Dolezal-27th) Constitutional Amendment-Imposes educational development impact fees on high-growth school systems experiencing a 20% or greater student enrollment increase over a 10-year period. The enabling legislation is SB 38.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.



## Higher Education

**HB 38** (Martin-49th) Alters the definition of an "eligible student" for a need-based financial aid program to include a person who has also completed 70% of the credit requirements for a four-year program instead of 80% and includes students who have completed 45% of the credit requirements for a two-year program.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

**HB 56** (Petrea-166th) Expands postsecondary tuition grants to include spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, prison guards, emergency medical technician, or highway emergency response operators. The bill also provides for postsecondary tuition grants for a spouse and children of a public school employee killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The bill limits both types of grants to \$18,000 per academic year (lifetime maximum of \$72,000) at approved schools.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HB 150** (Fleming-114th) Requires the university system to produce quarterly reports related to funding from the People's Republic of China or any entity or official of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**SB 149** (Hickman-4th) Revises the eligibility criteria for private colleges and universities, specifying that institutions in operation on or before January 1, 2021, qualify for tuition equalization grants.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**SB 154** (Hatchett-50th) Revises or removes references to the United States Department of Education from the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and replaces a reference to student aid reports with FAFSA submission summary instead.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

**SB 180** (Dixon-45th) Revises High Demand Apprenticeship Program to provide opportunities for apprenticeship sponsors to enter into apprenticeship program contracts with the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee.

**SB 193** (Brass-6th) Establishes the Adult Workforce High School Diploma Program which allows eligible adults, 21 to 40 years of age, without a high school diploma to enroll in approved programs to earn a diploma. Third party providers are eligible for funding on the condition that graduation rates meet or exceed 50% and the cost per graduate must not exceed \$7,500 and that funding is based on student milestones.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee.

**THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER**

**SB 7** (Kendrick-95th) Provides for a \$4,000/year tax credit (3 year maximum) for workforce-ready graduates, who have obtained a postsecondary degree, employed in high-tech full-time jobs in rural counties for at least 40 weeks during a 12-month period. The credit cannot exceed a person's income tax liability for the year, and any unused credit can be carried forward for up to three subsequent years.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 180** (Sainz-180th) States that eligible Dual Enrollment high school students must currently be and remain legal residents of Georgia while in the program.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 130** (Jasperse-11th) "Pay as You Earn Education Program (PAYE)"-Establishes a student loan program under the Georgia Student Finance Authority. Georgia residents attending eligible institutions can receive loans, contributing \$1,000 annually while repaying 3% of their income for 15 years post-graduation or opting for a 10-year fixed repayment with interest. Schools must enroll at least 1% of their freshman class, and participating private institutions receive a \$1,000 tax credit per student. Eligibility excludes non-citizens, defaulters, certain felons, and incarcerated individuals.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 203** (Griffin-149th) Requires the Board of Regents to include graduates from historically black college or university (HBCU) that is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 206** (Bell-75th) Removes provisions making students ineligible for HOPE scholarships or grants based solely based on a conviction for an offense involving marijuana or a controlled substance.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 284** (Schofield-63rd) Authorizes baby bond saving programs in which public funds can designated for qualified expenses such as paying for higher education, purchasing a home, investments, and other permitted purposes for the beneficiary coming of age. The affiliated Constitutional Amendment is HR 99.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 286** (Neal-79th) Creates a sub fund to provide startup capital to certain small businesses that are majority owned by students or graduates of a small business program of study of TCSG.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 385** (Holcomb-101st) Allows academically successful students pursuing both a baccalaureate and a first professional degree to use their full HOPE scholarship eligibility. Also extends full HOPE eligibility to students who begin a graduate program at an eligible institution within 18 months of earning their bachelor's degree.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

- SB 417** (Gaines-120th) Revises the eligibility criteria for private colleges and universities, specifying that institutions in operation on or before January 1, 2021, qualify for tuition equalization grants.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 419** (Hawkins-27th) Authorizes the USG and TCSG personnel to carry and administer opioid antagonist (Naloxone) and requires such antagonist to also be stored on those campuses with automated external defibrillators (AEDs).
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 505** (Hilton-48th) Changes the Individual Graduation Plan for high schoolers to the Career Development Plan and incorporates students' extracurricular activities and a portfolio showcasing their resume, skills, awards, and activities. The plan must also contain concrete strategies and steps for achieving students' postsecondary goals. High school students without an existing plan must complete it within 90 days of enrollment. Requires the GaDOE to develop an electronic platform for the creation and revision of career development plans which will be made accessible to school personnel, students, and parents. The electronic platform will include information regarding in demand high work ready certifications and technical skills by Georgia employers. The bill also requires GaDOE to use de-identified data collected through this platform developed to evaluate the effectiveness of career development plans.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 510** (Jackson-68th) Allows courts to require one or both parents to provide financial assistance for a child enrolled in a postsecondary institution, including technical or vocational schools, colleges, or universities, but not beyond the child's 24th birthday. Verification of enrollment and attendance is required, and the court will consider tuition, fees, and related expenses when determining the amount. Enforcement of this support may be pursued by either parent, a non-parent custodian, a guardian, or the child receiving the support.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 541** (Dempsey-13th) Expands the eligibility for tuition equalization grants to private colleges and universities which offer programs in nursing, among other provisions.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 558** (Gaines-120th) Authorizes the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to establish the adult workforce high school diploma program and provides for the selection of third-party providers to administer the program. The bill also sets criteria for selection, oversight and evaluation of such providers.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- SB 602** (Fleming-114th) Requires post-secondary institutions that receive state funds to suspend state loans, grants, or scholarships, with no end date, to students that are convicted of criminal offenses or that have violated the institution's Student Code of Conduct by means of material and substantial disruptive conduct on campus.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 693** (Carpenter-4th) Expands the definition of "approved schools" relative to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities to include higher education schools that have existed in the state since January 1, 2015, have a baccalaureate degree-granting institution degree program in nursing, are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 695** (Santos-117th) Establishes a needs-based financial aid program under the Georgia Student Finance Authority to award grants to eligible postsecondary students who have not yet received their financial aid award with a lifetime maximum award amount of \$5,000.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HR 99** (Schofield-63rd) Constitutional Amendment authorizing baby bond saving programs in which public funds can designated for qualified expenses such as paying for higher education, purchasing a home, investments, and other permitted purposes for the beneficiary coming of age. Enabling legislation is HB 284.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.

