



legislative update

from
Voices
for Georgia's Children

March 2, 2026

A large portion of my goal-oriented existence is spent wrestling with “keeping up.” Whether it is following my 20-something assistants up the stairs from floor 3 to floor 4 of the Capitol, wrapping my head around all the complexities of “legitimation” (See the [study committee report on legitimation](#) and [HB 1343](#)), or trying to figure out if I somehow missed an entire decade of [fashion](#) (I guess my invitation to Milan got lost in the mail), I always feel behind. More than once I have been castigated by my children for presenting them with something I saw “in the news,” only to be informed that it “happened like 2 years ago, mom” and “where have you *been*?!” My standard response is, “Well, does ‘News’ have to be *new*??” Then, rather than get into the weeds of a current-events-driven existential debate, my offspring simply (and wisely) walk away. I say all this because last week, while preparing to testify on behalf of a couple of tech-y online safety bills ([SB 495](#) and [SB 540](#)), I was familiarizing myself with whatever might be of relevance outside the state house, and came across this awesome “news” story about the [Wall Street Journal’s experiment with an AI snack vending machine](#), Claudius, who ultimately turned communist, delivered a live fish, a free PlayStation and offered to buy pepper spray and underwear. Claudius ended up hundreds of dollars in the red. “Wow!” I thought, “That sounds like parenting! Plus, **now** I too can be the cat’s pajamas by sharing this ancillary but hysterical morsel of tech trivia.” But alas - the “news” on Claudius came out in 2025 and not only did everyone (but me) already know about it, but due to my aforementioned growth-opportunity-with-regards-to-“keeping up”, I didn’t even get a chance to order a martini and a side of [Oysters Rockefeller](#), or get a free racoon, lava lamp or diamond ring out of the thing. Crikey!

At least one thing I have stayed up with is the Amended FY26 budget, which just passed both chambers and is on the Governor’s desk ([see our summary below](#)) and a gazillion bills, all summarized and updated below. Notice in the “not-so-leisure” bills section”, we have added an all-new category “Technology, AI & Digital Safety” for your reading pleasure. Wait – LATE BREAKING NEWS: The legislature is considering [afterschool money](#), [home visiting money](#) and a [study committee on Family Farms](#) – all of which are important to children! So pop down to the [action alerts section](#) and advocate, before it is not called “news” anymore, but “olds.”

And as my Uncle Charlie used to say, see you in the [funny papers](#)!

--Polly

Polly McKinney
Advocacy Director, Voices for Georgia's Children

Jump to Section:

[Budget Information](#)

- [AFY26 – Conference Committee Version](#)

[Justice, Public Safety, and School Discipline](#)

[Child Welfare and Protection](#)

[Health & Behavioral Health](#)

[Maternal & Infant Care](#)

[Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time](#)

[K-12 Education](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[Environmental Safety](#)

[Technology, AI, & Digital Safety – NEW!!](#)

[Shelter & Nutrition](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Advocacy Asks](#)

- [Ask #1: OST Funding](#)
- [Ask #2: Family Farm Study Committee](#)
- [Ask #3: DPH’s Home Visiting Program](#)

[Resources You May Find Helpful](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



Budget Information

Amended Fiscal Year 2026

Conference Committee Agreement

Balanced to \$43.662 Billion State Dollars

(Note that the Governor increased the Revenue **up** from \$42.268 Billion State Dollars.)

No Highlight = Governor's Recommendation

Yellow Highlight = House changes to the Governor's Rec.

Turquoise Highlight = Senate changes to prior versions

Light Pink Highlight = Conference Committee Agreements

Statewide

- Provide a \$2,000 one-time supplement to full-time, benefit-eligible state and Regents employees, formula earned K12 teachers, school administrators, custodians, nutrition workers, school nurses, and bus drivers.
- **Reduce funds** to reflect a reduction in the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit Plan from 29.454% to 20.264% effective May 1, 2026.

Dept. of Administrative Services

Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund

- **\$4.8 Million Added** to establish the Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund under the State Treasury pursuant to SB 244 (2025 Session).
- **\$200,000 Added** for the Office of State Administrative Hearings for hearings and adjudication of claims pursuant to SB 244 (2025 Session).
- *Budget Direction:* Change the name of the Compensation Per General Assembly Resolutions program to the Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Trust Fund program to reflect the passage of SB 244 (2025 Session)

Payments to Georgia Technology Authority

- **\$0 Million Added** for the Department of Community Health Integrated Eligibility System (IES) modernization. (Governor sought to add \$35 Million)
- Budget Direction: Utilize existing funds (\$7,930,340) relating to interest revenue accrued in the Technology Empowerment Fund for the ERP modernization timeline extension and additional components of the State Ethics Commission e-filing software project due to the passage of HB 199 (2025 Session).

Dept. of Agriculture

Consumer Protection

Jump to Agency:

[Statewide](#)

[Dept. of Administrative Services](#)

[Dept. of Agriculture](#)

[Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Dept. of Community Affairs](#)

[Dept. of Community Health](#)

[Dept. of Corrections](#)

[Dept. of Defense](#)

[Dept. of Early Care and Learning](#)

[Departmental Administration](#)

[Dept. of Education](#)

[Employees' Retirement System of Georgia](#)

[Office of the Governor](#)

[Dept. of Human Services](#)

[Office of the Commissioner of Insurance](#)

[Georgia Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Dept. of Juvenile Justice](#)

[Dept. of Public Health](#)

[Dept. of Public Safety](#)

[Univ. System of Georgia – Board of Regents](#)

- **\$1.05 Million Added** for personnel to reflect increased retention of Consumer Protection positions
- **\$234,000 Added** for new licensing and inspection software for the Food Safety division.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Adult Forensic Services

- **\$243,750 Restored** for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail. \$243,750

Dept. of Community Affairs

Housing Initiatives

- **\$45 Million Added** Increase funds for one-time funding for the State Housing Trust Fund for local government grants to address homelessness through matching funds and recognize additional funding for homelessness in the Department of Veterans Service (Gov. recommended a \$50 Million Addition for one-time funds for the State Housing Trust Fund to address homelessness through matching funds to local governments and nonprofit organizations, the Senate reduced to \$10 Million and the Conference Committee restored most.)

Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

- **\$60 Million Added** for rural infrastructure for economic development for Tier 1 counties (House sought a \$50 Million Add for rural infrastructure for economic development, the Senate reduced to \$30 Million and the Conference Committee restored and added more.)

Dept. of Community Health

Departmental Administration

- **\$5,349 Added** for a \$3,000 salary enhancement for Katie Beckett Medicaid caseworkers for parity with Department of Human Services Medicaid caseworkers.
- Budget Direction: The Department shall submit a 1915(i) waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a comprehensive suite of services as benefits to members enrolled in the Therapeutic Care Model program.
- **\$0 Added** to support spinal injury services (House sought a \$2.5 Million Add to support spinal injury services.)

Healthcare Access & Improvement

- **\$3.2 Million Added** to establish a grant program to support the creation of new rural medical and dental clinics. (House sought \$4.8 Million)
- **\$0 Added** in one-time funds for hospital infrastructure and emergency power. (House sought a \$800,000 Addition.)
- **\$0 Added** in one-time funds for two portable training ultrasound machines. (House sought \$155,251)
- **\$250,000 Added** for rural colorectal screenings
- **\$300,000 Added** for Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse.

Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled

- **\$226.98 Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$26.34 Million Added** for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums. (Gov. rec. = \$25.82 Million Add)
- **\$3.2 Million Added** for Medicare Part D Clawback payment. (House adjusted the governor's rec slightly)
- \$11.62 Million Removed high-cost drugs based on projected utilization
- Budget Direction: Replace \$4,783,831 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- Budget Direction: Replace \$27,902,969 in state general funds with nursing home provider fees.
- **\$2.65 Million Added** for ambulance provider fees based on projected revenue.
- **\$3 Million Added** for supplemental quality incentive payments at skilled nursing facilities.

Medicaid - Low Income

- **\$149.93 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. Rec. = \$141.29 Million Reduction)
- Budget Direction: Replace \$42,206,820 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

PeachCare for Kids

- **\$7.85 Million Reduced** for Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. rec. = \$7.21 Million Reduction)

GA Board of Healthcare Workforce

- House said **NO** to the Governor's recommendation to "Redirect existing funds (\$734,438) for grants for graduate medical education programs based on the use of Medicaid Reimbursements for new residency slots pending approval of a State Plan Amendment to fund the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University."
- **\$6.84 Million Reduced** due to delayed approval of a State Plan Amendment.
- **\$734,438 Added** and utilize existing funds (\$432,338) for the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University. (House sought a \$1.17 Million Add.)
- **\$17.81 Million Added** in one-time funds for the expansion of graduate medical education programs in South Georgia. (House sought a \$17.81 Million Add, Senate increased to \$19.93 Million and the Conference Committee returned to the House number.)
- **\$2.13 Million Added** for one-time funding for existing internal medicine residency program in South Georgia.
- **\$432,228 Added** for the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship program at Gateway Behavioral Health.
- **\$0 Added** to promote rural residency programs. (House sought a \$100,000 Add)
- **\$900,000 Added** to expand access to healthcare in medically underserved areas in East Central Georgia. (Senate sought \$1.09 Million Add)(Mercer School of Medicine Grant)
- *Budget Direction:* Change program name from Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education to Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Healthcare Education Programs to include nursing education.

Dept. of Corrections

Food & Farm Operations

- **\$2.45 Million Added** for food services across state facilities contracted with Georgia Correctional Industries due to rising food costs
- **\$1.08 Million Added** for the purchase of meat during processing equipment upgrades
- **\$805,962 Added** for food and farm equipment and software upgrades. (House sought a \$1.02 Million Add.)

Health

- **\$31.9 Million Added** for the physical health contract for a per diem increase and additional beds (\$16,903,986) and outside-the-wire care (\$15,000,000)
- **\$374,587 Added** for the dental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$479,411 Added** for the mental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$0 Added** for residential substance abuse treatment centers effective April 1, 2026 (House sought \$312,500 Add.)
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize prior year funds (\$20,402,982) for physical health risk share obligations.

Offender Management

- **\$10.36 Million Added** for jail subsidy payments to local jails for housing Department of Corrections inmates. (Gov. rec = \$6.24 Million Add, Senate increased to \$13.76 Million and Conference Committee reduced some.)
- **\$1.5 Million Added** for rural local county jail reimbursement where more than 20% of jail capacity utilization is occupied by detainees unable to make bail on contraband or drone-related charges.

Private Prisons

- **\$1.06 Million Added** for Jenkins Correctional Institution and Riverbend Correctional Institution to fully utilize available beds at correct tier rate added in HB 68 (2025 Session). (Gov. rec. = \$1.05 Million Add)

State Prisons

- **\$9.74 Million Added** for additional correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios based on improved retention. (Gov. rec. = \$4.98 Million Add)
- **\$964,650 Added** for start-up costs for six canine handlers.
- **\$0 Added** for a pilot program at Autry State Prison to provide for peer led programming. (Gov. rec. = \$150,000 Add)
- **\$0 Added** for required staff needed to meet accreditation requirements to operate a high school diploma program. (Gov. rec = \$93,672 Add.)

- **\$137,802 Added** for start-up costs for three security threat group regional coordinators.
- **\$13.39 Million Added** for managed access and drone detection systems to prevent contraband in facilities.
- **\$2.45 Million Added** for the purchase of public safety supplies and equipment. (House rec. = \$2.48 Million Add, but Senate returned to the Gov. rec.)
- **\$93,179 Added** for additional programming at Metro Reentry Facility.
- **\$327,017 Added** for operations at five modular correctional units (Gov. rec = \$880,104 Add.)
- **\$1.54 Million Added** for operations at Lee Arrendale State Prison. (House rec. = \$3.88 Million Add, but the Senate returned to the Gov. rec.)
- **\$764,220 Added** for offender call monitoring contract due to an increase in usage
- **\$1.15 Million Added** for data intelligence maintenance and integration costs (House sought \$1.9 Million Add, Senate reduced to \$950,000 and Conference Committee increased some.)
- **\$132,042 Added** for contracted food services due to rising food and labor costs (Huse sought \$284,398 Add)
- **\$725,992 Added** for central repair funds for capital projects.

Dept. of Defense

Youth Educational Services

- **\$1.04 Million Reduced** in state funds match to reflect a loss of federal funding from lower graduation targets.

Dept. of Early Care and Learning

Pre-K Program

- **\$17.22 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned teachers and assistant teachers.
- **Budget Direction:** Utilize existing funds (\$881,000) to expand Rising Pre-K program and add 25 new classes for Summer 2026.
- **Budget Direction:** Utilize existing funds (\$2,428,268) to expand the extended day program to the Pre-K priority group.

Departmental Administration

- **\$10 Million Added** for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority for infrastructure and security costs related to the 2028 Super Bowl.

Dept. of Education

Agricultural Education

- **\$172,465 Added** for a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for area teachers and young farmers.
- **\$268,157 Eliminated** for camp-affiliated staff. (See HB 68 intent language considered nonbinding by the Governor.)
- **\$591,965 Added** for storm damage repairs at FFA Camps.

Business & Finance Administration

- **\$650,000 Added** for facilities (House sought a \$1.15 Million Add, Senate reduced to \$100,000 and Conference Committee increased.)

Charter Schools

- **\$500,000 Added** for one-time funds for a completion schools planning grant for Southern Rivers Completion High School to support the opening of up to six locations. (Gov. rec = \$1 Million Add)

Curriculum Development

- **\$1.38 Million Added** for college preparatory exams based on increased utilization.

Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)

- **\$2.07 Million Added** for a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned certified educators and administrative staff.

Non-Quality Basic Education Formula Grants

- **\$35,200 Reduced** in formula funds to reflect data correction for Residential Treatment Facilities.
- **\$557,245 Added** for sparsity to reflect accurate count of eligible schools.
- **\$19.58 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for custodians.

Nutrition

- **\$28.61 Million Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for nutrition workers.

QBE Local Five Mill Share

- **\$1.92 Million Adjusted Downward** for the Local Five Mill Share for four new State Commission Charter Schools. (Gov. rec. = \$2.37 Million Reduction then the House sought \$1.92 Million Reduction, and the Senate reduced further to \$2.65 Million, then the Conference Committee restored the House's number.)

Quality Basic Education Program

- **\$43.88 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment based on enrollment growth. (Gov. rec. = \$43.47 Million Add)
- **\$27.09 Million Added** for the State Commission Charter School supplement for a total supplement of \$292,144,723. (Gov. rec. = \$26.86 Million Add)
- **\$16.08 Million Added** to reflect growth in the Special Needs Scholarship. (Gov. rec was \$14.48 Million Add, but the House rec. increased to \$16.08 Million Add, then the Senate returned to the Gov. rec but the Conference Committee returned to the House's number.)
- **\$60,958 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant. (Gov. rec. = \$44,952 Add, then the House increased to \$57,601.)
- **\$3.86 Million Added** for a midterm adjustment to the State Commission Charter School supplement for **training and experience**.
- **\$1.72 Million in formula funds Added** for the Completion Special Schools Supplement. (Gov rec = \$1.63 Million Add, then the House rec. = \$1.72 Million Add, then the Senate returned to the Gov. rec but the Conference Committee returned to the House number)
- **\$1.4 Million Added** for the employer share of TRS (Teacher Retirement Systems) for non-certified school management positions pursuant to O.C.G.A 47-3-63. (Gov. rec = \$1.4 Million Add, then the Senate increased by \$100,000, but the Conference Committee returned to the Gov rec.)
- **\$248,820 Added** to reflect corrected data for certified SHBP (State House Benefits Plan) enrollee count.

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)

- **\$389,568 Added** to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 for formula earned certified educators and administrative staff.

School Security Grants

- **\$6.16 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures for student advocacy specialist grants.
- **\$550,000 Added** in one-time funds for an emergency response system pilot program.

Student Support Services

- **\$1.3 Million Added** for mental health support grants to reflect accurate count of middle and high schools.
- **\$1.55 Million Added** to fully fund grants for social work services.
- **\$750,000 Added** in one-time funds for grants to districts to pilot programs that assist in maximizing reimbursement for mental health services.
- **\$2.5 Million Added** for out-of-school care. (Senate rec = \$3.5 Million)

Technology/Career Education

- **\$50,000 Added** in one-time funds for youth leadership programming. (House sought a \$50,000 Add, Senate eliminated that and the House rec was restored.)

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

- **\$100 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. (House sought a \$50 Million Add)

Office of the Governor

Governor's Emergency Fund

- **\$3.5 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Office of Health Strategy and Coordination

- **\$1.46 Million Reduced** in funds (House sought a \$500,250 Reduction)

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

- **\$694,873 Added** to meet federal matching requirements for emergency preparedness. (Gov. rec = \$5.7 Million Add, Senate eliminated it and then the Conference Committee added back some.)
- **\$3 Million in Transferred** funds from the Department of Public Safety to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (\$1,000,000) and increase funds for the protection of communities through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (Gov. rec = \$1 Million Transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for the protection of communities through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.)
- **\$2 Million Added** with Senate directing to "Utilize existing BEAD allocation funds of up to \$900,000,000, utilize existing state funds (\$2,000,000) and increase funds to facilitate GIS mapping and Next Generation 911 preparedness. (Gov rec = \$9.97 Million Added and \$5 Million of existing funds used to facilitate the transition to Next Generation 911 emergency services,, and the Conference Committee ended up here.)
- **\$250,000 Added** for emergency services (House rec = \$500,000 and Conference Committee halved it)

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

- **\$0 Added** for start-up costs and implementation of new responsibilities to support Top State for Talent initiatives including a Career Navigator system. (Gov. rec = \$9 Million Add)

Governor's Office of Student Achievement: Literacy Initiative Coordination

- **\$297,438 Reduced** to reflect dyslexia screener savings. (Gov. rec = \$282,688 Reduction)
- **\$0 Added** for one-time funds for America250 literacy initiatives. (Gov. rec. = \$300,000, the House increased to \$300,250)
- **\$976,239 Reduced** to reflect research contract savings.

Dept. of Human Services

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention - Special Project

- **\$3 Million Added** to begin an integrated child welfare reporting system. (House sought \$15 Million Added for an integrated child welfare reporting system in DHS, the Senate eliminated it, but the Conference Committee ended up here.)

Child Support Services

- **\$2.63 Million in one-time funds added** to maintain software applications on the Georgia Technology Authority mainframe.

Child Welfare Services

- **\$371,500 Transferred** for community action teams to deter child welfare involvement from Out-of-Home Care to Child Welfare Services to align budgets with expenditures.

Federal Eligibility Benefit Services

- **\$6.21 Million Added** for Gateway system modifications to reduce the SNAP payment error rate and ensure federal compliance.

Out-of-Home Care

- **\$81.09 Million Added** for utilization growth and increased costs of care prioritizing reunification services, assessments, and specialized services for high-acuity youth. (Gov. rec. = \$41.53 Million Added for utilization growth and increased costs of care., then House increased the Add to \$82.74 Million, Senate increased to \$83.42 Million add and the Conference Committee ended up here.)
- **\$924,800 Added** to restore the cancelation of state office contracts for supportive services (\$674,400) and implement funds to place foster youth closer to their biological families as directed in the FY2026 budget (\$250,000)(House sought \$1.6 Million Added to restore the cancelation of state office contracts for supportive services (\$1,349,601) and implement funds to place foster youth closer to their biological families as directed in the FY 2026 budget (\$250,000).

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

Reinsurance

- **\$50 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures (Gov rec = \$25 Million Reduced)

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Regional Investigative Services

- **\$294,420 Added** to annualize three human trafficking positions.
- **\$700,000 Eliminated** for one-time connectivity to the statewide gang case management system. (Gov. rec. = \$800,000 Elimination, then House rec \$0 Elimination, and Senate returned to the Gov Rec. but the Conference Committee lessened the reduction a little)
- *Budget Direction:* The purpose of this appropriation is to identify, collect, preserve, and process evidence located during crime scene investigations, and to assist in the investigation, identification, arrest and prosecution of individuals. The purpose of this appropriation is also to coordinate and operate the following specialized units: anti-terrorist team, forensic art, bomb disposal unit, high technology investigations unit, human exploitation and trafficking unit, communications center, regional drug enforcement, and polygraph examinations.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$133,867) from rental savings and increase funds for grant system connectivity. (Total: \$435,330) (Gov. rec. = Utilize existing funds (\$133,867) from rental savings for grant system connectivity.)
- **\$185,241 Added** for eight Child Advocacy Centers and 19 satellite office locations that meet minimum standards to provide specialized services not currently state funded effective April 1, 2026.
- **\$4.53 Million Added** in one-time funds to domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers for operational and facility needs.
- **\$100,000 Added** for one-time funding for gang-prevention activities.

Criminal Justice Information Services

- **\$0 Million Added** for an integrated child welfare reporting system. (Senate rec = \$14 Million Add)

Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)

- **\$2.54 Million Added** for personal services due to decreased turnover (Gov. rec = \$2.54 Million Add, Senate eliminated it and the Conference Committee restored it.)

Dept. of Public Health

Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion

- **\$150,000 Added** for charitable dental care.

Departmental Administration

Budget Direction: The department is directed to develop a strategy to promote awareness and prevention measures for colorectal and prostate cancer and report findings to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee, the House Budget and Research Office, the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, and the Office of Planning and Budget by September 1, 2026.

Public Health Formula Grants to Counties

- **\$2 Million Reduced** for prior statewide changes and telehealth costs.

Dept. of Public Safety

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

- **\$582,527 Added** for the new Metro Academy in Austell effective November 3, 2025.

University System of Georgia Board of Regents

Regents Central Office

- *Budget Direction:* Recognize funds for the needs-based DREAMS scholarship program in the Georgia Student Finance Commission (Gov. rec. = \$325 Million total Added for a state match for endowment (\$300,000,000) and scholarship funds (\$25,000,000) for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program. Then the House changed that to \$300 Million Added to provide state match for endowment for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program then the Senate reduced that further to \$100 Million and the Conference Committee moved it to GSFC)
- **\$105,770 Added** to support GALILEO access (House sought \$67,000 Add)

Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics

- **\$100,000 Added** to expand the current partnership with Clark Atlanta University for prostate cancer research (House rec = \$200,000)

Public Libraries

- **\$146,233 Added** for the Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES) program to offset the rising cost burden of providing increased access to library resources to residents throughout the state.

Public Service / Special Funding Initiatives

- **\$10 Million Added** for one-time funding to establish a robotics academy at the Savannah campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dept. of Revenue

Taxpayer Services

- Senate Agreed with the Governor's rec to "utilize \$1.17 Billion in prior year undesignated state surplus to provide a one-time additional refund for tax year 2025 of \$250 for single filers, \$375 for head of household filers, and \$500 for married filing jointly." (The House said No to the governor's rec, instead planning to "Utilize undesignated state surplus to provide one-time property tax relief for homeowners and permanent relief through the passage of HR 1114 (2026 Session).", but the Senate reversed course.)

Homeowner Tax Relief Grants (HTRG)

- **\$850 Million Added** for the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) program to allow for the maximum exemption on the assessed home value as authorized in the Georgia Constitution Article VII, Section IIA for each qualifying homestead for the tax year beginning January 1, 2026

Georgia Student Finance Commission

DREAMS Needs-Based Scholarship

- **\$180 Million Added in State dollars and \$145 Million Added** in Lottery dollars for state match for endowment (\$300,000,000) and scholarship funds (\$25,000,000) for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program.
- *Budget Note:* The purpose of this appropriation is to provide needs-based financial aid to Georgia students in eligible institutions who meet certain academic and service requirements.

Dual Enrollment

- **\$18.45 Million Added** to meet projected enrollment.

Engineer Scholarship

- **\$378,453 Reduced** with direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need (House sought \$160,000 Reduced to meet projected need.)

Georgia Military College Scholarship

- **\$439,652 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

HERO Scholarship

- **\$280,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need.

HOPE Scholarship – Private Schools

- **\$927,063 Added** to meet projected need.

HOPE Scholarships - Public Schools

- **\$11.28 Million Added** to meet projected need. (Gov rec = \$11.27 Million Add, the Senate increased to \$17.88 Million and Conference Committee landed here.)

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant

- **\$1.1 Million Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need. (House sought \$1 Million Reduction.)

North Georgia Military Scholarship Grants

- **\$554,815 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

Promise Scholarship

- **\$85.96 Million Decreased** to meet projected need based on eligible applications for the 2025- 2026 academic year.

Public Service Memorial Grant

- **\$540,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet projected need.

Service Cancellable Loans

- **\$3.2 Million Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need for the Peace Officers Loan Repayment Program.
- **\$140,000 Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need for the Georgia Medical Examiner Loan Repayment Program.

Tuition Equalization Grants

- Utilize existing funds (\$1,885,174) to meet projected need.

Dept. of Transportation

Capital Construction Projects

- **\$36.98 Million Added** based on projected motor fuel excise tax revenue for increased project capacity.
- **\$100 Million Added** state general funds for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges. (Gov. rec = \$85 Million)
- **\$185 Million Added** in state general funds for SR 316 interchange conversions. (Gov. rec = \$200 Million)

Capital Maintenance Projects

- Senate said “NO” to the Governor’s recommended \$100 Million Added in state general funds for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges, but the House said NO “Reflect funding for the rehabilitation and replacement of rural bridges in the Capital Construction Projects program.”

Local Road Assistance Administration

- **\$250 Million Added** for additional support of local transportation infrastructure projects

Payments to State Road and Tollway Authority

- **\$1.68 Billion Added** in state general funds for the extension and bi-directional expansion of I-75 express lanes in Clayton and Henry counties. (Gov. rec. = \$1.8 Billion, House reduced to \$1.72 Billion and Conference Committee landed here.)

Dept. of Veterans Services

- **\$15 Million Added** to eliminate homelessness among Georgia veterans.

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund

- **Board of Regents, University System of Georgia**
 - **\$33.48 Million Added** for additional major rehabilitation and renovation projects, statewide. (Gov rec = \$40 Million Add)
 - **\$88.2 Million Added** to design and construct the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering building, Georgia Institute of Technology. (Gov. rec. = \$88.2 Million, the House reduced to \$15.3 Million and the Senate restored.)
 - **\$5.6 Million Added** to design the School of Nursing at the University of Georgia, Athens, Clarke County. (Gov. rec = \$5.6 Million Add Senate cut it and Conference Committee restored)
 - **\$11.43 Million Added** to equip the School of Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, Clarke County.
 - **\$29.8 Million Added** to Design, construct, and equip the retrofit of the 301 Building to establish the College of Optometry, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Bulloch County. (House sought \$29.8 Million Add, Senate cut and Conference Committee restored)
 - **\$5 Million Added** to Design, construct, and equip the Arts and Sciences Renovation, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Baldwin County.
- **Technical College System of Georgia**
 - **\$48 Million Added** to provide for additional major rehabilitation and renovation projects, statewide.
 - **\$1.5 Million Added** for one-time funding for design and construction for one college and career academies, statewide. (Senate sought \$4.5 Million for two academies)
- **Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**
 - **\$20.74 Million Added** for a 40-bed forensic restoration facility at East Central Regional Hospital, Augusta, Richmond County.
 - **\$409 Million Added** to begin design and construction of new Georgia Regional Hospital - Atlanta to address mental health and forensic bed capacity. (House sought \$27 Million Add)
- **Dept. of Corrections,**
 - **\$84.6 Million Added** to design and construction to replace locking controls, statewide. (Gov. rec. = \$89.6 Million)
 - **\$84.66 Million Added** to design and construct fire alarm replacement, perimeter security and lighting, thermal cameras, and CCTV, statewide.
 - **\$180 Million Added** in undesignated state surplus to construct 2 new modular correctional units (House sought \$220 Million for a new 480-bed private prison facility to meet need for additional bed capacity.)

- **\$125 Million Added and Redirect \$25,000,000** in existing funds for prison design (HB67, 2025 Session) to construct one new modular correctional unit and two transition centers to expand bed capacity.
- **Dept. of Juvenile Justice**
 - **\$600,000 Added** to replace Muscogee YDC CCTV system, Columbus, Muscogee County.
 - **\$2.83 Million Added** for facility repairs and sustainment, statewide.
- **GA Bureau of Investigations**
 - **\$0 Million Added** to design, construct, and equip the renovation of the Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta, Richmond County. (House sought \$2.73 Million)



Justice, Public Safety, & School Discipline

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 673	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70974	(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.)	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 920	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72052	(Roberts-52nd)	Prohibits any person who voluntarily associates (participation, formal affiliation, financial support, or public endorsement) with a hate group within the past ten years to serve as a peace officer or in a state militia role. Any person who currently serves as a peace officer or in a state militia role to have been a hate group member within the past ten years is subject to immediate investigation and potential removal from his or her position.	House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee
HB 954	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72179	(Bell-75th)	"Eric's Law"- Provides that any person with a physical or mental disability that is not immediately obvious or visible may request to have a symbol placed on the front of their driver's license indicating such disability. An applicant may also request the removal of the symbol from their driver's license. Upon receipt of a request for removal, the Department of Driver Services shall delete any records related to the notation and shall be prohibited from	House Motor Vehicles Committee

		disclosing any information regarding such request.	
HB 994	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72261 (Cheokas-151st)	Changes the offense of riot from a misdemeanor to a felony with the resulting penalty being imprisonment of one to 20 years. The bill also adds riot to the list of offenses that are not eligible for bail.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 997	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72276 (Leverett-123rd)	Limits how long the Department of Community Supervision may hold certain offenders in local jails while awaiting transfer, generally capping such holds at 30 days without local approval. The bill significantly increases the minimum per-diem reimbursement paid to counties for housing state inmates—from \$7.50 to at least \$50 per day—and revises when reimbursement begins and ends, tying payments more closely to sentencing, probation revocation, parole warrants, and arrest dates rather than transfer delays. It prohibits most felony offenders, probation violators, and parole violators from serving sentences in county facilities after conviction or revocation, with limited exceptions. The bill also clarifies transportation responsibilities, expands reimbursement eligibility (including potential enhanced payments for certain counties), and updates parole-related reimbursement provisions, including allowing reimbursement for medical costs when funds are appropriated.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1011	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72318 (Gilliard-162nd)	Prohibits vehicle pursuits by law enforcement in residential areas unless there is an immediate risk to public safety or imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death, and probable cause exists to arrest the operator or an occupant for a serious violent felony. Each state, county, and local law enforcement agency must publish their pursuit policies online and establish a pursuit review committee to examine data, officer statements, and video recordings, and to recommend corrective actions, policy updates, training improvements, or disciplinary measures. Agencies conducting emergency response pursuits must publish an annual report detailing	House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

		the number of pursuits initiated or terminated in residential areas, outcomes, injuries, fatalities, property damage, demographic information of individuals involved, and any disciplinary actions or policy changes resulting from pursuit reviews.	
HB 1025	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72355 (Davis-87th)	Establishes a formal structure for the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) program, including dedicated funding, management, and accountability to support uniform statewide implementation. It creates a CHINS Support Fund and provides definitions relevant to the program, including CHINS, status offenses, and responsible agencies. Subject to appropriations, the bill establishes a statewide CHINS coordinator within the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and designates a CHINS coordinator in each of Georgia's 16 RESA regions. It also requires the Department of Education to allocate CHINS funds based on poverty and service need indicators and to publish an annual public report detailing fund revenues, expenditures, supported activities, and recommendations.	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 1060	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72511 (Jackson-68th)	"Georgia Public Safety Transparency and Citizen Protection Act of 2026"-Requires law enforcement officers to wear visible identification at all times while performing routine operations and to verbally identify themselves by last name when engaging with the public. Provides that a law enforcement officer commits the offense of kidnapping or unlawful arrest when the officer detains a person against their will while wearing a face covering and fails to verbally identify themselves as law enforcement. Defines "deadly force" as any force intended to cause, or that a law enforcement officer knows creates a substantial risk of causing, death or serious bodily injury. Prohibits the use of deadly force to apprehend a person who is fleeing or otherwise attempting to elude a law enforcement officer. The bill also authorizes reports of violations of these provisions to be submitted to, and investigated by, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Lastly, any law enforcement officer who fails to comply shall not be entitled to any privileged immunity against civil liability.	House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