**SB 181** (Anavitarte-31st) Provides that no public school, local education agency, or public postsecondary institution shall, directly or indirectly, accept funding from or enter into a contract with a foreign adversary or individuals or entities working on behalf of such foreign adversary.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 225** (Anderson-43rd) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's race due to a protective hairstyle or length in any student dress or grooming policy, program or activity conducted by an educational institution.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 266** (Esteves-35th) "College Success 529 Expansion Act" - Increases the maximum contribution limit for 529 savings trust accounts from \$235,000 to an amount determined by the State Board of Education, based on current and projected college costs. Additionally, raises the taxable income deduction for contributions to savings trust accounts per beneficiary from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 326** (Davenport-17th) Establishes a Support Service Provider Program to assist blind and deaf-blind individuals in accessing employment and higher education by providing, arranging, and funding support services. The program aims to reduce workforce and education barriers, enhance economic independence, and promote social inclusion through real-time assistance. It creates a Support Service Provider Program Advisory Committee composed of advocacy groups, service providers, policymakers, and individuals with lived experience to oversee implementation, provide guidance, and ensure effective service delivery. The program also contracts with qualified nonprofits and independent providers to deliver these services.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.





## Environmental Safety

**HB 79** (Newton-127th) Provides a tax credit for firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices of up to \$300. This tax credit must be pre-approved and can only be applied once in a taxpayer's lifetime. The aggregate limit of tax credits is capped at \$10 million per year.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

**HB 225** (Washburn-144th) Requires the removal of speeding radar devices in school zones and repeals the enforcement of automated traffic safety devices in those areas, effective July 1, 2026.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

**HB 651** (Powell-33rd) Requires the installation of automatic traffic safety enforcement devices within 500 feet of any warning sign announcing a school zone speed limit reduction. Violations may be enforced using recorded images for drivers exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour. Enforcement applies one hour before and after a school's official start time and one hour before and after its dismissal time.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.

**SB 47** (Anavitarte-31st) Exempts sales taxes for eleven days each year on firearms, ammunition, gun safes, and related accessories, starting on the second Friday of October with a sunset date of July 1st, 2030,

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Ways & Means Committee.

**SB 144** (Watson-11th) Clarifies that a manufacturer cannot be held liable for failing to warn consumers of health risks of pesticides above those required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The bill specifically states that any pesticide registered with the Commissioner or the Environmental Protection Agency that displays a label approved by the EPA shall be deemed a sufficient warning label in this state.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee.

### THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER

**HB 1** (Au-50th) Establishes the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child (except where possession of a firearm by a child is lawful) by charging a person with criminal negligence when a child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and such person failed to secure the firearm or left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child could gain access. The bill also provides for an affirmative defense to prosecution in certain circumstances. The bill also requires gun dealers to post a sign saying, "IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE, TRANSPORT, OR ABANDON AN UNSECURED FIREARM IN A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FIREARM."

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 225** (Au-50th) Provide a tax credit for firearm safe storage devices of up to \$300. This tax credit must be pre-approved and can only be applied once in a taxpayer's lifetime.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 3** (Au-50th) Prohibits the transfer of firearms except when facilitated by a dealer and requires a universal background check for the transfer of firearms. Exceptions are made in certain circumstances.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 4** (Au-50th) Requires a three-day waiting period for the purchase or transfer of certain firearms.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 9** (Schofield-63rd) "Safer States Act" - Repeal and reduces the manufacturing and selling of chemical flame retardants or chemicals in such things as bedding, carpeting and certain children's products.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 63** (Oliver-84th) Provides that any owner who fails to secure a loaded or unloaded firearm with knowledge that either a minor or any other person can possess such firearm will be guilty of a misdemeanor of when the firearm is obtained by a minor and exhibited in a public place or while making a threat of violence or by any individual, regardless of age, and used during the commission of a crime or during an act which results in the injury or death.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 64** (Oliver-84th) Requires assault weapon owners to maintain liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1 million for unintentional death, injury, or disability to a human being and for damage to property per incident arising out of the ownership, maintenance, operation, or use of an assault weapon. Failure to provide proof of minimum liability insurance will result in a misdemeanor. Exceptions or affirmative defenses may apply.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 80** (Westbrook-163rd) Permits law enforcement agencies the option to destroy or sell certain firearms if left unclaimed.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 207** (Crawford-89th) Requires handguns and long guns in motor vehicles to be stored in a locked compartment.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 344** (Parsons-44th) Defines civil liability penalties for motor vehicle owners who meet or overtake a school bus within a jurisdiction as \$300 for the first violation, \$500 for the second, and \$1,000 for the third.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 393** (Cooper-45th) Updates state law to require cyclists to signal right and left turns with their hands unless doing so would pose a safety risk. Additionally, mandates that cyclists approaching a stop sign at an intersection with two or fewer lanes must come to a stop and yield the right of way to vehicles already in the intersection.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 424** (Meeks-178th) Clarifies that a manufacturer cannot be held liable for failing to warn consumers of health risks of pesticides above those required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The bill specifically states that any pesticide registered with the Commissioner or the Environmental Protection Agency that displays a label approved by the EPA shall be deemed a sufficient warning label in this state.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 452** (Roberts-52nd) Provides that persons convicted of family violence offenses or subject to family violence temporary protective orders cannot receive, possess, transport, purchase, or transfer firearms.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 453** (Roberts-52nd) Allows family members or law enforcement officers to petition the court for an order restricting firearm access if there is clear evidence that the individual poses a threat to themselves or others. It outlines procedures for issuing temporary and final risk protection orders, surrendering and returning firearms, and conducting hearings for order termination or extension. The legislation also includes penalties for violations, provisions for due process, and mandates the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop standardized forms and educational materials. The bill ensures law enforcement agencies manage firearm storage and retrieval while integrating orders into state and national criminal databases for enforcement.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 469** (Berry-56th) Prevents the carrying of weapons and firearms within school safety zones, school functions, or on a transportation vehicle provided by a school.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 543** (Berry-56th) Mandates all child care learning centers and schools to test drinking water outlets for lead contamination and develop a remediation plan if contamination is found. If lead is detected, the facility must provide written notice of test results and the remediation plan to parents, guardians, students, and staff, publicly post test results and the remediation plan, submit test results and the plan to the Department of Public Health, provide an alternative source of safe drinking water. Subject to appropriations or other available funding, the Department of Education shall be authorized to provide grants to child care learning centers and schools in order to assist such centers and schools in complying with these requirements.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 601** (Jackson-68th) Makes it unlawful to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly to sell or furnish a pistol or revolver handgun or long gun to a minor in certain circumstances. The bill also outlaws 3D printed firearms (commonly referred to as "ghost guns").

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 611** (Lumsden-12th) "Forever Chemicals Transparency Act" - Regulate harmful chemicals known as PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in industrial wastewater. It requires large industrial facilities that discharge at least 25,000 gallons of wastewater per day to follow strict federal treatment standards. Companies that release PFAS into public water treatment systems must disclose this information and report annually starting in April 2026. These reports must include details on the amount of PFAS discharged, the identity of known or suspected PFAS, and whether steps have been taken to reduce or eliminate these harmful chemicals. The information must also be shared with the Environmental Protection Division.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 665** (McCollum-30th) Transfers all authorities and responsibilities relating to environmental health from the county boards of health to the Department of Public Health on or after January 1, 2028.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 19** (Lucas-26th) Requires a ten-day waiting period for the purchase or transfer of certain firearms.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 49** (Parent-44th) Establishes the offense of making firearms accessible to a child by failure to secure the firearm or leaving the firearm in a place where a child can knowingly gain access; a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if such child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence Requires firearm dealers to display a conspicuous notice that reads: IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE, TRANSPORT, OR ABANDON AN UNSECURED FIREARM IN A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO BE AND CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FIREARM.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 53** (Jones-10th) Requires the GA Department of Public Safety, in coordination with GaDOE, to develop a program to educate the public on safe storage of firearms, contingent upon funding.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 66** (Parent-44th) Prohibits persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes of family violence or persons subject to family violence protective orders from receiving, possessing, or transporting a firearm.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 75** (Burns-23rd) Provides for standards for signs warning of a reduced speed limit in a school zone and signs warning of the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices. The bill also authorizes district attorneys, solicitors-general, and prosecuting attorneys to enforce civil monetary penalties relative to the enforcement of laws regarding speeding in a school zone using recorded images.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 465** (Merritt-9th) Regarding social media and internet safety for minors, the bill provides for account termination upon the request of minors or their parents or guardians, and for the deletion of personal information, subject to exceptions. The bill also increases the amount of the fine for which providers of a social media platform may be liable and creates a civil remedy for minors to recover damages against providers of a social media platform.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 172** (Mallow-2nd) Repeals all laws relative to enforcement of speeding violations in school zones through the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices and prohibits a local governing body or law enforcement agency from entering into or renewing a contract that provides for enforcement of laws relative to speeding violations in school zones through the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 224** (Harrell-40th) Establishes a voluntary "Do Not Sell" list for firearms, allowing individuals to voluntarily prohibit themselves from purchasing a firearm. This must be done in the presence of a healthcare provider and a witness under oath before a probate court judge in the person's county. Once registered, the healthcare provider or probate judge must transmit the information to the Georgia Crime Information Center within one business day. Any individual on the list who knowingly possesses a firearm will be subject to a \$25 civil penalty. A person may request removal from the list no sooner than seven days after the initial registration, and removal must be completed within 21 days upon confirmation of the request. Evidence of an individual's registration or removal from the list cannot be used in criminal prosecutions, for employment purposes, to deny or modify insurance coverage, or as grounds for discrimination under fair housing provisions. Records related to the registration or removal process will not be subject to public disclosure under Georgia's Open Records Act.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 232** (Jones-10th) Requires that any firearm that is used as a weapon in the commission of any crime and is discharged at a person under 18 years of age is declared to be contraband and shall be destroyed.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 264** (Goodman-8th) The Georgia Resilience Act establishes the Georgia Resilience Office within the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, with the primary purpose of planning and coordinating statewide resilience and disaster recovery efforts. This office will create a statewide resilience plan and mechanisms to coordinate, integrate, and expand disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and resilience-related programs and activities across state agencies. The plan, due by December 31, 2026, will include an assessment of known risks in each regional commission, an evaluation of the vulnerability of infrastructure systems—such as transportation, energy distribution, and critical infrastructure—an identification of data and information gaps that affect the capacity of state agencies and local governments, and a prioritized list of specific policies, programs, and resilience actions to reduce vulnerabilities and mitigate the adverse impacts of extreme weather and disasters.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 322** (Davenport-17th) Requires that the State Board of Education include instruction in the proper use of a school bus passenger restraint system within its program of safety instruction and requires that school buses be equipped with passenger restraint systems.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.



## Shelter & Nutrition

**HB 14** (Carpenter-4th) Designates cornbread as the official Georgia state bread.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

**HB 233** (Townsend-179th) Designates Brunswick stew as the official Georgia state stew.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

**HB 399** (Oliver-84th) Requires any landlord that is not a resident of this state that owns or operates 25 or more single-family or duplex residential rental properties in GA to shall a licensed broker (that may or may not reside within this state) and at least one person to be located within this state, who shall be responsible for receiving, coordinating, managing, and responding to communications from tenants of such landlord related to maintenance and other issues related to such properties.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

**SB 170** (Jackson-41st) Establishes the Georgia Interagency Council for Homelessness to ensure a coordinated statewide approach to addressing homelessness.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**HR 191** (Olaleye-59th) Creates a House Study Committee on the Use of Local Fees to Support Affordable Housing.

STATUS: House Special Rules Committee

**HR 207** (Bell-75th) Creates of a House Study Committee on the Eradication of Homelessness.

STATUS: House Special Rules Committee

### THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER

**HB 21** (Scott-76th) "Healthy Food Access Tax Credit Act" - creates a tax credit of 15% of incurred expenses for the development or improvement of a property that sells healthy foods in a less developed area.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 60** (Barnes-86th) Ensures that all public school students have access to high-quality and high-nutrition free breakfast and lunch.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