HB 1061	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72512 (Camp-135th)	“Mandi Ballinger Act” - Establishes a 12-member organizational committee consisting of the chairpersons of the House Judiciary Juvenile and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as officials from the courts, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and other related organizations. The committee may confer with any subject matter experts, state agencies, and advisory members in connection to raising the age of juvenile offenders and must provide a report no later than December 1, 2027, to the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the General Assembly including all necessary changes required to include 17-year-old children in the juvenile justice system.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.
HB 1075	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72501 (Chastain-7th)	Creates a sentencing enhancement for persons convicted of pimping who have previously been convicted of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude. If a person who has previously been convicted of trafficking is convicted of pimping, then they are guilty of a felony and will be imprisoned for a term of not less than one year nor more than 10 years.	PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
HB 1076	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72502 (Ehrhart-36th)	Establishes the offense of obstruction of a law enforcement officer with a motor vehicle, committed when a person knowingly interferes with any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer during their official duties. A person convicted of this offense is guilty of a felony and will be punished by a fine of no more than \$100,000 and imprisonment for a term of no less than one year nor more than five years.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1080	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72507 (Neal-79th)	Establishes the 'Georgia Public Safety Support Grant Program Act.' Under this program, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council can accept gifts, grants, donations, devises, or contributions to assist eligible local law enforcement agency operations.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1127	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72681 (Crawford-89th)	Updates the definition of a machine gun to include any combination of gun parts that can be readily converted to fire more than one shot automatically, without manual reloading, by a	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

		single function of the trigger. Creates the offense of unlawful possession of machine gun parts, punishable by imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than five years. Licensed manufacturers are exempt from this provision.	
HB 1175	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72786 (Neal-79th)	Creates a specific offense for theft by shoplifting of essential items, defined as food or toiletry goods necessary for daily survival and basic well-being. When the total value of essential items stolen is less than \$100, the offense is classified as a misdemeanor punishable by the local governing authority, may be prosecuted by citation rather than arrest, and may not include a fine; courts may instead order community service, including service with food pantries or nonprofits. Upon a third conviction for shoplifting essential items, the defendant becomes subject to the standard shoplifting penalties applicable under existing law.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1223	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72913 (Gullett-19th)	Public disclosure of audio and video recordings from devices used by law enforcement is not required when that audio, video, or images includes a deceased person, a person's death, or show a person in distress just prior to death, when there is no pending investigation. Recording shall be disclosed upon the order of a court and shall be further disclosed to the following persons provided that the person seeking the recording submits an affidavit that attests to the facts necessary to establish eligibility. If they are a representative of the estate, parent or guardian, an accused in a criminal case, a party to a civil action, an attorney for any of these people listed, or an attorney for a person who may pursue civil action when such recording is relevant to the potential civil action.	House Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1226	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72917 (Clark-100th)	Creates a rebuttable presumption that the use or threat of deadly force in defense of self or others is reasonable, necessary, and justified. This presumption does not apply if the individual: (1) initially provokes the use of force against them; (2) is attempting to commit, committing, or fleeing after the commission or attempted commission of a felony; (3) was the aggressor or was engaged in combat by agreement unless withdrew from the encounter; or (4) used or	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

threatened force against a law enforcement officer acting in the performance of their official duties, and the officer who identified themselves or the individual knew or should have known that the person was a law enforcement officer, and the force used or threatened occurred in a public location. Law enforcement will only arrest a person for using or threatening force if a probable cause determination has been made that the use or threat of force was unlawful. A prima-facie claim of immunity may be raised during arraignment or in a pre-trial motion, and will only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence.

HB 1243	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72972 (Holcomb-101st)	"Criminal Justice Researcher Access to Data Act" - Creates a legal framework for bona fide researchers to access criminal justice data and records held by state and local agencies, including certain sensitive and personally identifiable information under defined safeguards. The bill requires the Attorney General to issue guidance to criminal justice agencies on sharing data with qualified researchers and clarifies that such disclosures do not constitute public release under open records law. It authorizes agencies to charge reasonable, cost-based fees for fulfilling research requests.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1248	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73011 (Jackson-68th)	The Georgia Cannabis Freedom and Integrity Act establishes the Georgia Cannabis Commission as an independent state agency to oversee and regulate cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, testing, and dispensaries. The nine-member commission, appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders by August 1, 2026, would set public health and safety standards, implement a product tracking system, issue patient and caregiver registry cards, and enforce all rules under the law. The bill allows individuals age 21 and older to possess up to two ounces of cannabis, up to 10 grams of concentrates, and to cultivate up to three mature plants for personal use in an enclosed space. It expands existing low THC oil law to include all cannabis products. A 15% state excise tax would be imposed, with revenue allocated to public health programs, administration and enforcement, a social equity fund, and the state general fund. Driving under	House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee

		the influence, public use, and sales targeting children remain prohibited. Possession of two ounces or less is classified as a misdemeanor punishable by up to 12 months' confinement or a fine of up to \$1,000.	
HB 1282	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73131 (Smith-18th)	Adds aggravated sexual battery to the list of offenses which, if committed on or after July 1, 2012, and the victim is under 16 years of age, may be prosecuted at any time. For an aggravated sexual battery offense against a victim under 16 years of age between July 1, 1992, and June 30, 2012, the applicable statute of limitations is tolled until the victim reaches the age of 16 or the violation is reported to a law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney, or other governmental agency, whichever occurs earlier.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1288	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73138 (Cummings-39th)	Prohibits the withdrawal of blood from an incarcerated person for purposes of DNA testing unless the individual provides written consent or a court order authorizes the withdrawal.	House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee
HB 1311	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73199 (Santos-117th)	Prohibits courts from awarding attorney's fees to a defendant who has been found guilty of, or who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, a sexual offense when the plaintiff in the civil action is the victim of that offense.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1322	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73251 (Cheokas-151st)	Enhances the penalty for the offense of rioting by increasing it from a misdemeanor to a felony, punishable by one to twenty years of imprisonment.	House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1397	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73439 (Cooper-45th)	Amends current law to define drug facilitated sexual assault examination and adds it to existing statutes governing forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims. It clarifies that victims are entitled to a free forensic medical or drug facilitated sexual assault examination regardless of participation in the criminal justice process, with costs paid by the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. The bill authorizes licensed hospitals or healthcare practitioners to perform a	House Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

drug facilitated sexual assault examination when a suspected victim is unconscious or when exigent circumstances exist, and provides that any evidence collected may be used or declined for law enforcement purposes at the patient's discretion once conscious. It also grants limited immunity from arrest, charge, or prosecution for individuals who, in good faith, seek medical assistance for themselves as victims when evidence arises solely from seeking that assistance.

<p>HB 1405 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73458 (Hong-103rd)</p>	<p>Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to evaluate any child adjudicated for a Class A or Class B designated felony act who is placed in restrictive custody to determine whether the child would benefit from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). If so, DJJ must provide CBT, and the child must participate until completing at least 200 hours or until release from restrictive custody, whichever occurs first. Beginning July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, DJJ must submit a report with anonymized data detailing the number of children who received CBT under this provision and the three-year recidivism rate for those children. The report must be provided to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and the director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.</p>	<p>House Judiciary Juvenile Committee</p>
<p>HB 1429 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73532 (Ballard-147th)</p>	<p>Requires each clerk of the juvenile court to collect information for every child in need of services, delinquent child, or child accused of a misdemeanor or felony offense. The clerk must provide this information annually to the Administrative Office of the Courts by December 1. The information must include: the child's race, the offense charged, the location of the offense (including whether it occurred in a school safety zone), the name of the referral source (including the school district, if applicable), the disposition of the case (including monetary sanctions and any sentence imposed), and the collection status of any monetary sanctions.</p>	<p>House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).</p>
<p>HB 1436 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73555 (Gaines-120th)</p>	<p>"Georgia Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act" - Beginning July 1, 2027, and for each fiscal year thereafter, state funds shall be withheld from any branch of government that limits the use of</p>	<p>House Public Safety & Homeland Security</p>

		secured cash bail as a potential condition of release for individuals charged with a criminal offense that poses a clear threat to public safety and order.	Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1445	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73607 (Townsend-179th)	Creates a new Code section requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to share real-time GPS monitoring and exclusion violations of juvenile offenders with law enforcement and local public schools, upon request. Before DJJ shares this information, the law enforcement agency and/or school must certify that the juvenile offender is physically located within this state or the applicable local school system.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.
SB 29	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69545 (Williams-25th)	Provides for the collection of DNA samples of individuals arrested for the commission of a serious violent felony by the arresting officer or the processing facility at the time they are received or booked.	PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
SB 116	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70013 (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.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill is currently in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 116	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70013 (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.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland

			Security Committee.
SB 160	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70289 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Allows for individuals with a suspended driver's license due to reckless stunt driving to apply for an intelligent speed assistance device limited driving permit. This will not apply to drivers under the age of 21, drivers with a commercial driving license, or those whose license is subject to suspension for an accident resulting in injuries or fatalities. The application will be made to the Department of Driver Services (DDS) for a fee of \$32. The limited permit will be valid for one year, subject to renewal for an additional six months for a fee of \$32. DDS will revoke the permit if the permittee is convicted of any state law related to the movement of vehicles, or if a center providing the permits reports that the permittee tampered with or removed the device or failed to report for monitoring. DDS must notify the permittee of such revocation and allow for a hearing if requested. The bill defines "provider centers," which will provide and install intelligent speed assistance devices. The devices may be purchased or leased by counties, municipalities, or private entities. Law enforcement officials may not specify a particular provider that an individual must use. DDS is authorized to set rules and regulations for the devices and providers. The devices must have a label affixed upon installation containing a warning of the civil liability for misuse of the device. The bill subjects intelligent speed assistance device providers to the same laws as ignition interlock device providers. The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2028.	PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
SB 391	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72174 (Parkes-7th)	Prohibits all government employees, including law enforcement, from conducting immigration enforcement activities without a judicial warrant issued. Prohibits action with the intent to assist in immigration enforcement on or in any school grounds, college campuses, public places of worship, hospitals, public libraries, and family violence shelters.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 419	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72329 (James-28th)	"Eric's ID Law"- Provides that any person with a physical or mental disability that is not immediately obvious or visible may request to	Senate Public Safety Committee

have a symbol placed on the front of their driver's license indicating such disability. An applicant may also request the removal of the symbol from their driver's license. Upon receipt of a request for removal, the Department of Driver Services shall delete any records related to the notation and shall be prohibited from disclosing any information regarding such request.

SB 525	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73373 (Robertson-29th)	Requires all juvenile court proceedings be recorded by stenographic notes or by electronic, mechanical, or other means capable of producing a full and complete record of all words spoken during the proceedings, rather than leaving recording practices to court discretion. It also creates an express right for any party to obtain a full and complete record of proceedings to which they are a party without needing a court order, and grants the Department of Human Services the same right to obtain a full and complete record in cases in which it has been permitted to participate, likewise without requiring a court order.	Senate Children & Families Committee
SB 563	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73562 (Mangham-55th)	"Juvenile Second Chance Record Confidentiality Act" - Revises juvenile record sealing laws to require automatic sealing of files and records upon dismissal of a delinquency or child in need of services petition or completion of an informal adjustment or nonadjudicatory process. It also requires the court to seal records upon completion of all court-ordered sentencing requirements or when the person reaches age 18, whichever is later, unless the adjudication was for a serious violent felony. The bill maintains a hearing and notice requirement for certain cases, provides for sealing in cases where a child adjudicated for a sexual crime was a victim of trafficking or sexual exploitation, and clarifies that once sealed, the proceeding is treated as if it never occurred, with limited exceptions for court-authorized inspection.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 565	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73554 (Robertson-29th)	Expands the definitions of law enforcement unit and peace officer to include members of police forces of nonprofit private colleges and universities that are exempt from federal income taxation. This change allows campus police	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee.

officers employed by qualifying nonprofit private colleges and universities to be treated as law enforcement units and peace officers for purposes of employment and training standards under Chapter 8 of Title 35.

The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.

SB 572	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73568 (Strickland-42nd)	Creates a rebuttable presumption that the use or threat of deadly force in defense of self or others is reasonable and necessary and justified. This presumption does not apply if: (1) the individual used or threatened force against a law enforcement officer acting in the performance of their official duties who identified themselves; (2) the individual knew or should have known that the person was a law enforcement officer; and (3) the force used or threatened occurred in a public location. Law enforcement will only arrest a person for using or threatening force if a probable cause determination has been made that the use or threat of force was unlawful. A prima-facie claim of immunity raised during arraignment or in a pre-trial motion will only be overcome by clear and convincing evidence.	Senate Judiciary Committee
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Child Welfare & Protection

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 57	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69355	(Cameron-1st)	Adds a step-grandparent and step-grandchild to the list of people in O.C.G.A. 16-6-22(a)(4) that are prohibited from having sexual intercourse or sodomy with one another.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee.
HB 256	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69869	(Wiedower-121st)	Revises the Foster Parents Bill of Rights to be the Foster Placements Bill of Rights, which applies to foster parents, relative caregivers, and fictive kin. The bill adds new rights for foster placements, including: (1) the right to a reasonable and prudent parent standard when determining the ability of a child in foster care to engage in certain extracurricular activities; (2) the right to request that a certified volunteer advocate be present at all meetings with the Department of Human Services (DHS) when the foster	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

placement is present; (3) the right to be free from retaliation or discrimination based on a complaint or grievance with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS); (4) and the right to seek and obtain independent legal advice/counsel regarding the foster placement's status. Certain references to the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia are changed to foster placement advocacy organizations. The bill changes the date by which DHS must develop a grievance procedure for dealing with grievances of foster parents from 2007 to 2026.

HB 421	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70265 (Taylor-173rd)	Includes traveling from another state for the purpose of child molestation or indecent acts to the crime of enticing a child for indecent purposes.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 490	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70414 (Bazemore-69th)	Requires hotels and third-party managed short-term rental properties' employees to complete a training course annually on identifying and reporting suspected human trafficking. Owners, operators, or managers who violate this Code section will be subject to a fine of \$500 for a first offense, \$1,000 for a second offense, and \$2,000 for a third or subsequent violation.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee, however the bill was withdrawn from the General Calendar and recommitted to the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee. . The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

HB 527 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70507 (Tran-80th)	<p>Revises O.C.G.A. §19-15-2 pertaining to child abuse protocol and the child abuse protocol committee. Protocol for investigating and prosecuting child alleged cases of child abuse must be set by each judicial circuit, rather than each county. The protocol committee will be chaired by the chief juvenile court judge of the circuit or, if no chief juvenile court judge exists, by any juvenile court judge within the circuit chosen by majority vote of all juvenile court judges. The bill adds several new individuals to the protocol committee, including the director of any child advocacy center in the circuit, the director of any sexual assault center in the circuit, a forensic medical examiner, a representative from any court-appointed special advocate program, and a representative from a local citizen or advocate group focusing on child abuse awareness and prevention. The chief superior court judge of the circuit will issue an order requiring participation of any agency failing its duty to participate on the protocol committee, enforceable by contempt of court. The protocol committee will adopt a written protocol to be filed with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which will give a copy of each protocol and report received to the Division of Family and Child Services and the Office of the Child Advocate. The bill specifies certain sections that the written protocol must contain. The protocol committee must meet at least once per year to evaluate and consider updating the protocol, filing any updated protocol with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council no later than July 1 each year. If no updates are made to the protocol, the committee's annual report must clearly state so. The protocol committee must submit a certificate of annual compliance to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by December 31 each year, with the Council then notifying the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court of any noncompliant circuits.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>
HB 626 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70803 (Lupton-83rd)	<p>Extends the amount of time that law enforcement agencies must keep evidence of alleged sexual assaults from one year to 30 years.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non- Civil</p>

			Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 689	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71024 (Carpenter-4th)	Establishes a state homeless prevention program (HPP) to be overseen by the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission. The bill adds the program to the list of qualified sponsors under the fund. An applicant seeking to operate a HPP must have the ability to provide short-term rental assistance to people of low income, legal services in eviction proceedings, mediation services through an eviction diversion program, and other standards provided by the commission.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Governmental Oversight Committee.
HB 943	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72141 (Silcox-53rd)	Requires the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to develop a five-year pilot program for providing screenings and clinical evaluations for autism spectrum disorder to children in foster care, prioritizing those who have been diagnosed with ADHD or reactive attachment disorder, or who have been prescribed psychotropic medication. The bill requires training and resources for DFCS providers and caregivers. The pilot program will begin in three regional service areas and expand to additional areas each year. DFCS will submit a written report on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program to the governor, speaker of the House, president of the Senate, and chairpersons of the House Committee on Public and Community Health, House Committee on Judiciary Juvenile, and Senate Health and Human Services Committee upon one year of operation of the pilot program, and annually thereafter until July 1, 2031.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.
HB 965	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72214 (Kahaian-81st)	Requires medical providers to provide copies of, and/or access to, an unemancipated minor's medical records upon written request by a parent or legal guardian, except where prohibited by applicable federal or state privacy laws, a court order removes that right, or the parental rights of the parent or legal guardian have been terminated.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 984	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72244 (Camp-135th)	Provides for a court order to locate the guardian of record of an alleged victim of child abuse, elder abuse, or abuse of a disabled adult when	House Judiciary Non- Civil

		such victim is moved from a known address to an unknown location and there is an inquiry of the welfare and safety of such person.	Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).	
HB 1002	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72295	(Camp-135th)	Moves foster care children on Medicaid from managed care organizations to fee-for-service.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1041	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72371	(Scott-76th)	Establishes expedited court procedures and remedies related to the willful denial of court-ordered visitation or parenting time. It requires the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, in coordination with superior courts, to ensure hearings on visitation-denial motions are scheduled within 30 days of filing and given priority on court calendars. The bill defines "visitation denial" and "just cause," including emergency medical needs or imminent risk of harm, and sets evidentiary standards for court findings. It creates a rebuttable presumption that substantial and meaningful contact with both parents is in a child's best interest, subject to rebuttal based on abuse, neglect, substance abuse, abandonment, or similar factors. The bill authorizes courts to order make-up parenting time and to treat visitation denial as a substantial change in circumstances for modifying custody or parenting time. It permits courts to impose sanctions, including attorney's fees, fines, contempt findings, and potential reassignment of residential custody in cases of repeated or egregious denial. The bill allows temporary suspension or reduction of child support when a custodial parent willfully and repeatedly denies visitation, with limits on duration and procedural safeguards, including notice, a hearing, and written findings.	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 1043	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72373	(Scott-76th)	Creates the Georgia Child and Youth Trafficking Care Coordination Office within the Department	House Judiciary

		of Human Services. The office shall: Operate a statewide hotline and reporting portal for child victims of labor or sexual trafficking, develop and implement a trauma-informed care coordination system, assign regional navigators, maintain a statewide data system, and develop training and protocols for hospitals, schools, DFCS, courts, and law enforcement. The office shall divide the state into regions to respond to referrals through multidisciplinary teams (MDT) composed of DFCS, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, hospitals, schools, and behavioral health service providers.	Juvenile Committee
HB 1141	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72700 (Camp-135th)	Requires medical records from a child's treatment while in temporary protective custody to be made available to the child's parent or legal guardian within five business days of intake. The parent or guardian must be notified of the records' availability using a method that provides proof of delivery. Failure to make the records available on time results in a \$500 per day fine for each day beyond the five-day deadline until the records are provided.	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 1142	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72701 (Hagan-156th)	Conditions eligibility for a Pretrial Intervention and Diversion Program in domestic violence cases on the offender's agreement that any future domestic violence conviction may result in placement on a state registry. The bill creates a Georgia Bureau of Investigation-maintained registry of recidivist domestic violence offenders, requires courts and clerks to transmit conviction information, and authorizes public posting of limited identifying information. It also establishes registration fees, timelines for removal from the registry based on prior convictions, and prospective application for offenses committed on or after January 1, 2027.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1154	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72719 (Clark-100th)	Adds human trafficking (labor or sexual servitude) to the list of death penalty charges.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1187	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72829 (Hong-103rd)	Voids any provision of an agreement that has the purpose or effect of concealing the details relating to a claim of childhood sexual abuse as contrary to public policy. A person may agree to keep confidential any other provision of a settlement agreement, including the amount or	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill rests in

		payment terms of a settlement. The change in law is applicable to agreements entered into before, on, or after the effective date. A person may not enforce an agreement that prevents disclosure unless the person obtains a declaratory judgment that is final and declares that the agreement is enforceable.	House Rules Committee.
HB 1192	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72841 (Taylor-173rd)	Requires additional reporting from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Community Health to the chairpersons of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, as well as the House Committee on Public and Community Health and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1207	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72883 (Reese-140th)	Creates a statewide registry of recidivist domestic violence offenders, to be maintained by the Georgia Crime Information Center and made publicly searchable through the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's website. The bill requires courts to order registration for individuals convicted of qualifying domestic violence offenses, establishes information-sharing duties for clerks of court, sets registration fees, and defines timeframes for removal from the registry based on the number of prior convictions. It also authorizes rulemaking, provides immunity for good-faith actions, and applies to convictions occurring on or after January 1, 2027.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1210	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72886 (Kahaian-81st)	Defines "sex" and "affirming" for purposes of child welfare and custody proceedings and provides that a parent or legal guardian's actions affirming a child's sex shall not be considered abuse, neglect, or grounds for loss of custody, dependency findings, or child protective investigations. It prohibits courts from requiring parents or guardians to consent to social, hormonal, chemical, or surgical interventions intended to alter a child's secondary sex characteristics. Provides that foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship caregivers, emergency placements, and contracted providers may not be denied placement or required to act contrary to their religious or sincerely held beliefs related to affirming a child's sex. Requires state child	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee

placement decisions to be based solely on a child's sex and limits state employees, contractors, and training programs from encouraging a child to adopt an identity different from the child's sex or from withholding related information from parents or legal guardians. The Department of Human Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice must annually certify that they have no policy or practice requiring caregivers or contracted providers to act in a manner contrary to their religious or sincerely held beliefs.

<p>HB 1238 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72959 (Dempsey-13th)</p>	<p>Directs the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize qualification for Medicaid reimbursement for caregivers of individuals under the age of 21 and at risk for out of home placement or residential treatment due to complex behavioral health conditions.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Human Relations & Aging Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>
<p>HB 1283 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73132 (Panitch-51st)</p>	<p>"Family Justice Center Act". - Allows for the creation of Family Justice Centers, multiagency centers that provide coordinated services to victims of family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, and associated crimes. A Family Justice Center can be organized and operated by a county or municipal government, a district attorney's office, or a nonprofit corporation designated to operate the center. The bill includes requirements for how these centers must be governed, depending on whether they are operated by a government entity or a nonprofit corporation. A peace officer employed by a law enforcement unit participating in a Family Justice Center may respond to an emergency call for assistance or provide a safety response anywhere within the center's service area, even if the response would be outside the officer's normal jurisdiction, limited to emergency circumstances. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council ('Council') may administer grants, enter into contracts, and distribute funds for the establishment and support of Family Justice Centers, prioritizing proposals with broad multidisciplinary collaboration, significant need,</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>

sustainability plans, service to underserved or rural communities, and measurable outcomes in victim safety and offender accountability. The Council must submit annual state-wide reports on Family Justice Center performance to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House of Representatives. No information shared by a victim within a Family Justice Center will be disclosed without informed, written consent, except as required by law or court order. Actions by Family Justice Center officials are government functions. Records maintained by Family Justice Centers are not public records and are subject to protection consistent with discovery and privacy laws.

<p>HB 1303 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73190 (Kelly-16th)</p>	<p>Creates the new offense of possession of a controlled substance in the presence of a child, committed when a person knowingly and unlawfully possesses a Schedule I controlled substance, Schedule II narcotic drug, or marijuana while one or more persons under the age of 14 years are present in the immediate area.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>
<p>HB 1312 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73200 (Santos-117th)</p>	<p>The Desai Safety Act creates a felony offense for receiving, possessing, transporting, or attempting to obtain a firearm or ammunition while subject to a protective order, punishable by one to five years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. Knowingly providing false information to law enforcement under these provisions is a misdemeanor. Individuals subject to a protective order must surrender all firearms and ammunition within 48 hours to a court, law enforcement, or a federally licensed dealer, or lawfully transfer them; failure to do so authorizes seizure. Individuals may petition for return of surrendered firearms upon showing they are no longer subject to the order and are otherwise eligible to possess them. The Act allows law enforcement to establish surrender protocols and does not create a private right of action.</p>	<p>House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee</p>
<p>HB 1343 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73285 (Barrett-24th)</p>	<p>"Georgia's Responsible Fathers Act" - Shifts part of Georgia's current legitimation process from an exclusively court-based model to a new administrative pathway by allowing a biological</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee. The bill will be</p>

father of a child born out of wedlock to seek legitimation through the Department of Human Services within six months of birth if genetic testing establishes paternity and specified eligibility criteria are met. It requires DHS to grant or deny petitions based on defined criminal history and protective order standards, prohibits administrative legitimation in cases involving non consensual conception, very young mothers, or an existing legal father, and mandates that approved legitimations be recorded with the clerk of superior court. The bill updates multiple statutory definitions of legal father to include fathers legitimated under this new section and, in some instances, those determined by final paternity order, and amends custody law to recognize this additional method of legitimation as altering the default rule that the mother has sole custody of a child born out of wedlock. It also requires hospitals and birthing centers to provide parents with a DHS-developed video and pamphlet on the legitimation process, allows a putative father to indicate on a birth certificate that he has submitted to genetic testing even if his name is not entered, and adds the new administrative legitimation pathway to the statutes governing intestate inheritance.

heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

HB 1409 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73462> (Camp-135th)

Revises several Code sections related to mandated reporting of child abuse. Firefighters and animal service workers, such as animal control officers and animal shelter personnel, are added to the list of mandated reports. The bill requires that oral reports be followed by a later written report submitted to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) of the Department of Human Services (DHS). DFCS will make a report form available on its website for any person to complete and securely submit. The bill allows agencies that employ mandated reporters to authorize employees to submit reports through a secure web-based platform and sets forth requirements for these platforms and for training for their use. All reports received must be thoroughly evaluated to determine child safety and whether an allegation of child abuse exists. No later than January 1, 2027, DHS will adopt

Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.

		rules that set forth criteria and standards for intake, disposition, and investigation of reports.	
HB 1411	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73464 (Glaze-67th)	Includes domestic violence prevention in the existing program for teen dating violence prevention for students in grade eight through grade 12.	House Education Committee
HB 1431	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73534 (Camp-135th)	Provides that, in a proceeding for divorce, there shall be a presumption of joint physical custody by the father and mother until such time as the matter comes before a judge for a temporary or permanent hearing, unless there exists a history of family violence or it is not practicable for the father and mother to exercise joint physical custody.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1456	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73636 (Lim-98th)	Creates a new Code section in Title 16 allowing individuals who have been subjected to, threatened with, or placed in fear of specified sexual offenses to seek civil protective orders, regardless of their relationship to the respondent. The bill defines sexual assault by listing qualifying criminal offenses, including rape, aggravated sodomy, child molestation, sexual battery, trafficking for sexual servitude, and certain child exploitation offenses. It authorizes courts to issue temporary ex parte orders upon a verified petition showing probable cause that sexual assault has occurred and may occur again, and allows courts to grant protective orders or approve consent agreements directing the respondent to cease the conduct and refrain from harassment. Violations of such orders constitute contempt and may be prosecuted as misdemeanors, and certain procedural provisions from the family violence statute apply to petitions filed under this new section.	House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee
HB 1458	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73643 (Smith18th)	Expands the offense of improper sexual contact by employee or agent to expressly include clergy members and to add new definitions related to clergy, including clergy member and pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship. The bill makes it a crime for a clergy member to engage in sexually explicit conduct or sexual contact with a person who is the subject of the clergy member's pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship, and incorporates clergy into the existing first- and second-degree	House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee

offenses. It also clarifies and expands application of the statute to foster parents and persons in a position of trust and revises penalty provisions to include clergy members within the same sentencing structure as employees and agents, including enhanced penalties for offenses involving minors and repeat sexual felony offenders.

<p>HB 1479 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73760 (Sanchez-42nd)</p>	<p>"Hayle's Law" - Extends the statute of limitations for certain civil claims involving alleged sexual misconduct by clergy members and defines key terms such as clergy member, entity, and pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship. It allows a person age 18 or older to bring a civil action for sexual assault, sexual battery, or improper sexual conduct within 15 years of the alleged act or within five years of when the plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known of the misconduct and resulting injury, supported by competent medical or psychological evidence. The bill requires courts to determine within six months of filing when discovery occurred for claims relying on the five-year provision. It permits liability for an entity when the clergy member was its employee or volunteer and the entity owed a duty of care or exercised control, including claims for negligent hiring, supervision, retention, failure to warn, or concealment. It also creates a two-year revival window beginning July 1, 2026, for claims previously barred solely by the statute of limitations.</p>	<p>House Hopper</p>
<p>HR 816 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71802 (Hilton-48th)</p>	<p>Creates the House Study Committee on an At-Risk Populations Abuse Registry, which will review the substantiated abuse registries of other states, the feasibility and logistics of implementing such a registry in Georgia, and solicit input from relevant stakeholders. The committee will consist of eight members including five members of the House of Representatives and three non-legislative members to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.</p>	<p>House Human Relations & Aging Committee</p>
<p>HR 1023 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72264 (Jones-25th)</p>	<p>Constitutional Amendment providing that every parent has a fundamental right to direct the</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee</p>

upbringing, education, care, and control of their children.

SB 27	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69508 (Albers-56th)	<p>“Georgia Anti-Doxing Act” - Provides definitions for "close relation," "mental anguish," "personally identifiable information," "post," "significant economic injury," "social media platform," and "stalking." The bill creates the crime of doxing, which is committed by a person they, with reckless disregard, post personally identifiable information of another knowing that a third party could read the post and then cause actual fear of stalking, serious injury, or death or suffer a significant economic injury or mental anguish due to the post. The crime of aggravated doxing is also created, which has the same elements as doxing, although it requires that the act intentionally cause harm to the individual. Doxing is a misdemeanor on a first offense, although a second or subsequent offense is a felony offense with punishment of between one and two years, a fine of \$5,000, or both. Aggravated doxing is a felony offense with punishment of between two and five years, a fine of \$5,000, or both, although a second or subsequent offense is punished by imprisonment of between five and 10 years, a fine of \$10,000, or both. A person who commits the crime of aggravated doxing, when the offense results in serious bodily injury or death, will be punished as a party to the crime. The bill also includes a venue provision that determines where a defendant will be tried.</p>	<p>PASSED SENATE. Assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee</p>
SB 383	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72159 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	<p>Revises the scope and purpose of local child fatality review to focus on identifying opportunities for intervention and recommending measures to prevent future deaths in similar incidents. A local school system representative is added to the list of members required to serve on these local review committees, and the list is revised to allow either a county mental health representative or local hospital representative to serve. References include sudden infant death syndrome are revised to include sudden infant death syndrome, sudden unexplained infant death, and sleep related infant death. The chairperson will convene the review committee every 30 days to review reports and investigate the circumstances of all child deaths meeting the</p>	<p>PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.</p>

review criteria. Several time frames for reporting information and findings are extended. Each review committee will submit a copy of its annual report to the Georgia Fatality Review Panel no later than July 15 each year.

SB 402	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72251 (Tillery-19th)	Creates a five-year pilot program to provide autism spectrum disorder screenings and clinical evaluations for children in foster care, along with related training, services, and resources. The program shall be administered by the Division of Family and Children Services within the Department of Human Services. In the first year, the pilot program shall be established in three regional service areas and shall expand to additional regional service areas in each subsequent year of the pilot program. The program shall prioritize screenings, clinical evaluations, and services for children in foster care who have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or reactive attachment disorder, or who have been prescribed psychotropic medications.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Juvenile Committee.
SB 404	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72255 (Setzler-37th)	Provides for joint legal and physical custody as the default child custody arrangement and for the presumption that joint legal and physical custody is in the best interests of the child.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 418	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72324 (Burns-23rd)	Provides a cause of legal action against the knowing and unauthorized use of an individual's photograph or image (irrespective of such person's age) together with representations of nudity or sexually explicit conduct.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 431	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72486 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Requires a receiving school to enroll a foster care student within two school days of an enrollment request by the student's parent or legal custodian, regardless of whether required records have been received. Enrollment may be permanent or provisional and does not waive existing requirements placed on the parent or legal custodian. The school may not assign a foster care student to remote learning solely because the student's records have not yet been provided.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.
SB 434	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72532 (Jackson-41st)	Establishes the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, contingent on	Senate Children &

legislative appropriations. The office is charged with coordinating statewide efforts to prevent and address youth homelessness for individuals up to age 25, including collaboration across state agencies, local governments, and community partners. Its responsibilities include collecting and analyzing statewide data, developing outcome measures, identifying policy and service gaps, and creating programs to reduce youth homelessness and increase family stability and permanent placement. The bill requires the office to publish an annual report detailing data trends, progress toward goals, identified gaps, and recommended legislative and budget actions. An advisory committee composed of legislators, agency representatives, service providers, parents or caregivers, and youth with lived experience must be appointed to advise the office.

SB 468 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72902> (Cowsert-46th)

Expands and tightens Georgia's sexual offender registration, monitoring, and classification requirements. It revises the statutory definition of homelessness and reduces the timeframe for homeless sexual offenders to register and report changes in sleeping location from 72 hours to 36 hours, requires them to provide detailed descriptions of where they sleep, and obligates them to comply with certain information requests from homeless service providers. The bill authorizes the Department of Community Supervision to impose electronic monitoring on homeless sexual offenders under specified circumstances, including prior failures to report accurately or concerns about compliance with geographic restrictions, and requires periodic review of the need for continued monitoring. The bill also mandates enhanced risk classification standards for offenders convicted on or after July 1, 2026, requiring placement at least in Level II for certain offenses involving minors and classification as sexually dangerous predators for specified serious crimes, including rape, aggravated child molestation, trafficking for sexual servitude, and related offenses. In addition, it requires sexual offenders to provide at least 21 days' advance notice of intended international travel and to report plans to reside, work, or attend school outside the United States,

Families Committee
Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote THIS TUESDAY.

with those details entered into state and national registries. The bill amends stable housing accountability program requirements by mandating that applicants disclose sexual offender status and risk classification, requiring programs to inform applicants if the housing location would violate proximity restrictions, and requiring programs to report accepted sexual offender applicants to the county sheriff.