- HB 65** (Moore-91st) Designates collard greens are designated as the official Georgia state greens, and 'potlikka' as the official Georgia state dipping sauce of the official Georgia state bread. (See HB 14)
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 183** (Seabaugh-34th) Provides guidance on the termination and removal of unauthorized guests by an innkeeper, allowing them to request removal by a peace officer five days after giving notice of payment to the guest.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 188** (Lim-98th) Permits an adult resident, or the parent/guardian of a minor resident, who has obtained a civil or criminal court order, to submit a written request to terminate their rental agreement.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 193** (Moore-91st) "Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 2025" prohibits businesses from knowingly discharging, releasing, or exposing individuals to chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without providing a reasonable warning. It also requires the Governor to compile and maintain a list of chemicals linked to these health risks. The associated Constitutional Amendment is HR 9.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 230** (Neal-79th) Establishes a tax credit for certain expenses incurred by taxpayers who sell newly constructed single-family homes to an individual or related party for a price not exceeding \$200,000. Eligible construction expenses include costs incurred on or after January 1, 2026. Taxpayers may claim an income tax credit equal to 20% of eligible expenses. Any unused tax credits may be carried forward for up to five years. Additionally, unused or previously claimed but unutilized tax credits may be transferred or sold, in whole or in part, to other Georgia taxpayers, with a minimum transfer amount of 60% of the tax credit value.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 299** (Taylor-92nd) Repeals Code section 44-7-19 which prohibits local governments from regulating the amount of rent to be charged for privately owned, single-family or multiple-unit residential rental property.
- STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.
- HB 302** (Gilliard-162nd) "Leave No Georgia Child Hungry Act" - Requires the State Board of Education to annually determine and allocate state funds to provide free, quality, and healthy meals to students enrolled in after-school and summer school programs in public schools. These state funds will supplement any available federal funds to ensure meal availability. It also mandates the State Board of Education to establish minimum nutritional requirements for these meal programs, ensuring they meet or exceed federal guidelines. Additionally, local school systems must submit compliance plans and will receive assistance in securing start-up grants for implementing the meal programs. Local school systems are encouraged to establish these free meal programs, and those that do will be reimbursed by the state according to policies set by the State Board of Education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 305** (Olaleye-59th) Protect the Dream Act - Prohibits investment firms with assets under management below \$6.25 million or ownership of at least 25 single-family homes in a single county from acquiring additional single-family homes in Georgia.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 415** (Jones-25th) Any property owner may file an affidavit with the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county where the property is located, requesting the removal of an unlawful tenant. The tenant may be removed within one calendar day upon confirmation of the owner's affidavit.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 555** (McCollum-30th) Prohibits any business enterprise or shareholder to obtain, own, or possess, an interest in more than 2,000 single-family residences or more than ten multifamily residences located in the state. Allows for any claimant to bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against a business that obtains, owns, or possess an interest in a residential property to recover the greater of actual damages caused by such violation or statutory damages in the amount of \$15,000.00 for each violation and the cost incurred by the attorney fees. Moreover, each residential property in violation shall serve as a separate violation.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 642** (Lim-98th) Prohibit public primary and secondary schools from serving or selling, or allowing a third party to serve or sell, food or beverages that contain synthetic dye. This does not apply to parents or guardians at a public school that provides food for a parent's or guardian's classroom or school event.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 679** (Sanchez-42nd) Prohibits price-fixing; any agreement that is collecting historical or contemporaneous rental prices, supply levels, or rental agreement termination and renewal dates of residential properties, including nonpublic information, from two or more landlords that compete in the same or a similar market (price fixing) will be an unenforceable contract. Any person that enters into or causes to be entered into such agreement shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years or by a fine not less than \$1,000, not more than \$5,000 or both by imprisonment and fine.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 689** (Carpenter-4th) Creates a flexible local grant program within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless to provide short term emergency rental and utility assistance, legal representation in eviction, mediation, and other homelessness prevention supports.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 691** (Crowe-118th) The Georgia Resilience Act establishes the Georgia Resilience Office within the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, with the primary purpose of planning and coordinating statewide resilience and disaster recovery efforts. This office will create a statewide resilience plan and mechanisms to coordinate, integrate, and expand disaster recovery, hazard



mitigation, and resilience-related programs and activities across state agencies. The plan, due by December 31, 2026, will include an assessment of known risks in each regional commission, an evaluation of the vulnerability of infrastructure systems—such as transportation, energy distribution, and critical infrastructure—an identification of data and information gaps that affect the capacity of state agencies and local governments, and a prioritized list of specific policies, programs, and resilience actions to reduce vulnerabilities and mitigate the adverse impacts of extreme weather and disasters.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 696** (Santos-117th) Requires breakfast and lunch to be offered at no cost to students who attend a public school which is among the lowest performing 25 percent of public schools in the state.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 708** (Adesanya-43rd) Allows for a tenant to make repairs with a preapproval licensed professional if the landlord fails to repair the tenant request within five days; the cost of repairs from the pre-approved licensed professional may be deducted from the tenant's rental for up to 50 for each rental installment.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 710** (Jackson-68th) Modifies the \*Fair Business Practices Act of 1975\* by making violations of new rental regulations an unfair or deceptive business practice. It defines key terms related to rental agreements, rental increases, and tenant protections. The bill restricts landlords from raising rent during a lease term unless explicitly stated in the contract and caps annual rent increases at 3% for general tenants and 2% for students and seniors. Additionally, landlords must provide at least 120 days' notice for any rental increase. A rental freeze option is established for low-income senior citizens who have rented the same property for more than five years, allowing them to maintain their current rental rate for up to five years. The bill also prohibits landlords from refusing to rent to or renew a lease based on a tenant's status as a student or senior citizen. Violations of these provisions are classified as unfair business practices, giving tenants legal grounds to challenge excessive rent increases in eviction proceedings.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 715** (Berry-56th) Prohibits the use of AI or other automated decision tools to make determinations relating to the sale, rental, or financing of home or apartment rentals without the review of human oversight. A person in violation is subject to a penalty of up to \$10,000.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 716** (Berry-56th) Establishes a need-based financial aid grant for eligible students at qualifying postsecondary institutions. The grant cannot exceed the institution's highest meal cost. Requires students to apply. Eligibility includes economically disadvantaged students as defined by the Georgia Student Finance Commission or those eligible for the HOPE Scholarship.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HB 725** (Cummings-39th) Provides landlord duties to tenants: every room or space provided has natural or mechanical ventilation, a contaminant-free water supply, adequate heating and cooling facilities in proper condition, and each unit shall include at least one battery-operated or hardwired operable smoke detector with an alarm system.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**HR 272** (Glaze-67th) A resolution encouraging the United Department of Agriculture to modify SNAP eligibility criteria for students enrolled in higher education.

STATUS: NOT ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE.

**SB 184** (Albers-56th) Authorizes some public safety personnel to remove an unauthorized occupant within five days of receiving an affidavit from the rightful occupant stating that the individual refuses to vacate the premises. Neither the rightful owner nor law enforcement personnel shall be liable for any loss, destruction, or damage to property during the removal process. Any person who violates these provisions shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. Any person who commits forgery in connection with this process shall be guilty of a felony and subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of at least one year. The bill also applied to inns.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 217** (Islam Parkes-7th) Ensures that all public school students have access to high-quality and high-nutrition free breakfast and lunch.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 251** (Jackson-41st) Prohibits unlawful practices for a landlord to offer, display, or advertise the rental price of any residential property without clearly and conspicuously disclosing the total rental price, and enter into any rental agreement with, or accept payment from, a consumer before disclosing clearly and conspicuously to such consumer the total rental price for such residential property or charge or otherwise impose on a consumer any deceptive fee in connection with renting any residential property.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 257** (James-28th) Allows local governments, certified by the Department of Human Services, to adopt and implement an affordable family housing assistance program through ordinance or resolution. The program must provide loans, grants, guarantees, or other forms of financial assistance solely for the purpose of constructing or rehabilitating affordable family housing, or for offering assistance with payment of security deposits, first month's rent, and last month's rent to low-income or very low-income individuals.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 272** (Kemp-38th) Prohibits landlords from requiring prospective tenants to provide income information that exceeds three times the monthly rent when the tenant is using a government voucher to subsidize their rent. Tenants are allowed to withhold rent payments for repairs and may deduct up to \$500 or the amount of one month's rent for necessary repairs. This deduction can be made as often as needed, provided the tenant has notified the landlord of the required repairs. The repair must be essential to the tenant's physical health or safety. The tenant must also provide a subsequent written notice (via mail, email, or other methods) if the landlord has had a reasonable amount of time to repair the issue but has not made a diligent effort to do so.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**SB 313** (Esteves-35th) Allows for investigations or inspections of residential rental property containing four or more dwelling units when there are reasonable suspicions of a code violation. Authorizes a local government to request the registration of a residential property owned directly or indirectly by any person or entity that owns at least 20 residential properties in GA.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.



## Miscellaneous

**HB 34** (Washburn-144th) The Secretary of State shall create a professional licensing board tracking solution that will track the compliance of all licenses and continuing education requirements for license renewal beginning on January 1st, 2026. Additionally, the bill provides that a professional licensing board shall not renew a license until the applicant has complied with all applicable continuing education requirements as verified using the continuing education tracking solution, with some exceptions.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities Committee.

**HB 111** (Hong-103rd) Reduces the state income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19% until January 1, 2026, upon which such rate shall be reduced by 0.10% annually.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HB 112** (McDonald III-26th) Provides a one-time tax credit to individuals who filed on time tax returns for 2023 and 2024.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HB 147** (Thomas-21st) Requires Georgia Technology Authority an annual inventory of artificial intelligence usage by state agencies.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

**HB 161** (Crowe-118th) Permits Georgia Bureau of Investigation to issue electronic subpoenas for cyber enabled threats with the exception of disclosing ongoing investigations. Revises the definition of domestic terrorism and establishes new penalties including life imprisonment or death for cases of fatalities.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**HB 177** (Cooper-45th) Provides protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.

**[HB 181](#)** (Ehrhart-36th) Creates the issuance of a "Certificate of Foreign Birth" by the state registrar in which the child must have automatically acquired U.S. citizenship following a foreign adoption and possess a Certificate of Citizenship.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

**[HB 303](#)** (Gilliard-162nd) Original 33 Memorial Act - This bill honors the Original 33, the Black legislators expelled from the General Assembly following the end of Reconstruction with a monument on the state capitol grounds.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate State Institutions & Property Committee.

**[HB 579](#)** (Reeves-99th) Georgia House Bill 579 (LC 55 0580S) proposes significant reforms to the state's professional licensing framework by streamlining administrative processes, expanding the Professional Licensing Boards Division director's authority, and enhancing transparency. Currently, licensing decisions require board approval, but HB 579 would allow the director to approve routine applications and exam authorizations, reducing wait times for professionals. It also standardizes a 45-day grace period for license renewals, preventing immediate lapses. The bill mandates that licensing rosters, including individuals issued cease-and-desist orders for unlicensed practice, be published online, improving public access to regulatory information. Additionally, it eliminates the separate standards committees within the Composite Board for Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists, consolidating licensing decisions within the full board. HB 579 also limits licensing boards' rulemaking authority to regulations explicitly designed to protect public health, safety, and welfare, preventing unnecessary or anti-competitive rules. The bill grants the Governor clear authority to remove board members for cause and removes the requirement for board meetings to be held at the State Capitol, allowing for greater flexibility.

STATUS: PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to Senate Committee.

**[SB 21](#)** (Tillery-19th) Waives sovereign and governmental immunities for local governments and their officials and employees for a violation of the prohibition on immigration sanctuary policies; and requires sheriffs, jailers, and deputies to honor immigration detainer requests issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee.

**[SB 36](#)** (Setzler-37th) Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act-Mandates that the government cannot substantially restrict a person's religious practice unless it can prove the restriction serves a compelling governmental interest and is implemented in the least restrictive way possible. These protections apply specifically to Georgia's state and local governments. Individuals who believe their religious rights have been violated can file a legal claim or defense and seek relief, including attorney's fees. However, the bill clarifies that it does not alter the Establishment Clause, meaning it does not require government funding or benefits for religious activities.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Committee.

**[SB 46](#)** (Harbin-16th) Establishes a State Government Service Delivery Lead to coordinate improvements in public services across Georgia agencies. Each agency must appoint a service delivery official to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. Agencies will submit annual improvement plans.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee.

**[SB 55](#)** (Hickman-4th) Phased out the payment of subminimum wage to persons with disabilities and repeals provisions concerning exemptions to the state minimum wage law for persons with disabilities. The bill also states that no employer shall utilize a certificate issued by the United States Department of Labor pursuant to 29 U.S.C. Section 214(c) to pay individuals with disabilities less than the federal minimum wage.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Industry & Labor Committee.

**[SB 68](#)** (Kennedy-18th) Introduces significant changes to civil practice, tort law, contracts, and motor vehicle regulation. Limits owner liability for injuries that occur on their property, prevents foreign adversaries from paying for lawsuits and mandates more disclosure and limits on outside groups paying for civil cases. The bill also prevents plaintiffs' lawyers from suggesting a monetary value to compensate for pain and suffering and allows plaintiffs to show actual medical costs to jurors. It enables trials to be split into multiple stages so that juries can determine liability and damages separately. The bill allows juries to consider whether or not a plaintiff was wearing a seatbelt in injury lawsuits and prevents lawyers from recovering legal fees twice in certain cases.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Rules Committee.

**[SB 69](#)** (Kennedy-18th) This is part of the Administration's tort reform effort: Requires any third-party entities to be registered with the Department of Banking and Finance and limiting their ability to exert influence over the plaintiffs' legal decisions, such as when and how plaintiffs settle a case, and prevents foreign governments from becoming litigation financiers.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Rules Committee.