SB 529 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73379> (Merritt-9th)

"Justice For Epstein Survivors Act" - Changes Georgia's negligent security law by creating exceptions to the rule that this statute is the exclusive remedy for injuries caused by inadequate security on someone else's property. (Under current law, if a person is harmed because a property owner failed to provide reasonable security, they are generally limited to suing under that specific negligent security framework and cannot pursue other related legal claims.) The bill provides that this limitation does not apply when the wrongful conduct involves a sexual offense, such as rape or child molestation, or when the injured person was under 18 or 65 or older at the time of the injury. In those cases, victims would not be restricted to the negligent security statute and could bring other available legal claims against the property owner.

Senate
Judiciary
Committee

SB 542 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73480> (Robertson-29th)

Amends Code Section 16-6-5.1 to expressly include clergy members within the offenses of improper sexual contact in the first and second degree and adds definitions for clergy member and pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship. It makes it a crime for a clergy member to engage in sexually explicit conduct or sexual contact with a person who is contemporaneously the subject of the clergy member's pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship, or in other covered custodial, supervisory, or treatment settings. The bill also codifies offenses for foster parents and persons in a position of trust in both first and second degree categories, clarifies that consent is not a defense, and establishes felony and misdemeanor penalties, including enhanced sentences for offenses involving minors and life imprisonment for repeat sexual felony offenders.

Recommended
DO PASS by
the Senate
Judiciary
Committee.
The bill moves
on to Senate
Rules
Committee.

SB 547	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73482 (Strickland-42nd)	Modifies the penalties for the offenses of pimping and pandering to provide that all such offenses shall be punishable as felony offenses. (Currently the first offense is punishable as a misdemeanor.)	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 564	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73562 (Mangham-55th)	Extends the maintenance of physical evidence collected from an alleged sexual assault from 12 months to 2 years.	Senate Public Safety Committee
SB 570	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73569 (Still-48th)	Requires all on-site employees of an inn and every operator of a short-term rental property in the state to receive annual human trafficking awareness training within 60 days of employment and on an annual basis thereafter. Trainings shall be developed by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in consultation with the Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association. Training shall include definition of human trafficking and commercial exploitation of children, guidance on how to identify individuals at risk for human trafficking, guidance on how to identify the signs of human trafficking, differences between labor and sex trafficking, guidance on reporting and responding to the issue, and contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the Statewide Georgia Hotline for Domestic Minor Trafficking, or a local law enforcement agency. Every owner, operator, or manager shall implement procedures and policies for reporting suspected human trafficking, and shall maintain records of employee training. The department may impose penalties of \$500 for a first violation, \$1000 for a second violation, and \$2000 for third or subsequent violations.	Senate Public Safety Committee
SB 587	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73645 (Still-48th)	Creates under the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of the State of Georgia's website, a state-wide, publicly searchable animal cruelty database. The database shall contain at minimum the full names of each individual who has been convicted of or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any violation of animal cruelty, be accessible at no cost, and be updated monthly.	Senate Public Safety Committee
SB 592	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73653 (Gooch-51st)	"One Strike Act" - Increases penalties for aggravated assault, aggravated battery, kidnapping, and certain sexual offenses, expanding sentencing ranges in many cases up to life without parole and raising mandatory	Senate Judiciary Committee

minimums. It requires life without parole or life imprisonment for offenders 18 or older convicted of rape, sexual battery, or aggravated sexual battery against a child under 12. The bill expands the definition of serious violent felony, eliminates early termination of probation and certain probation alternatives for such offenders, and removes parole eligibility for specified violent, drug, and gang-related offenses committed while serving a sentence.

SR 622	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72472 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Establishes the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating Escalating Costs in Georgia's Foster Care System. The committee will consist of 20 members, including a member appointed by the governor who has represented the state in dependency proceedings within the last six months, six members of the Senate, six members of the House of Representatives, and officials from the Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, and other related organizations. The committee will study conditions, needs, issues, and problems relating to the rising cost of out-of-home services provided by the Division of Family and Children Services and recommend any necessary or appropriate action. The committee will submit a report of its findings or recommendations if any are adopted. If no recommendations are adopted, the committee may instead file copies of meeting minutes with the Senate and House of Representatives. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2026.	PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
SR 771	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73211 (Robertson-29th)	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Adoption and Permanency Affordability.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Children & Families Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.



Health & Behavioral Health

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 54	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69352	(Clark-100th)	<p>Authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse or a licensed physician assistant to order home health care under the supervision of a licensed physician. Adds content of SB 30 and SB 39. SB 30 content limits the prescription and administration of puberty-blocking medications or therapies for the purpose of altering the appearance of or affirming a minor's perception of their sex if it is inconsistent with their biological sex. Such medication may be used if a minor has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria by two behavioral health professionals including one psychiatrist or psychologist; authorized parents or legal guardians have given written informed consent; and the minor undergoes quarterly psychological counseling throughout treatment. The licensed prescribing physician must be board certified in pediatrics and either pediatric endocrinology or adolescent medicine. The physician must assess the patient's medical history, mental health, and any underlying conditions as well as submit treatment progress reports to the Georgia Composite Medical Board annually. Minors being treated with puberty-blocking medication before July 1, 2025 may continue treatment without such requirements. A legal guardian or parent with the authority to consent to such treatment may bring civil action against an institution that provided treatment if it is within two years and violates the aforementioned provisions. The bill also provides definitions for "hormone therapy," "puberty-blocking medication," "sex," and "sex reassignment surgery." SB 39 content excludes expenses for any transition-related intervention for individuals on the state health plan, by a physician or other healthcare provider employed by the state, in a state owned or operated facility, or in a correctional facility. The bill provides for certain exceptions, and does not prohibit an individual from obtaining a secondary policy for such treatment or restrict any non state health benefits provider from offering such care.</p>	<p>PASSED HOUSE. PASSED SENATE. Awaits consideration by the House to the changes the Senate made to the bill.</p>
HB 298	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69972	(Kelley-16th)	<p>Requires hospitals to develop and implement a written nurse staffing plan to ensure adequate</p>	<p>House Health Committee.</p>

		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.	The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 326	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70040 (Au-50th)	Requires the state health benefit plan to cover qualifying nonopioid pain management drugs and that such drugs be subject to the same annual deductible, coinsurance, copayment, exclusions, reductions, or other limitations to coverage and utilization review as covered opioid pain management drugs. The bill prohibits the use of any step therapy requirement or the use of prior authorization, unless those methods are used for similar opioid pain management drugs.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 334	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70064 (Crawford-89th)	Sickle Cell Disease Protection Act - Requires the Department of Community Health to conduct an annual review of sickle cell disease medications, treatments, and services eligible for Medicaid coverage. Public input will be solicited and considered during these annual reviews, particularly from those with lived experience. Findings and recommendations will be submitted by January 15 annually to the presiding officers of each General Assembly chamber and the report will be made public.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 382	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70182 (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).	House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 522	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70502 (Gullet-19th)	Prohibits health care providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to their vaccine status regarding COVID-19.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves

			on to House Rules Committee.
HB 629	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70806 (Hawkins-27th)	Codifies the usage of bleeding control kits in K-12 schools. The kit can be obtained through the Georgia Trauma Commission Bleeding Control Kit Program, and members of the internal response team are expected to utilize training programs established by the American College of Surgeons.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 657	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70936 (Hagan-156th)	Requires that peer specialists working with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities be certified by the department. Recovery community organizations for substance use are required to focus on supporting recovery, be a nonprofit organization or established under one, have an operating or advisory board with a majority of members in recovery, provide non clinical peer support services, and employ certified peer specialists. Recovery organizations must also support all recovery pathways, be accountable to the recovery community, and cooperate with the department. The department will designate a state-wide recovery community organization to coordinate the state's network, subject to appropriations, to which recovery organizations will be accountable.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee
HB 659	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70938 (Greene-154th)	Expands medical education funding and the service cancelable loan program to include optometrists.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee
HB 662	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70947 (O'Steen-169th)	Amends the definition of "rural hospital organization" to include "rural freestanding emergency department." The organization must also have its primary campus in a rural county and be licensed to provide maternal/newborn services or have at least five percent of its annual net revenue categorized as indigent care, charity care, or bad debt.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

HB 717	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71103 (Cooper-45th)	Requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish rules and regulations for the administration of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in clinics that provide such services no later than December 31, 2026. All licensed clinics will be subject to such rules and regulations on and after July 1, 2027, and the board will review their license biennially. Such treatment at a clinic can only be administered by a licensed physician with advanced airway management training, a licensed certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) under a licensed physician, and a licensed anesthesiologist assistant under a licensed anesthesiologist. Any person administering treatment without a license is engaged in the unlawful practice of medicine. A clinic is required to be wholly or majority, with a CRNA, owned by licensed physicians who maintain advanced airway management training. This requirement will not apply to clinics that are not wholly or jointly owned by a physician and CRNA by the effective date. These provisions do not apply to use of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in clinical trials approved by the Food and Drug Administration.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 878	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71845 (Scoggins-14h)	Designates October 9 of each year as "PANDAS Day" in Georgia. (PANDAS stands for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections.)	House Health Committee
HB 897	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71970 (Au-50th)	Allows pharmacies to dispense a one-time, 30-day emergency supply of insulin to eligible individuals who provide proper identification, a valid insulin prescription, and a completed, signed application form. States that the maximum out-of-pocket cost for the 30-day supply is \$35. Pharmacies must notify the prescribing healthcare provider within 72 hours of dispensing the insulin. Eligible individuals include those who have applied for medical assistance, Georgia Medicaid, or PeachCare for Kids but have not yet been determined eligible or have not yet received coverage. The Department of Community Health must provide information on applying for medical assistance, details about the program, and guidance on accessing healthcare providers participating in drug discount programs. The bill	House Public & Community Health Committee

		establishes administrative penalties ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000 for insulin manufacturers that fail to comply with procedures for making insulin available to eligible pharmacies. Fraudulent activity which may include false statements, failure to disclose information or impersonation, or obtains or attempts to obtain any assistance benefit may be guilty of a misdemeanor unless if the value of assistance exceeds \$1,500 and will therefore be guilty of a felony.	
HB 898	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71971 (Au-50th)	Mandates that each drug manufacturer to make a patient assistance program that is made available to eligible individuals, provides a 90 day supply of insulin at no charge to an eligible individual or pharmacy and can be recorded for up to one year and is renewable annually if an individual still meets eligibility.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 931	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72080 (Lupton-83rd)	Establishes the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to control the high costs of prescription drugs.	House Health Committee
HB 950	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72175 (Kahaian-81st)	Requires schools and facilities to provide parents and guardians with information regarding each required immunization required by the Department of Public Health. Information regarding exemptions shall be provided in the same manner and format as the information regarding immunization requirements. Instructions on exemption shall also be included in the same manner and format.	House Education Committee
HB 951	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72176 (Clark-100th)	Requires insurance companies to cover medically necessary orthotic and prosthetic devices, along with their materials and components.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 958	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72185 (Au-50th)	Requires manufacturers of consumable vapor products to disclose all ingredients and any chemicals of concern and list each ingredient of such vapor products in descending order of predominance by weight in such products. Also requires a statement regarding the nature and	House Ways & Means Committee

extent of research concerning the effects on human health of such ingredients. Also a statement regarding any evaluation of the availability of possible alternatives and hazards posed by such chemicals. Manufacturers are to publish this information on their website in a manner that is readily accessible to the public and machine readable. Updates should be made when changes are made to the product or as required by law.

HB 959	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72186 (Au-50th)	Prohibits the sale of any flavored consumable vaping product.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 961	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72210 (Powell-33rd)	“Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” - Regulates how healthcare plans reimburse ambulance providers for emergency transport services and limits what amount patients can be charged. The bill requires health plans to treat emergency ambulance transport as a covered service when requested by a first responder or healthcare provider. For out-of-network ambulance providers, insurers must reimburse at the locally established government rate, and if no such rate exists, at 300 percent of the Medicare rate.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Insurance Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 968	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72217 (Townsend-179th)	Provides that mitragynine and hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) are Schedule I controlled substances and repeals provisions relating to the regulation of kratom.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 981	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72241 (Powell-33rd)	Expands prescriptive authority for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to include stimulants and increases prescription duration from five to 30 days. Removes age restrictions preventing these providers from prescribing controlled substances to minors. Thanks to the team at Gold Dome Partners for this summary!	House Public & Community Health Committee

HB 995	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72262 (Barnes-86th)	This bill establishes the Vape-Free Schools Grant Program and requires the State Board of Education, by December 31, 2026, to create a grant program to help public high schools purchase, install, and maintain vaping detectors. In developing the program, the State Board must coordinate with the Dept. of Public Health, the Dept. of Administrative Services, and other experts to approve vaping detectors and develop guidance on rehabilitative services for students. Before the 2027–2028 school year, local school systems must install vaping detectors and adopt a vaping awareness and prevention policy in their student codes of conduct, including prohibitions on vaping, graduated disciplinary responses, anonymous reporting, and investigation and response procedures. Detectors must provide real-time alerts in bathrooms, locker rooms, and other areas where students may attempt to vape.	House Education Committee
HB 1006	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72301 (Hugley-141st)	Requires that bars and restaurants acquire and maintain a supply of at least three doses of an opioid antagonist in a secure location on the premises. Such supply shall be maintained within at least one first aid kit and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Bar and restaurant employers shall establish and implement an internal training and implementation policy for such opioid antagonists. A bar or restaurant employer shall ensure that at least one person on shift has received such trainings when the establishment is open to the public.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1040	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72370 (Au-50th)	Updates the 'Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005' by extending the smoking ban to be within 25 feet of government buildings and certain public places. Exceptions for long-term care facilities, private occupied rooms in healthcare facilities, convention assembly rooms, and common areas of private places of employment are removed.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1056	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72481 (Townsend-179th)	Allows students to carry and self-administer prescription epinephrine with a written statement from a licensed practitioner and the parent or guardian of the student. Students authorized to	House Education Committee

		self administer can do so while in school, at school sponsored activity, while under supervision of school employee, or while in before or after school care on school property. Students may be subject to disciplinary action if epinephrine in a manner other than as prescribed. The bill also replaces "auto-injectable epinephrine" with "epinephrine" in all relating parts of code.	
HB 1089	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72595 (Mathiak-82nd)	Permits the medication ivermectin to be sold or purchased as an over-the-counter medication in Georgia. (Ivermectin is an FDA-approved, broad-spectrum antiparasitic medication used in humans to treat specific infections caused by parasitic worms, head lice, and certain skin conditions like rosacea. It is also widely used in veterinary medicine to prevent and treat parasites in a variety of animals.)	House Health Committee
HB 1096	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72612 (Taylor-173rd)	Allows eligible county board of health employees to retain accrued annual and sick leave when they become employed by the Georgia Department of Public Health.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.
HB 1097	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72613 (Petrea-166th)	Allows the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to conduct national background checks for authorized facilities serving those with developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders. National background checks may be used for facility owners, employees, contractors, and license applicants. The bill allows all state agencies to request national background checks from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) in accordance with the federal 'National Child Protection Act of 1993.'	PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
HB 1100	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72616 (Bell-75th)	Authorizes counties and certain municipalities in Georgia to levy a new temporary 1 percent special purpose local option sales and use tax dedicated exclusively to defined "healthcare enhancement purposes," subject to voter approval by referendum. The bill specifies allowable uses of the tax proceeds, including recruiting and retaining healthcare providers,	House Ways & Means Committee

expanding or improving healthcare facilities, equipment, technology, and services, and supporting the direct examination and treatment of physical or mental health conditions. The tax may be imposed for a limited period not to exceed five years, applies broadly to taxable sales (including food and alcoholic beverages, with special rules for motor fuels), and is administered and collected by the state Department of Revenue. Proceeds must be kept in a separate account, may not supplant existing healthcare funding, and must be fully documented and reported through annual local audits. If the state determines that funds are not being used for authorized healthcare purposes, it may withhold distributions, require corrective action, and ultimately suspend collection of the tax if noncompliance is not remedied.