**[SB 74](#)** (Burns-23rd) Provides an affirmative defense to prosecution if the charged person is employed to work in a public library or any library operated as a part of any school, college, or university, and such individual can demonstrate that he or she has made a good faith attempt to identify and remove from access to minors all physical or electronic material harmful to minors.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House

**[SB 207](#)** (Strickland-42nd) Creates a preclearance process in the licensing of individuals with criminal records who make an application to or are investigated by certain licensing boards and commissions. The bill also requires certain licensing authorities to provide evidence to support adverse licensing decisions based on criminal convictions and requires a hearing prior to denying certain applicants on the basis of an individual's criminal record. the bill also allows an applicant to submit his or her own criminal record when applying for certain licenses, among other provisions.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 212](#)** (Still-48th) Prohibits the disclosure of public student directory information to political candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, political organizations, or persons or groups acting on their behalf. The bill also requires that each person who, while located on public school property, appraises any public school students of their right to register as an elector and to vote in elections or of their obligation to register with the Selective Service System or who arranges for or assists one or more public school students to register to vote shall attest in writing that he or she is not acting directly or indirectly on behalf of any candidate, political party, PAC or political organization. The requirements of

this subsection shall not apply to a public school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel while engaged in the performance of official duties.

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[SB 213](#)** (Kirkpatrick-32nd) Bans commercial cheating services that target students and examinees seeking a professional license as unfair or deceptive practices in consumer transactions. The bill states "it shall be unlawful for any person, for a commercial purpose, to provide or otherwise cause to be provided any work product to a student or examinee in a substantially completed form that could, under the circumstances, reasonably be considered as being, or forming a part of, an assessment task."

STATUS: PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

**[HR 257](#)** (Hugley-141st) Creates the House Special Committee on Oversight of Federal Funds.

STATUS: House Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee

#### **THE FOLLOWING BILLS DID NOT CROSS OVER**

**[HB 98](#)** (Hugley-141st) Provides for a state income tax credit equal to 10% of the federal child tax credit.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 99](#)** (Hugley-141st) Increases state income tax credit from 30% to 100% based on the federal child/dependent care tax credit. The bill also states that if the total amount of the tax credit exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability for a taxable year, the excess funds shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 107](#)** (Ballard-147th) Permits the use and creation of digital verifiable professional licenses for spouses of servicemembers.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 122](#)** (Byrd-20th) Recognizes that life is protected and valued at the time of moment of conception and is afforded all the rights and privileges of the U.S Constitution.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 166](#)** (Franklin-160th) Recognizes the fourth Friday in November as "National Sugarcane Syrup Day" in Georgia.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 259](#)** (Sharper-177th) Recognizes the second Monday in August of each year as "Local Elected Officials Day in Georgia."

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 316](#)** (Park-107th) Provides a state income tax credit equal to 20% of federal earned income tax.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 319](#)** (Clark-100th) Provides that any state or local official or employee who violates state law related to deterring the concealing, harboring, or shielding of an illegal alien will be guilty of a criminal offense and may be subject to removal and replacement from their position by the Governor and prosecuted by the Attorney General.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 342](#)** (Horner-3rd) Allows licensees to advertise or market low THC oil or products to registered patients or the public.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 346](#)** (Parsons-44th) Prohibits municipalities and counties from using the public, educational, and governmental programming (PEG) channels for political purposes including, but not limited to broadcasting partisan political programming or content associated with the campaign of any candidate for public office.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 364](#)** (Neal-79th) Allows noncustodial parents to claim a tax credit for qualified child and dependent care expenses if such parent provided at least half of the qualifying child's support for the year.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 375](#)** (Smith-18th) Excludes overtime compensation from taxation for full time employees that work over 40 hours a week beginning on or after January 1st, 2026.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 383](#)** (Cox-28th) Provides for high school student athletes and prospective student athletes to receive name, image, or likeness compensation and for the automatic expiration of such contracts after the student athlete graduates or is no longer enrolled. The bill also provides for application to certain athletic associations and allows for professional representation of student athletes and prospective student athletes.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 418](#)** (Schofield-63rd) Requires the establishment of blocked trust accounts for minors rendering artistic or creative services in this state and for the Commissioner of Labor to investigate and determine conditions of employment of child performers prior to the commencement of such employment. The bill also provides for requirements related to such accounts for minors engaged in online content creation and requires the conditions of employment for a child performer to not be detrimental to such minor's health, well-being, and education.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 479](#)** (Carson-46th) Allows excess tax credits tax credits in excess of the amount that can be claimed in a given year for contributions to student scholarship organizations, rural hospitals organizations, grants to public schools, foster child support organizations, and law enforcement organizations to be carried forward to subsequent years.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 678](#)** (Hilton-48th) Provides that authorities with less than statewide jurisdiction shall have the same sovereign immunities as provided to counties and that officers and employees of such authorities in the conduct of their official duties shall have the same official immunities as provided to officers and employees of a county performing duties on behalf of such county. The bill also sets limitations on the amounts and types of damages and interest recoverable against an authority.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 681](#)** (Clark-108th) Allows the sealing of name change petitions upon request.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 686](#)** (Wiedower-121st) Authorizes and provides for the regulation and taxation of sports betting. The bill establishes the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund and targets some proceeds to certain resources and safeguards for individuals with problem gambling or a betting or gambling disorder, as well as voluntary Pre-K (i.e., Georgia's Pre-K Program) and postsecondary scholarships (e.g., HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships and grants).

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HB 733](#)** (Miller-62nd) Establishes within the office of the Commissioner of Insurance, the position of an insurance consumer and policyholder advocate. The advocate shall review insurer practices related to policy cancellations and non-renewals for fairness to insurance consumers and policyholders and investigate any policy cancellations or nonrenewal at the request of the insurance consumer or policyholder, participate in rate approval processes and advocate on behalf of insurance consumers and policyholders in such processes and any subsequent hearings, implement statewide campaigns, conduct stakeholder meetings, publish materials, and provide online tools to educate insurance consumers and policyholders on the risks and benefits of different types of insurance, including but not limited to health, life, automobile, property, and flood, to ensure insurance consumers and policyholders can make informed decisions; and perform such other functions necessary to advocate for insurance consumers and policyholders. The advocate is entitled to appear, and request any hearing, as a party or otherwise, on behalf of insurance consumers and policyholders in any proceedings before the Commissioner. Further requires that any rate increase that impacts insurance consumers or policyholders are required to submit to the Commissioner a detailed actuarial report demonstrating the necessity of the proposed rate increase.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[HR 120](#)** (Holly-116th) Constitutional Amendment extending the regular legislative sessions from a maximum of 40 legislative days to 90 legislative days.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.