<p>HB 1104 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72620 (Townsend-179th)</p>	<p>Provides that a physician shall not perform a breast, pelvic, prostate, or rectal examination on an unconscious patient or a patient undergoing any anesthesia unless the patient or a person authorized to give consent for the patient gives informed consent prior to such examination, the performance of such examination is within the scope of care ordered for the patient, such examination is medically necessary for diagnosis or treatment purposes, or it has been ordered by a court. Informed consent to a breast, pelvic, prostate, or rectal examination must be deemed to be valid consent for the physician or any medical personnel to perform the examination.</p>	<p>House Health Committee</p>
<p>HB 1110 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72629 (Hilton-48th)</p>	<p>Creates a new state income tax credit for small employers with fewer than 50 employees that offer an individual coverage health reimbursement arrangement (ICHRA) to their workers. To qualify, employers must contribute at least \$200 per month per covered Georgia-resident employee and must not reduce health benefit contributions compared to the prior year. The credit is capped per employee and phases down over time, allowing up to \$600 per employee in the first three years, \$400 in the fourth year, and \$200 in the fifth year, with a maximum of five years per employer. The total amount of credits statewide is capped at \$10 million per year and requires advance pre</p>	<p>House Ways & Means Committee</p>

		approval from the Department of Revenue. The credit is nonrefundable, cannot be carried forward or backward, sunsets on December 31, 2030, and applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.	
HB 1136	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72690 (Glaize-67th)	Prohibits smoking within a 25 foot radius of any playground or sandbox area and a 250 foot radius of any youth sports event. Also prohibits disposal of cigarette butts, cigar butts, or any other tobacco related waste within a 25 foot radius of any playground or sandbox area	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1143	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72702 (Schofield-63rd)	"Menstrual Product Transparency and Safety Act of 2026" - Restricts harmful chemicals in menstrual products, requires the Department of Public Health to set and periodically update allowable thresholds, and mandates ingredient disclosure and annual third-party testing by manufacturers. Beginning in 2026–2027, manufacturers must publicly post testing results, products must list all ingredients on packaging, the department must conduct a public education campaign, and violations are subject to civil penalties equal to 1% of in-state sales.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1144	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72704 (Schofield-63rd)	"Georgia Hygiene Essentials Tax-Free Period Act" - Requires the state revenue commissioner, beginning December 1, 2026, to designate and publish one tax-free weekend per quarter each year for qualifying hygiene essentials. Retailers may participate without registration if they comply with Department of Revenue accounting requirements, and the commissioner is authorized to issue regulations and guidance to administer the program. Beginning July 1, 2028, the commissioner must submit annual reports to legislative committees detailing sales, transaction volume, fiscal impacts, and the effectiveness of public awareness efforts.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1151	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72712 (Park-107th)	Authorizes the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request for a state plan amendment for the expansion of Medicaid.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1152	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72713 (Park-107th)	"Healthcare Coverage Affordability Act " — Provides an income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by single taxpayers earning \$60,000 or less and married taxpayers	House Ways & Means Committee

		earning \$120,000 or less filing jointly. The deduction equals 100% of qualifying health insurance premiums paid during the taxable year for employer-sponsored coverage, individual marketplace plans purchased through a state or federal exchange, or COBRA continuation coverage. The deduction does not apply to deductibles, copayments, or other cost-sharing expenses.	
HB 1214	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72898 (O'Steen-169th)	Allows the governing authority of a municipality or special district to impose a 1% sales tax on gas, food, and alcohol for a period of up to five calendar years to support health care enhancements at local hospitals, subject to voter approval.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1236	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72957 (Kelley-16th)	Requires a Georgia-licensed clinical peer to make final decisions on disputed medical necessity reviews.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1242	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72971 (Byrd-20th)	Prohibits any state or local government entity, or its officials, from requiring an individual to receive a vaccine or provide proof of post-infection recovery as a condition imposed by law, rule, or order. It limits governmental authority to mandate vaccination or immunity documentation.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1262	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73055 (Lumsden-12th)	Enhances the authority of the insurance commissioner to impose fines against insurance companies for violations related to mental health parity enforcement, general fining authority, surprise billing violations, and prepaid legal service plans.	PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
HB 1275	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73116	Allows for use of non-FDA approved stem cell therapies under specified conditions.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House

			Rules Committee.
HB 1276	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73117 (Newton-127th)	Requires reporting timelines and data sharing as it relates to Georgia's Medicaid programs. The bill requires the Department of Community Health to submit a report regarding implementation of this article to the governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, chairpersons of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and chairpersons of the House Committee on Public and Community Health and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1295	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73172 (Cooper-45th)	Creates the 'Physician Assistant Licensure Compact' allowing PAs to practice across state lines per criteria of the compact.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1299	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73176 (Jasperse-11th)	Adds a new power allowing a hospital authority to own at least 51 percent of a freestanding outpatient facility located in the same rural county as a hospital it owns or operates, with up to 49 percent owned by a single group of physicians practicing the same specialty. It defines rural county and rural joint venture outpatient healthcare facility in statute and clarifies that such facilities provide fewer than 24 continuous hours of services and are not hospitals or long-term care facilities. The bill retains the prohibition on hospital authorities operating projects for profit but adds language expressly authorizing rural hospitals or hospital authorities to establish these joint venture outpatient facilities notwithstanding existing limitations. Other provisions regarding revenue use and restrictions on certain large joint hospital authorities remain in place.	House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1329	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73260 (Stephens-164th)	Adds additional substances to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. O.C.G.A. §16-13-71, the list of dangerous drugs which may be dispensed only upon prescription, is amended to add numerous new drugs. Certain qualifiers are	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human

		removed for the following three dangerous drugs: Services antihemophilic factor (recombinant), chikungunya vaccine, and COVID-19 vaccine. The bill revises standards for the epinephrine exception to allow pharmacists to distribute devices that deliver a spray of two mg of epinephrine or less for emergency treatment of allergic reactions. Committee.	
HB 1368	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73348 (Cooper-45th)	Updates provisions relating to community service boards (CSB). CSB executive directors can serve on governing boards, must be appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and will become an employees of the department. Those serving as executive directors as of June 30, 2026 can continue as CSB employees if they choose to do so by August 1, 2026. CSB governing boards must incorporate minimum bylaws as established by the department.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1374	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73363 (Hawkins-27th)	Addresses the ability for a healthcare provider to choose the method in which they receive payment from an insurance company.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1446	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73608 (Leverett-123rd)	Creates the Georgia Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Council and transfers the responsibility for the oversight of emergency medical services from the Department of Public Health. The Georgia Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Council shall succeed all related matters to emergency related services and procedures across the state of Georgia with policies in place no later than December 31st, 2027.	House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1480	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73762 (Sanchez-42nd)	"Georgia Medicare for All Act" - Requires the establishment of the Georgia Medicare for All Program by July 1, 2029, to provide comprehensive, universal single-payer healthcare coverage for all Georgia residents. The Act creates a Georgia Medicare for All Board to evaluate funding and implement a healthcare cost control system. Covered services would include those currently provided under Medicare and	House Hopper

		existing state programs, community-based care for individuals with disabilities, dental and vision services, gender-affirming care, and services incorporated under the Reproductive Freedom Act.	
HR 592	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71354 (Newton-127th)	Creates the House Study Committee on Non Compete Clauses in Physician Contracts. The committee will be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the House, who will also designate a chairperson. This committee will be abolished December 1, 2026.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HR 948	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72055 (Stephens-164th)	Establishes the House Study Committee on Pharmacy Benefits Managers and Consumer Access to Prescription Medications. This committee will have five members and be abolished on December 1, 2026.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HR 1007	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72149 (Jones-25th)	Acknowledges the effectiveness of the arts for health initiatives in improving mental health outcomes.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Special Rules Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HR 1203	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72772 (Scott-76th)	Constitutional Amendment - Seeks to create a permanent fund to provide free vaccines for children 18 and under and adults 60 and over. The change would be subject to approval by voters through a statewide ballot referendum.	House Judiciary Committee
HR 1393	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73372 (Myles-126th)	Creates the House Study Committee on Rural Hospitals.	House Special Rules Committee
SB 162	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70301 (Hufstetler-52nd)	Requires the Georgia Composite Medical Board to implement an automated licensing data management software system for physicians, physician assistants, and anesthesiologist	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits

		assistants. The system will allow a single verification process for state-wide authorization, and be accessible to other state medical boards, providers, and facilities. The system will be created no later than and fully operational by January 1, 2027	transmission to the governor for his consideration.
SB 195	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70441 (Hufstetler-52nd)	Authorizes a pharmacist to dispense and administer pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits consideration by the Senate of changes the House made to the bill.
SB 220	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70559 (Brass-6th)	Revises the permitting structure of medical cannabis authorized by the Department of Public Health. It expands the forms of authorized medical cannabis to include vaporization, oils, and raw plant materials for qualified patients. It also removes the five percent cap on THC products used in medical cannabis and sets a 1,200 milligram per-package limit. Lupus, arthritis, insomnia, and cancers of all forms excluding non-metastatic skin cancer, are added to the list of qualifying conditions. It also revises terms to specifically include inflammatory bowel disease and human immunodeficiency virus to align with definitions from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC). It also allows for electronic cards to be issued to patients and expands the expiration of all cards to five years.	PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
SB 366	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71823 (Moore-53rd)	Permits the medication ivermectin to be sold or purchased as an over-the-counter medication in Georgia. (Ivermectin is an FDA-approved, broad-spectrum antiparasitic medication used in humans to treat specific infections caused by parasitic worms, head lice, and certain skin conditions like rosacea. It is also widely used in veterinary medicine to prevent and treat parasites in a variety of animals.)	Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
SB 367	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71840 (Cowsert-46th)	Provides an exemption from Certificate of Need for health care facilities, services, and equipment dedicated exclusively to the treatment of cancer.	Senate Regulated Industries &

			Utilities Committee
SB 371	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71979 (Strickland-42nd)	Establishes a grant program for Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPS), including Certified Peer Specialist–Mental Health (CPS-MH), Certified Peer Specialist–Addictive Disease (CPS-AD), and Certified Peer Specialist–Youth (CPS-Y). The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will set the criteria for these grants. Funding for the program will depend on appropriations and the amount awarded to each recipient will be determined individually by DBHDD for hospitals or local addiction recovery centers. DBHDD will distribute the funds to grantees with adequate geographic diversity. The department is required to partner with an independent consultant to establish program policies and evaluate grant applications. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of peer support programs in reducing criminal justice interactions, the cost-effectiveness of such programs, differences in program implementation, the impact on the behavioral health system, and the perceptions of peer support programs and their effectiveness by individuals, behavioral health care providers, and program staff.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 379	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72150 (McLaurin-14th)	Requires the state to develop a health insurance affordability program to reduce the cost of coverage for Georgians purchasing plans through the state-based marketplace, Georgia Access. It directs the Department of Insurance to design the program to include state premium subsidies for individuals earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level, additional cost-sharing reductions for those below 250% of the federal poverty level, and a state-funded, no-premium plan for individuals below 200% of the federal poverty level. The bill requires the department to convene a stakeholder working group to help design the program and to submit a plan and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. It also requires a fiscal impact analysis and identification of sustainable funding sources, followed by rulemaking for program implementation. The bill mandates annual reporting beginning in 2028 on participation,	Senate Health & Human Services Committee

		enrollment impacts, and outcomes, as well as consumer education and outreach efforts. A comprehensive evaluation of the program is required in 2030, with a report due in 2031. The affordability program would take effect only if enhanced federal premium tax credits are not reestablished after December 31, 2025.	
SB 380	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72154 (Lucas-26th)	Authorizes the Department of Community Health to seek and use appropriations to obtain federal matching funds for Medicaid medical assistance payments and to fund the state's share of costs associated with expanding the Medicaid program under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It conditions this authorization on the availability of federal financial participation. The bill specifies that the appropriations authorization does not apply if the federal government provides less than 90% of the funding for the Medicaid expansion.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SB 395	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72198 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Authorizes the Department of Public Health to disclose information regarding the Low THC Oil Patient Registry for investigative, compliance, or disciplinary purposes.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public & Community Health Committee.
SB 427	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72469 (Watson-1st)	Creates a new limited provisional license allowing certain internationally trained physicians to practice medicine under supervision in rural counties, licensed hospitals, federally qualified health centers, or accredited medical schools, subject to specified education, experience, examination, background, English proficiency, employment, and work authorization requirements. It establishes board oversight and disciplinary authority, provides that the license becomes inactive if supervision or employment conditions are not met, and creates a pathway to full licensure after four years of supervised practice, with an additional two-year service requirement in an underserved area. The bill requires the Composite Medical Board to employ medical directors and staff to administer the program, mandates annual reporting to the General Assembly, grants rulemaking authority, and makes the program contingent upon specific	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.

appropriations, with automatic repeal if funding is not provided.

SB 428	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72468 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Directs the Department of Community Health to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize Medicaid reimbursement of home and community based services for recipients of medical assistance who are over the age of 21 and in need of acute mental health services with risk factors including but not limited to history of hospitalization stays, psychiatric crises, emergency department visits, prior incarceration, homelessness or any combination thereof.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.
SB 433	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72533 (Strickland-42nd)	"Rio's Law"- Creates a new specialized license plate for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability and for certain family members, available beginning January 1, 2027, upon submission of an affidavit from a licensed physician or psychologist. It authorizes spouses, parents, legal guardians, and joint vehicle owners to obtain the plate, provides for cancellation upon certain events, allows transfer to another vehicle, specifies plate design, and establishes misdemeanor penalties for false representations or unauthorized use. The bill also amends peace officer training requirements by mandating that, beginning January 1, 2027, basic training courses include instruction on interactions with persons with autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability, including recognition, communication techniques, investigation practices, alternatives to physical restraints, and caregiver notification protocols. It directs the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to develop or approve the training program in collaboration with specified state agencies and nonprofit organizations.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee.
SB 440	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72638 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Modernizes and update provisions relative to duties or functions of the Department of Public Health	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Public & Community Health Committee.

SB 450	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72714 (Wicks-34th)	Authorizes public library personnel to possess a supply of, and may administer in good faith, opioid antagonists (like naloxone or hydrochloride) if an individual is experiencing an opioid overdose. Any public library personnel who administers or chooses not to administer an opioid antagonist according to the related Code section is immune from civil liability or professional discipline. Upon administration, the public library shall activate the emergency medical services system and notify the visitor's parent, guardian, or emergency contact (if known).	Senate State & Local Operations Committee
SB 460	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72832 (Tillery-19th)	Shifts responsibility for Medicaid eligibility determination, verification, enrollment management, and related fund administration from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Community Health, making DCH the single state agency for these functions beginning July 1, 2027. It amends multiple code sections to authorize DCH to verify eligibility using data analytics, audits, and information sharing with state and federal agencies, to disenroll ineligible recipients with notice, and to refer suspected fraud, waste, or abuse for prosecution, while requiring DHS cooperation to ensure continuity of care. The bill also reassigns Medicaid-related funding authority to DCH, excludes Medicaid from the definition of “public assistance” after the transfer, authorizes contracts and data-sharing agreements, and permits submission of any necessary state plan amendments or waivers.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SB 461	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72831 (Tillery-19th)	Amends current law to transfer full responsibility for administration of the Georgia Medicaid program from the Department of Community Health to the Department of Human Services, designating DHS as the single state Medicaid agency beginning July 1, 2027, with DCH retaining authority only until that date. It revises multiple provisions of Titles 31 and 49 to reassign authority for administering the state Medicaid plan, supervising program operations, paying or denying claims, and overseeing eligibility and provider standards, and makes conforming changes to definitions and governance references to reflect DHS's role. The	Senate Health & Human Services Committee

		bill also establishes transition requirements, including cooperation between agencies, transfer of rules, records, and personnel, and authorizes DHS to submit any necessary Medicaid state plan amendments or federal waivers.	
SB 462	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72848 (Still-48th)	Requires healthcare plans to cover emergency transport services when requested by a first responder or the patient's healthcare practitioner. Minimum reimbursement rates are set at the municipal or county level, or, if none are set, the lesser of 325% of the Medicare Part A or B rate or the ambulance provider's billed charges. Payments made to the ambulance provider relieve the patient of any further financial responsibility, except for copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Health Committee.
SB 481	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73035 (Parent-44th)	Requires Medicaid coverage for heart and lung transplants, including the transplant procedure, related pre- and post-transplant health care services, and immunosuppressant drugs, when a licensed physician determines the care is medically necessary.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SB 500	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73166 (Hodges-3rd)	Expands the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base to include data from health care professionals and revises the definition of "behavioral health care providers" to instead reference "health care professionals."	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.
SB 518	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73265 (Still-48th)	Requires health policy coverage for medically necessary treatments of the autoimmune condition alopecia universalis.	Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
SB 528	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73385 (Robertson-29th)	Requires the State Health Benefit Plan to provide coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices for public school teachers and employees, as well as members and employees of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, including their retirees and dependents.	Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
SB 535	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73414 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Recreates all community service boards effective July 1, 2026, revising statutory definitions, and reconstituting governing boards under updated appointment formulas tied to county population and financial contributions. It adds the executive director as a member of the governing board and	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to

		transfers authority to appoint and remove executive directors from local boards to the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, making executive directors department employees beginning July 1, 2026, with transition options for current directors. The bill expands the executive director's statutory authority over personnel decisions, contracts, property transactions, debt obligations, operational and clinical policies, and day-to-day management, and permits the commissioner, with gubernatorial approval in certain cases, to authorize the executive director to exercise board powers if a board is not properly performing its duties. It requires the department to establish unified bylaws addressing board structure, staggered terms, quorum calculations, ethics compliance, and ensuring that consumers and family members constitute at least 50 percent of specified appointed members with equitable representation of disability groups. The bill also revises conflict-of-interest provisions, updates procedures for conversion or cessation of operations, clarifies venue language, and modifies Open Meetings Act provisions to allow teleconference meetings under specified public access conditions. Allows for board members whose terms end on or before June 30th, 2026, to continue to serve on the reconstituted board unless reappointed.	House Committee.
SB 546	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73479 (Williams-25th)	Requires medical examiners and coroners to conduct microscopic examinations and toxicology studies, and to review the child's immunization records, including any vaccinations received within 90 days prior to death, in cases involving the unexpected death of an infant or child.	Senate Public Safety Committee
SB 558	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73541 (Jones-22nd)	Revises Georgia's marijuana possession laws by increasing the possession threshold from one ounce to three ounces. Individuals possessing one-half ounce or less are classified as committing a misdemeanor, with penalties of a fine up to \$300 or community service up to 250 hours. Those possessing more than one-half ounce but no more than three ounces face, on the first, second, or third conviction, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 or community service up to 500 hours. For the	Senate Judiciary Committee

fourth and subsequent convictions, the offense is designated a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