[HR 396](#) (Campbell-35th) Constitutional Amendment that authorizes the General Assembly to create the Georgia's Children First Trust Fund which will provide financial assistance for child care services in the state, and authorizes the General Assembly to make a one-time funding of \$3 Billion.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.

[HR 450](#) (Wiedower-121st) A Constitutional Amendment to authorize the operation and regulation of sports betting and casino gambling activities in this state. All authorized casino gambling activities shall take place at a casino facility. The proceeds of the sports betting and casino gambling activities at a rate of 20% of gross income will be paid into a special trust fund to be created by the General Assembly.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.

[SB 37](#) (Albers-56th) Creates the Georgia Board for Artificial Intelligence and requires that all governmental entities develop and maintain artificial intelligence system usage plans which are published on their website.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[SB 67](#) (Parent-44th) Establishes a state tax credit equal to 20% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for eligible taxpayers. If the credit exceeds the taxpayer's state income tax liability, the excess amount will be refunded.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[SB 71](#) (Beach-21st) Provides that any compensation a student-athlete receives for the athlete's name, image, or likeness at a postsecondary education institution is not exempt from state or federal income taxes.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[SB 97](#) (Setzler-37th) Provides that it is illegal to intentionally and secretly place or direct someone else to place an electronic monitoring device to track a person's physical location without their consent. Exceptions apply when the vehicle or aircraft owner, lessor, lessee, or lienholder consents, when U.S. military personnel act within their official duties, when a parent or legal guardian tracks a child under 21 or an incapacitated individual, when mobile service providers track users for service purposes, or when manufacturers install tracking devices in vehicles or aircraft. Additionally, any other similar acts that invade privacy are also prohibited. This law does not apply to automated license plate recognition systems.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

[SB 133](#) (Davenport-17th) Requires public schools to provide Braille instruction for blind or visually impaired students through individualized education programs, ensuring their proficiency in Braille reading and writing is comparable to that of their peers of similar ability and grade level. On and after July 1, 2025, the Professional Standards Commission shall not issue or renew a license to teach academic instruction to blind or visually impaired students unless the educator has, as part of his or her standard renewal requirements of completing a course in Braille instruction approved by the commission, demonstrates competence in reading and writing Braille by holding a nationally recognized certificate in Braille approved by the commission, or passing a test in Braille approved by the commission.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 219](#)** (James-28th) Requires any retail establishment that has a toilet facility for employee use to allow a customer to use such toilet facility during normal business hours if the toilet is maintained in a reasonably safe manner. The customer requesting access must provide a copy of a written statement signed and issued by a healthcare provider that indicates the customer suffers from an eligible medical condition.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 222](#)** (Davenport-17th) Creates the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The commission shall assume the duties and functions under set by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency with respect to blind or visually impaired persons. The commission shall be assigned to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes only. The commission is responsible to: carry out a state plan for vocational rehabilitation services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, provide independent living services for blind or visually impaired individuals, contract with private agencies to provide services including the instruction of Braille, serve as the state licensing agency for blind and visually impaired individuals, create and maintain instructional media, coordinate with the Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to ensure that all offerings of the program are robustly utilized many as many blind persons as possible, provide technical assistance to agencies to assist the Department of Education with aids and services to blind or visually impaired students, conduct customer satisfaction reviews, and develop and administer programs that will further the provision of services to the blind or visually impaired.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 247](#)** (Still-48th) Increases the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons from three days to five days.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 248](#)** (Dixon-45th) The bill defines "harmful to minors," "restricted materials," and "sexually explicit materials" and also establishes the Georgia Council on Library Materials Standards, which will establish standards for the designation of restricted materials by local boards of education, standards for the use and restriction of instructional materials, and standards for the use and restriction of public school library collection materials.

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SB 320](#)** (Halpern-39th) Provides comprehensive state civil rights laws protecting individuals from discrimination in housing, public accommodations, and employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, familial status, or national origin. The bill also prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement officers and law enforcement agencies and revises the state waiver of sovereign immunity under certain circumstances. The bill to repeal the use of the term "handicap" and makes conforming changes with the use of the term "disability".

STATUS: DID NOT CROSSOVER.

**[SR 131](#)** (Summers-13th) A Constitutional Amendment to authorize the operation and regulation of sports betting and casino gambling activities in this state. All authorized casino gambling activities shall take place at a casino facility. The proceeds of the sports betting and casino gambling activities at a rate of 20% of gross income will be paid into a special trust fund to be created by the General Assembly.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.

**SR 167** (Kemp-38th) Constitutional Amendment to recognize marriage as any union between two persons legally authorized to marry, regardless of race, gender, or biological sex, who are of sound mind, who have no living spouse from a previously dissolved marriage, and who are not related to their prospective spouse by blood or marriage within the prohibited degrees.

STATUS: Constitutional amendments must cross by a 2/3 majority to be viable; DID NOT CROSS.



## Advocacy Ask

Here are some bills that may be of interest to you. If you support any of the legislation on this list, consider reaching out to the sponsor to express your appreciation for their efforts.

### What to Say:

I'm calling to thank [Legislator's Name] for sponsoring [HB/SB XX]. I truly appreciate their leadership on this issue, and I support their efforts to [briefly mention what the bill does or why it matters to you]. I hope to see this bill continue moving forward. Thank you for your time!

### Who to Contact:

#### **House Bill 38 – Completion School Grants**

HB 38 alters the definition of an "eligible student" for a need-based financial aid program to include a person who has also completed 70% of the credit requirements for a four-year program instead of 80% and includes students who have completed 45% of the credit requirements for a two-year program.

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Chuck Martin](#), 404-656-5146

#### **House Bill 81 – School Psychologists Interstate Compact**

House Bill 81 joins Georgia to state pathway that allows school psychologist to obtain and practice in schools in any member state. If passed, the Act would become effective once 7 states are in the compact.

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Bethany Ballard](#), 404-656-0325

#### **House Bill 177 – Including Pets in Temporary Protection Orders Related to Family and Dating Violence**

House Bill 177 provides protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders.