SB 602 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73711> (Parkes-7th)

Reforms prior authorization and utilization review requirements for health plans by increasing transparency, limiting documentation requests to what is reasonably necessary, requiring electronic processing standards, and mandating that adverse determinations include specific clinical criteria, reasoning, reviewer credentials, and appeal rights. It requires insurers to publish prior authorization requirements and aggregate approval and denial statistics, and directs the Commissioner of Insurance to summarize such data annually. The bill shortens response times for standard and urgent prior authorization decisions, expands the validity period of prior authorizations up to one year in most cases, requires insurers to honor prior authorizations for 90 days when a patient changes coverage, allows retroactive authorization requests, and provides that certain noncompliance results in automatic authorization. It also exempts emergency services and medications for opioid use disorder from prior authorization and establishes criteria under which high-approval-rate providers are exempt from certain prior authorization requirements.

Senate
Insurance &
Labor
Committee



Maternal & Infant Care

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 350	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70112	(Cameron-1st)	Authorizes ambulance services to accept physical custody of a newborn. The legislation allows placement of newborn safety devices, which are enclosed, locked, monitored receptacles in which a newborn can safely be placed, at medical facilities, fire stations, police stations, and ambulance services. These devices must be in a conspicuous place, visible to employees, agents, or staff members of the facility or station. The	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

		facility or station must have an emergency medical services provider on staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	
HB 925	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72074 (Cannon-58th)	"Georgia Maternal Health Momnibus Act"- Establishes pilot programs to provide prenatal care and postpartum care through telemedicine and mobile health clinics for women residing in limited maternity care counties and maternity care deserts.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1069	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72520 (Dunahoo-31st)	Requires the Dept. of Public Health to publish information containing statistics and indicators relating to induced terminations of pregnancy on the department's website either directly or via a hyperlink. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, number of induced terminations of pregnancy starting from the year 1994, which shall be broken down by year, county, age, race, and ethnicity provided that the posted information shall comply with the provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The department shall ensure that none of the information posted could reasonably lead to the identification of any individual or guardian of any individual.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1118	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72672 (Donatucci-105th)	Provides 120 hours of paid maternal leave for eligible state employees. A person must be employed with the state entity for at least six continuous months and leave must be used within three weeks after delivery. Employers are prohibited from interfering with leave or discriminating against an eligible employee for exercising maternal leave.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1138	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72697 (Camp-135th)	"Increasing Access to Contraceptive Act" - Allows a pharmacist to dispense a self-administered hormonal contraceptive or administer an injectable hormonal contraceptive.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.

HB 1149	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72710 (Cooper-45th)	Allows health insurers to require notice of a child's birth or adoption and payment of any required premium or fee within 31 days in order for coverage to continue beyond the initial 31-day period. Beginning January 1, 2027, it requires health insurers to offer insureds and subscribers an optional pre enrollment period for an anticipated child, with coverage taking effect at birth or adoption. To pre enroll, individuals must submit documentation verifying pregnancy or an anticipated adoption, within three months of the expected birth or placement. Upon receiving documentation, insurers must, within ten business days, disclose potential coverage changes and notify the insured of the 31-day post-birth or adoption enrollment deadline. The pre enrollment option is subject to the same cost-sharing requirements as other covered benefits and may not include special or additional limitations. Insurers must assign identifying policy information to the anticipated child before birth or adoption. The provisions do not apply to adult adoptions and do not prohibit insurers from offering benefits more favorable than those required.	House Insurance Committee
HB 1250	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73017 (Hilton-48th)	"Daniel Waters Act" - Requires the Department of Public Health to create a perinatal bereavement care grant program to support expectant parents and their families that experience fetal death, neonatal death, or stillbirth. Subject to appropriations, the department will provide hospitals with perinatal bereavement care resources including provider training on respectful bereavement care and perinatal bereavement devices. Hospitals with a lack of access to such resources and a high volume of pregnancies, especially high-risk, will be prioritized. In collaboration with the Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative, the department will develop an award program to recognize hospitals that provide perinatal bereavement	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1264	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73057 (Bazemore-69th)	Requires the Department of Community Health to establish a pilot program providing Medicaid coverage for doula services for pregnant Medicaid recipients. The program may reimburse up to five visits per participant, including prepartum, labor and delivery, and postpartum	House Public & Community Health Committee

		care. Participating doulas must complete training as determined by the department. By December 31, 2028, the department must report to the Governor and specified legislative leaders and committee chairs on the program's implementation, effectiveness, participant health outcomes, reimbursement processes to support perinatal workforce retention, and recommendations for statewide expansion. The pilot program terminates on January 1, 2029, and the Code section is repealed on that date. The Act takes effect only upon specific appropriation of funds.	
HB 1313	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73201 (Evans-57th)	Provides certain legal protections for healthcare professionals performing, assisting with, or providing medical treatment which may result in an abortion or pregnancy outcome, including miscarriage, stillbirth, ectopic pregnancy, or perinatal death in a situation which could seriously harm the pregnant woman's health or cause the death of the unborn child.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1318	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73247 (Carpenter-4th)	Requires the Department of Labor to hire a qualified independent actuary by October 1, 2026, to study (and complete no later than no later than January 15, 2027) what it would cost to create and run a state-based paid family and medical leave insurance programs. The study must look at start-up costs, ongoing administrative costs, outreach and education expenses, how much workers and/or employers would need to pay to keep the program financially stable for five to ten years, expected claim trends over time, and projected yearly revenue, expenses, and reserves.	House Industry & Labor Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1346	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73288 (Jones-143rd)	Requires insurance coverage for maternal mental health screenings and care.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1350	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73294 (Kahaian-81st)	Prohibits both private and public entities from requiring or conditioning access, employment, services, or participation on an individual's	House Public & Community

acceptance of a medical intervention, which the bill defines expansively to include procedures, treatments, devices, drugs, injections, medications, or medical actions taken to monitor, diagnose, prevent, treat, or cure disease or alter biological function, including masks, vaccines, biologics, swabs, tests (including genetic and genomic testing), pills, creams, liquids, injections, chips, devices, and monitors. It bars business entities from denying services or jobs based on refusal of such interventions, prohibits ticket issuers and schools from mandating them for entry, attendance, employment, or extracurricular participation, and prevents state and local government entities from requiring them as a condition of public services, benefits, licenses, facility use, employment, or contract work. The bill also prohibits employers from offering different compensation or benefits based on medical intervention status, limits the ability of emergency orders or other laws to override these protections, allows only certain personal protective equipment requirements consistent with occupational safety laws, and repeals existing statutory authority permitting the Department of Public Health and county boards of health to require vaccinations or other preventive measures to control contagious or infectious diseases.

Health
Committee

HB 1398 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73440> (Cooper-45th)

Requires providing a urine pregnancy test to every woman arrested who is not released on bond within 72 hours of arrest, unless declined by the woman, for the purpose of providing appropriate healthcare and for consideration at bail and sentencing hearings. The judicial officer determining bail will consider a positive pregnancy test as a factor when setting bail, which will not exceed \$100 unless the pregnant woman poses a significant threat to any person or to public welfare. Pregnancy or postpartum status (having given birth within the previous 12 months) will be considered as a mitigating factor at sentencing. At sentencing, if the court determines that the pregnant woman poses no significant threat to any person or to public welfare, the court will defer imprisonment until at least 12 weeks after the birth of the pregnant woman's child, during which time the woman will

Recommended
DO PASS by
the House
Judiciary Non-
Civil
Committee.
The bill rests in
House Rules
Committee.

be supervised on probation. The woman must later surrender to the Department of Corrections at least 12 weeks but up to 12 months after the birth of her child, as ordered by the court. Beginning January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each penal institution will report to the Department of Public Health: (1) the total number of women who were incarcerated; (2) the total number of pregnant women incarcerated; and (3) the total number of women who declined urine pregnancy testing. Medical information must be protected and only disclosed in accordance with this Code section, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. No such medical information will be admissible to establish criminal liability, unless obtained independently through other lawful means.

HB 1422	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73476	(Gisler-121st)	Adds stillbirth as a qualifying event for parental leave for eligible state employees.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 1481	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73764	(Cannon-58th)	Designates March 14th as Black Midwives Day in Georgia. This day is to be a day of awareness, education, and community engagement to uplift the legacy and ongoing work of Black midwives. Recognizes the black maternal health crisis in the US.	House Hopper



Early Childhood Education & Out-of-School Time

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 1123	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72677	(Jones-47th)	Requires public schools that offer after-school programs and operate Georgia pre-K programs to allow pre-K students to participate in those afterschool programs starting in the 2026-2027 school year. The bill allows schools to request a temporary one-year waiver from the Department of Early Care and Learning if the school can show extenuating circumstances which prevent the	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.

		school from offering the after-school program to pre-K students.	
HB 1146	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72706 (Olaley-59th)	"Georgia Ready to Learn Act" - Establishes a pilot to expand Georgia's Pre-K Program to three-year-old children by July 1, 2027.	House Education Committee
HB 1147	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72703 (Olaley-59th)	"Georgia Childcare for Economic Well-Being Act" - Establishes a grant program to supplement the reimbursement rates paid by the Department of Early Care Learning (DECAL) to child care providers participating in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program. For each child in the CAPS program, the department would provide a grant that covers the gap between what the provider charges and what the program reimburses, plus the fee the family pays. The family's fee is set by the department based on income and family size and is taken out of the reimbursement amount. The grant will be paid to the child care provider in the same manner in which they received CAPS payments. If appropriated funds aren't sufficient, grants will be awarded based on financial need.	House Appropriations Committee
HB 1281	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73130 (Momtahan-17th)	Requires child care learning centers to carry state-approved liability insurance with at least \$50,000 per person and \$1 million per incident. Programs must provide proof of coverage to the state and parents, and if the program operates without it, the owner can be fined \$1,000 per day.	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1474	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73739 (Park-107th)	Supporting Early Education and Development (SEED) Act: Establishes a tax credit program to encourage contributions to qualified childcare organizations serving children ages 0-5, with priority for areas where demand exceeds available licensed slots ("childcare deserts"). Individual taxpayers may claim credits up to \$5,000 for singles, \$10,000 for joint filers, and \$25,000 for LLC, S-Corp, or partnership members, while corporations may claim up to 75% of their income tax liability, subject to a \$100 million annual cap. At least 60% of contributions must be used for teacher salary supplements and retention bonuses, with remaining funds allowed for classroom expansion. The Department of Early Care and	House Hopper

Learning must publish annual maps of childcare deserts, post timelines and progress reports, and oversee compliance, while the Department of Audits and Accounts will conduct an annual audit. The Act becomes effective July 1, 2026, for taxable years beginning January 1, 2027.

SB 554 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73539> (Payne-54th)

Creates the Georgia Child Care Facilities Program within the Department of Early Care and Learning to provide competitive grants for constructing, renovating, or expanding licensed child care learning centers and family child care learning homes to increase capacity, particularly in rural areas. The department must set grant criteria and amounts, prioritize applicants based on participation in CAPS or Georgia's Pre-K and specified need factors, and publish the application process. Grant recipients must remain operational as licensed providers for at least five years and may be required to repay funds if they do not, and the department may reserve up to 25 percent of funds for administration and technical assistance.

Senate Education & Youth Committee.
The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

SB 596 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73693> (Mangham-55th)

Requires the State Board of Education to establish a statewide coordinated support program for summer literacy programs serving students in kindergarten through third grade, including grants to eligible local school systems and other public schools. To receive grant funds, schools must apply and describe their summer literacy offerings, use of high-quality instructional materials aligned to the science of reading, methods for measuring student progress, and strategies to prioritize students significantly at risk of not attaining grade-level reading proficiency. The bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation with specified education entities, to develop and submit by November 1, 2026, an implementation plan that includes funding proposals, coordination strategies, use of existing and additional funds, and reporting requirements.

Senate Education & Youth Committee



K-12 Education

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 310	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70021	(Olaley-59th)	Establishes a program to support 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 bill requires the Georgia Board of Education to establish rules and regulations to implement the program. This legislation is subject to appropriations.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 372	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70134	(Ballard-147th)	Extends the sunset for retired educators to return to work from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2030. The bill requires educators who return to work in the area of English, language arts, or writing to hold a current dyslexia or reading endorsement approved by the Professional Standards Commission (PSC). The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee.
HB 565	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70618	(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.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 634	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70812	(Barrett-24th)	Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2116, which relates to the 'Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act.' The bill revises provisions for expedited completion of a student's first Individualized Education Program (IEP). The bill provides for calculating maximum scholarship amounts for certain students, electronic deposits, a compliance form, and deadlines by which the Department of Education will publish certain information.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 829	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71625	(Beckles-96th)	Requires the Department of Education to publish guidance relating to best practices for secure browsing and parental controls and requires the Attorney General publish an annual report documenting its enforcement actions relating to online safety.	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

HB 907	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71990 (Jones-47th)	Requires completion special schools to twice annually submit a list of current program offerings to the resident school system, and for that school system to post these programs in a prominent place in the school. The bill also amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2096.7 dealing with new completion special schools being opened in an area where there was not one, but another completion school operated a program there, to ensure the state board provides for a transition period for students to move to the new school. Also, the bill creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-2096.9, which requires local school systems within the territory of a completion special school to either partner with a completion special school through a collaborative agreement or directly provide alternative education programs and services for students in grades 9-12 at risk of not completing school. Local school districts must share with the local completion special school any contact information for students who stop attending or withdraw within 10 school days after attendance stops or withdrawal occurs.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 908	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71991 (Smith-41st)	Prohibits public schools, private schools, or home school program from requiring a child who has successfully completed all requirements for a high school diploma to take or attend classes for any additional courses in their final semester of high school.	House Education Committee
HB 912	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71999 (Wilkerson-38th)	Provides matching grant funding from the State Board of Education to an eligible home reading program for students in kindergarten through fourth grade.	House Education Committee
HB 917	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72008 (Jones-25th)	Provides generally for open enrollment processes for students to transfer between local school systems and between schools within local school systems and prohibits charging tuition for transfers between local school systems, with some exception. The bill also provides for appeals of denials of transfer requests and revises the calculations for equalization grants, among other provisions.	House Education Committee
HB 918	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72021 (Hilton-48th)	Permits private school students, home study students, and nonresident public school students to enroll as part-time students in any public school in this state, subject only to enrolling	House Education Committee

		school capacity and academic and grade level prerequisites.	
HB 921	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72053 (Park-107th)	Requires the Georgia Department of Education to conduct an impact study within 90 days of any federal action that reduces the scope, workforce, or budget of the U.S. Department of Education by more than 20%. The study will assess the effects on public primary and secondary education in Georgia, including academic performance, program access, staffing resources, and school operations. A report of the findings must be provided to each local education agency and made publicly available on the department's website in a clear and accessible format.	House Education Committee
HB 929	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72078 (Lupton-83rd)	Provides for a three-year pilot program for dietetics services for public elementary and secondary school students and patients at federally qualified health centers.	House Public & Community Health Committee
HB 970	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72219 (Townsend-179th)	Requires the person conducting physical exams for students participating in extracurricular activities to be a licensed medical physician, doctor of osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. The bill requires the examination to contain a cardiovascular prescreening.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.
HB 971	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72220 (Townsend-179th)	Expands access to college and career academies by allowing home study and private school students to enroll in eligible career technical and agriculture education (CTAE) courses, as long as space is available. Students could enroll in academies located within their home district, within the same regional educational service agency (RESA) service area, or in an adjacent school system, even if it is in a different RESA.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 972	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72230 (Berry-56th)	Mandates each local board of education and public school governing body, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, to develop and implement a policy of a written notice to the parent or legal guardian of each student in grades 4–8, indicating whether the student is reading proficiently at grade level. Such notice must be provided at least twice per year.	House Education Committee