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Sharon Cooper](#), 404-656-5069

#### **House Bill 268 – Omnibus School Safety Bill**

House Bill 268 ensures children in state custody can enroll in local schools and receive appropriate education, mandates grants for school-based behavioral health coordinators, and authorizes Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) to mediate student records disputes. The bill also strengthens data privacy laws by clarifying custodial definitions and requiring the state's Chief Privacy Officer to issue guidance on student information sharing. It accelerates student records transfer,

making critical records (such as disciplinary history and threat assessments) available to new schools and requiring rapid parental access. Additionally, the bill mandates annual training for staff and students on suicide and violence prevention, establishes anonymous reporting systems, and requires student-led violence prevention clubs. It also creates a formal behavioral threat assessment system, requiring schools to develop structured processes for identifying and managing potential threats, with state oversight. The legislation enhances coordination between schools and law enforcement, requiring police to notify schools about student threats and encounters. A new statewide School Safety Database (S3) will track behavioral threats and ensure timely interventions, with strict data governance rules. Other provisions require all schools to maintain locked doors for security, adopt progressive discipline plans for students who make threats, and implement family reunification plans for emergencies. (For a more thorough summary, click here. [https://024d2608-0225-4a65-9e75-25d868da6eb4.usrfiles.com/ugd/024d26\\_31131a77339448b6a0ea5baf73cbb01a.docx](https://024d2608-0225-4a65-9e75-25d868da6eb4.usrfiles.com/ugd/024d26_31131a77339448b6a0ea5baf73cbb01a.docx))

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Holt Persinger](#), 404-656-0213 and [Rep. Chris Erwin](#), 404-656-7850

### **[House Bill 291](#), Community Health Workers**

House Bill 291 establishes the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee in order to oversee qualifications and certify community health workers. The bill also establishes grounds for complaints related to the practice of certified community health workers, and implements procedures for the review, investigation, and resolution of such complaints. The bill also provides for criminal background checks and some other criteria for CHW certification.

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Darlene Taylor](#), 404-463-2246

### **[House Bill 399](#), Landlord-Tenant Communications**

House bill 399 requires any landlord that is not a resident of this state that owns or operates 25 or more single-family or duplex residential rental properties in GA to shall a licensed broker (that may or may not reside within this state) and at least one person to be located within this state, who shall be responsible for receiving, coordinating, managing, and responding to communications from tenants of such landlord related to maintenance and other issues related to such properties.

*Who to Contact:* [Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver](#), 404-656-0265

### **[Senate Bill 5](#), Improved Prior Authorization Process**

Senate Bill 5 provides that each insurer that utilizes prior authorization requirements shall implement and maintain a program that allows for the selective application of reductions in prior authorization requirements based on the stratification of healthcare providers performance and adherence to evidence-based medicine. Such program shall promote quality, affordable healthcare and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens for both the insurer and the healthcare provider..

*Who to Contact:* Sponsored by [Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick](#)

### **[Senate Bill 17](#), School Alert Systems**

Senate Bill 17 requires local school systems to implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting directly to emergency services and first responders. It states that each local school system may implement additional strategies or systems to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies in the event of a school security emergency, but that no local school system shall be required to procure or implement new or additional capabilities if, as of July 1, 2026, the system has a functioning mobile panic alert system in place with capabilities that meet the requirements of this legislation. The bill also authorizes the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to adopt rules and regulations for the requirements for school mapping data. *Who to Contact:* [Sen. Jason Anavitarte](#), 404-656-0085

### **[Senate Bill 85](#), Foster Care Scholarship Act**

Senate Bill 85 establishes a financial aid program to support foster youth pursuing postsecondary education. Administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA), the scholarship provides grants covering tuition, room, board, meal plans, and

books for eligible students attending approved institutions. To qualify, students must be under 26 years old, currently or formerly in foster care, an independent living program, or an adoption program, and either enrolled or accepted into an eligible institution within three years of completing high school. The GSFA contracts with a nonprofit grant coordinating organization to ensure 100% of appropriated funds are allocated to student grants. Eligible students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), maintain good academic standing, and comply with program regulations. The total award amount is adjusted based on other federal and state aid received. Institutions receiving funds must ensure proper certification of student eligibility and refunds for unused scholarships, with penalties for misreporting. The bill includes audits and compliance measures to prevent fraud and misrepresentation.

*Who to Contact:* [Sen. Matt Brass](#), 404-656-0057

#### **[Senate Bill 89](#), Childcare Tax Credit**

Senate Bill 89 increases the amount of a tax credit based on the federal tax credit for certain child and dependent care expenses to 40 percent of such federal tax credit and creates a state child tax credit in the amount of \$250 per child for qualifying filers. The bill also expands the existing tax credit for employers providing child care by decreasing the number of children who use the facility that are required to be children of employees from 95% to 75% and by increasing the amount of the credit.

*Who to Contact:* [Sen. Brian Strickland](#), 404-463-6598

#### **[Senate Bill 123](#), Support for Chronically Absent Students**

Senate Bill 123 prevents students from being expelled solely for absenteeism. Each local school system must establish policies to identify and support chronically absent students, including attendance review teams and intervention plans for students and their parents or guardians. School systems with a chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or higher must create a district-level attendance review team, while schools with a 15% or higher rate must establish their own school-level attendance review teams. These teams must meet at least monthly, review individual student cases, and develop intervention plans. They may include administrators, counselors, social workers, teachers, and parents to ensure effective support for students. *Who to Contact:* [Sen. John Kennedy](#), 404-656-6578

#### **[Senate Bill 170](#), Interagency Council for Homelessness**

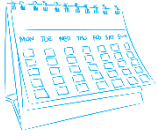
Senate Bill 170 establishes the Georgia Interagency Council for Homelessness to ensure a coordinated statewide approach to addressing homelessness.

*Who to Contact:* [Sen. Kim Jackson](#), 404-656-6882

#### **[Senate Bill 195](#), PrEP and PEP Access**

Senate Bill 195 allows pharmacists to dispense a 30- to 60-day supply of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or administer a long-term injectable PrEP dose. It also permits pharmacists to distribute a 28-day supply of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) under CDC guidelines for eligible patients, provided they notify the patient's primary care doctor. No prescription from a licensed practitioner is required if the pharmacist completes a Georgia State Board of Pharmacy training program covering pharmacology, contraindicated medications, financial assistance programs, and relevant federal CDC guidelines on PrEP and PEP.

*Who to Contact:* [Sen. Chuck Hufstetler](#), 404-656-0034



## Upcoming Events

### March 2025

Tuesday, March 11

- Pre-K Week Launch: Voices for GA Children
  - *More Information to Come*
- Justice Reform Project: Talk Justice Tuesday – Post Cross Over Review
  - Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Virtual)
  - RSVP: [Talk Justice Tuesday](#)

### April 2025

Friday, April 4th

**Sine Die (Last Day of Legislative Session)**

Tuesday, April 8

- Justice Reform Project: Avoiding Burnout – Surviving Triumph
  - Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Virtual)
  - RSVP: [Talk Justice Tuesday](#)



## Resources You May Find Helpful

- [Find Your Legislator](#)
- [Contact Your Legislator](#)