HB 989	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72256 (Wilkerson-38th)	Requires local boards of education to provide public comment periods at meetings, broadcast meetings and public comment, and record or broadcast public comment to the same extent as other public portions of meetings. It also limits boards from requiring more than 24 hours' advance notice for individuals wishing to speak during public comment.	House Education Committee
HB 1009	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72304 (Hilton-48th)	Requires Georgia public schools to adopt and enforce distraction free education policies restricting student access to personal electronic devices during the school day. Beginning July 1, 2026, students in grades K-8 are prohibited from accessing personal devices bell-to-bell, with the restriction expanding to grades 9-12 by July 1, 2027, subject to limited legal, medical, and IEP/504 exceptions. The bill mandates clear storage procedures, enforcement mechanisms, parent communication protocols, progressive discipline, and off-campus guidance, while allowing continued use of school-provided technology and making the policy non-waivable across school system types.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Children & Families Committee.
HB 1018	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72346 (Kendrick-95th)	Exempts sales of clothing and school related supplies from sales and use taxation during the month of August each year.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1023	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72353 (Efstration-104th)	Requires Georgia public schools to use weapon detection systems at main entrances of permanent school buildings to prevent individuals from unlawfully bringing weapons onto campus. The requirement applies to buildings owned or leased by school systems during normal school operations, with exceptions for entrances that are locked and alarmed, or only used in emergencies. School systems are authorized to use existing grants and other funding to pay for the required security measures.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee.
HB 1030	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72360 (Donatucci-105th)	Creates the 'Math Matters Act' to strengthen math education in Georgia by requiring schools to expand advanced math opportunities, increase core math instruction time, and improve math teacher preparation. By January 1, 2027, the State Board of Education must create new state standards for advanced middle and high school math courses. By the 2027-2028 school year, students who achieve a score of distinguished	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.

learner on the statewide end-of-grade math assessment will be automatically enrolled into advanced math (with opt-out options). The bill requires at least 60 minutes of daily math instruction in the fourth and fifth grades. The bill updates teacher certification requirements to ensure educators are trained in evidence-based math instruction and the core skills needed to teach math effectively.

<p>HB 1032 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72362 (Scott, 76th)</p>	<p>Allows children to enroll in public school kindergarten or first grade early if they have completed pre-K or kindergarten at a private school and show readiness, but do not meet the public school age requirements. Requires (by January 1, 2027) the State Board of Education to establish guidelines for a student to demonstrate readiness for kindergarten including grades, scores on assessments, teacher recommendations, and other factors. First grade readiness shall be determined by existing guidelines. Requires local boards of education to establish a process for a parent or guardian to request early enrollment for their child and the appeal process for denials of such requests.</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>
<p>HB 1038 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72368 (Griffin-149th)</p>	<p>Repeals the Georgia Promise Scholarship Act (which, during the 2025-2026 school year, provided up to \$6,500.00 in state funds to students to be used for qualified education expenses, including private school tuition) by virtue of a ballot initiative.</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>
<p>HB 1045 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72375 (Herring-145th)</p>	<p>"You Are Not Alone Awareness Act" - Requires Georgia public schools that issue student ID badges to students in grades six through 12 to print information about the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline on those badges. The message must include that students can call or text 9-8-8 at any time for help with suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, or substance abuse challenges. The requirement applies to ID badges issued on or after July 1, 2026.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>
<p>HB 1048 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72385 (Hilton-48th)</p>	<p>Requires state boards of education to adopt criteria for assessment and placement of students in first grade based on both age and readiness. Local school boards are to assess students for first grade readiness using instruments, procedures, and policies established</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>

by the State Board of Education. Nevertheless, if a student demonstrates first grade readiness, they can be enrolled in state supported kindergarten at the request of his or her parent or guardian.

<p>HB 1050 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72387 (Frye-122nd)</p>	<p>Provides for the protection of student data from immigration officials under certain circumstances by requiring that "government employees who are employees, administrators, or officials of public schools in this state shall send, receive, and maintain information relating to the immigration status of any student to any immigration or public safety official if and only if the information is proven necessary for public safety purposes." The bill also mandates the designation of a school administrator in each school district to be responsible for and adequately prepared for interactions with immigration enforcement personnel and restricts the access to student records, with the exception of medical emergencies, unless a valid judicial warrant, order, or parental consent has been provided.</p>	<p>House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee</p>
<p>HB 1051 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72388 (Berry-56th)</p>	<p>Requires collaborative written agreements for local school systems that assign or employ law enforcement officers in schools, and prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in school disciplinary matters unless such matter involves criminal conduct or an immediate threat to the safety of a person or the school. The bill also requires local boards of education for such local school systems to establish policies for student complaints against law enforcement officers.</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>
<p>HB 1062 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72513 (Rice-139th)</p>	<p>Requires the Georgia Department of Education to publicly post relevant federal guidance documents that relate to its responsibilities. The bill broadly defines federal guidance to include non binding policies, interpretations, and related materials issued by federal education agencies. The Department must publish these materials on a dedicated, searchable web page and provide a written explanation of how the guidance will be addressed or implemented. If guidance is later withdrawn, the Department must clearly mark it as rescinded and maintain a record of withdrawn documents. The bill also requires annual notice</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>

from the State School Superintendent to designated legislative committees and budget offices summarizing the posted guidance. The State Board of Education is authorized to adopt rules to implement the law.

HB 1094 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72610> (Davis, 87th)

"Georgia School Bus Safety and Modernization Act"-Updates state law to use the term "school vehicles" and requires the State Board of Education to calculate and distribute projected student transportation costs twice each year, with schedules updated by March 1 and November 1. Transportation funds may be used to refurbish existing vehicles, which must meet safety and maintenance standards, and driver salaries must be updated annually with a minimum of \$2,000 per month. The bill expands student eligibility for transportation to include those facing unsafe walking or travel conditions. It directs the State Board to create a statewide school vehicle database and establish a replacement schedule for vehicles over 12 years old or with more than 200,000 miles. Subject to appropriations, the bill authorizes grants to local districts for vehicle purchases or leases, safety and accessibility upgrades, and clean fuel conversions, with priority given to older fleets, higher special-needs populations, and longer travel distances.

House
Education
Committee

HB 1099 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72615> (Flornoy-74th)

"Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act"-Requires public schools to evaluate blind or visually impaired students to determine their need for Braille instruction and to include Braille instruction in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) unless the IEP team determines it is not appropriate. It specifies required components of the IEP related to Braille instruction, including instructional goals, methods, timelines, and assessment measures. For students who do not receive Braille instruction, the IEP must document the basis for that decision and supporting evidence. The bill requires public schools to purchase textbooks and instructional materials only if they include accessible electronic formats suitable for Braille conversion or synthesized speech. It also establishes Braille training and competency requirements for educators seeking or renewing

House
Education
Committee

		a special education visual impairment endorsement.	
HB 1107	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72626 (Rice-139th)	Creates the 'Excellent Teacher Preparation Act,' a statewide accountability system for teacher preparation programs requiring the Professional Standards Commission to develop and publish annual performance measures for every educator preparation provider (EPP) in Georgia. The bill tracks outcomes like exam pass rates, job placement, retention, employer and graduate satisfaction, and student performance, while protecting individual privacy. It requires EPPs to provide data to the state, mandates regular review of results, and directs the Office of Student Achievement to include these findings in its annual educator workforce report, aiming to strengthen teacher quality and program transparency statewide.	PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
HB 1114	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72642 (Yearta-152nd)	Allows students in grades 9 and 10 to take the financial literacy class required for high school graduation. (Currently the class is offered in grades 11 and 12)	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1135	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72689 (Hilton-48th)	Includes the State of Georgia in the federal tax credit program for scholarship granting organizations. The bill also designates the state revenue commissioner to oversee the program and sets requirements for qualifying organizations.	House Ways & Means subcommittee
HB 1164	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72768 (Wade-9th)	Creates a State Board of Education audit committee to review fiscal reports for school systems, state charter schools, and completion special schools designated as high-risk or moderate-risk. The committee will be made up of board members and meet no less than six times each fiscal year. The bill requires annual audit readiness certification attesting that audit requirements have been met by the Department of Audits and Accounts by December 31st of each year. The legislation expands risk designations (moderate/high-risk) tied to repeated audit problems. Section 11 creates O.C.G.A. 50-6-6.1, which sets up a four-tier	PASSED HOUSE. Awaits assignment to House committee.

statewide fiscal monitoring and intervention system through the Department of Audits and Accounts, and increases required reporting and public transparency for financially troubled systems. The bill provides the State Board of Education and the Office of Student Achievement stronger tools to combat financial mismanagement, like reviewing waiver use, conducting additional audits, limiting superintendent contract extensions in high-risk districts, and allows contract changes or termination under severe fiscal conditions. The legislation goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

HB 1190 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72839> (Sanchez-42nd)

"Student and Teachers SPEAK Act" - Authorizes public school students and teachers to serve as ex officio advisors to the State Board of Education. One 11th- or 12th-grade student (at least age 16) is selected annually by the Governor through a statewide application, essay, and interview process and may participate in public meetings and hearings, subject to restrictions on confidential, legal, and disciplinary matters. Student advisors may receive expense reimbursement but may not attend closed meetings or access confidential information. Also encourages local boards of education to appoint student ex officio advisors to serve as liaisons to the student body, with similar limitations on participation and voting. In addition, the Georgia Teacher of the Year is invited to serve as an ex officio advisor to the State Board and is eligible for reimbursement of meeting-related expenses.

House
Education
Committee

HB 1193 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72842> (Irwin-32nd)

Expands statewide literacy infrastructure, funding, and accountability across grades K-3. Section 2 creates new state leadership roles, including a director of literacy within the Office of Student Achievement. Section 5 requires local school systems to offer a full-day kindergarten program. The bill outlines early grade entry and readiness expectations by requiring children to attend kindergarten before entering first grade (with a readiness-based exception), encouraging school/home study beginning at age five, and requiring first grade readiness assessments and reporting. This section revises placement/promotion/retention rules, and strengthens intervention and parent notification

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Senate
Education &
Youth
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processes when students are significantly at risk of not reaching reading proficiency. Section 6 amends the 'Georgia Early Literacy and Dyslexia Act' by requiring unified literacy plans for districts and charter schools, mandating high-quality grades K-3 instructional materials aligned to the science of reading (with increasing requirements tied to state funding by 2029-2030), and restructuring how universal reading screeners are selected and updated. Section 7 provides QBE funding for school-based literacy coaches in each public school with students in grades K-3. Section 8 requires the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to establish a literacy coaching endorsement for teachers and other certificated professional personnel. Section 9 provides regional literacy coaches and leadership literacy coaches in Georgia's 16 regional education services agencies (RESAs) to work with school-based literacy coaches throughout the state. Section 16 establishes the Georgia Literacy Task Force within the Office of Student Achievement. This standing task force, under the leadership of the new Georgia director of literacy, will be integral in selecting high-quality instructional materials, comprehensive professional learning, and universal reading screeners.

HB 1206 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72882> (Jones-25th)

Requires local boards of education to take into consideration long term cost of ownership, cost of repairs, flexibility for innovation, and the anticipated resale or salvage value compared to the initial cost, when purchasing school technology devices. Beginning in 2027, no later than Aug 15 of each year, each local board of education and other public school governing body shall submit a report to the Dept of Ed including the total number of school technology devices in operation, the break/fix rate of such devices, the total number of school technology which require repair and the number of devices that underwent repair or were out of service, and the total amount spent on repairs or replacements. Beginning in 2027, no later than Dec 31 each year, the Dept of Ed shall submit a report to certain state leadership on such data.

House
Education
Committee.
The bill will be
heard in
committee
TODAY
(MONDAY).

HB 1218	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72908 (Flournoy-74th)	“Georgia Virtual Public School Student Athletic Participation Act” - expands O.C.G.A. 20-2-319.6 to allow full-time virtual public school students in grades six through 12 to participate in sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities at their resident public school.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1220	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72910 (Ballard-147th)	Amends Georgia's student scholarship organization (SSO) laws by expanding eligibility and adjusting scholarship funding requirements for private school tuition scholarships. The bill expands the list of qualifying students to access SSOs without the current six week public school attendance requirement if they are military dependents stationed in Georgia, students with IEPs, Section 504 plans, or certain diagnosed disabilities. The legislation would apply beginning with the 2026 tax year.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1231	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72952 (Corbett-174th)	Provides that teachers in K-12 public schools shall not be required to supervise students during their duty-free lunch period or planning period except in cases of extreme emergency, and requires that teachers who supervise students during their duty-free lunch period or planning period are compensated in cases other than an extreme emergency.	House Education Committee
HB 1232	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72953 (Cheokas-151st)	Requires schools to count students as present when they participate in an official, Girl Scout-sanctioned visit to the Georgia State Capitol. Such participation must be treated the same as an educational field trip and may not be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1239	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72960 (Berry-56th)	Requires the local governing body for each school system and public school to adopt a policy providing that students shall be granted not less than two excused absences per school year for attending or participating in a civic or political event, and requires the State Board of Education to develop a model policy.	House Education Committee

HB 1244	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72974	(Ali-106th)	Provides that duty-free lunch period or planning period, except in cases of extreme emergency, cannot be waived by charter schools, completino schools or strategic waiver school systems.	House Education Committee
HB 1249	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73016	(Santos-117th)	Requires each public elementary and secondary school to display the Bill of Rights in the main entrance of the main building, the main entrance of the school library or media center, and the main entrance of the cafeteria.	House Education Committee
HB 1253	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73020	(Carpenter-4th)	Establishes a Georgia Charter School Facilities Authority to allow for charter schools to obtain revolving loan funds and other financial assistance for construction, renovations, and rehabilitation of facilities.	House Education Committee
HB 1256	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73026	(Berry-56th)	Provides student loan repayment for current public-school teachers who graduated from eligible Georgia postsecondary institutes and have taught for at least five years in Georgia.	House Higher Education Committee
HB 1257	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73027	(Rice-139th)	Updates the financial incentive grant program that rewards local school boards for approving new charter schools, with total grants not to exceed \$2.25 million per fiscal year. Additionally, it shortens the amount of time a closed charter school must maintain records and reporting responsibilities from one year to 180 days.	House Education Committee
HB 1259	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73029	(Dubnik-29th)	Places new restrictions and accountability measures on local school systems that provide virtual instruction to students who live outside the district. The bill prohibits local school systems from offering virtual instruction to out-of-system students if the system or virtual school has a College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score below 70 for the two previous school years. The bill prohibits counting out-of-system students toward equalization funding calculations. The legislation would take effect July 1, 2026.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Education & Youth Committee.
HB 1269	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73074	(Wade-9th)	Requires the State Board of Education to develop grade-level digital literacy standards for kindergarten through grade 12 addressing digital citizenship, online safety, responsible technology use, evaluation of digital information, communication and collaboration, foundational technology skills, productivity tools, and basic	House Education Committee

		data management. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, public schools must provide instruction aligned with these standards, which may be integrated into existing courses and supported by Department of Education model programs.	
HB 1271	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73076 (Erwin-32nd)	Updates and clarifies the definition of “education record” to expand parental access to records as reflected in O.C.G.A. 20-2-670. The bill also prohibits local school boards from implementing policies that deny or prevent parents and legal custodians from inspecting student education records.	House Education Committee
HB 1284	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73133 (Silcox-53rd)	Allows high school students with a terminal medical condition and are receiving end-of-life care to be awarded their high school diploma. A parent or guardian must submit a written request to the local superintendent, along with medical documentation confirming the student's condition. Within 14 days, the local board would petition the State Board of Education to waive normal graduation credit requirements. If approved, the student would be granted a diploma. The bill allows diplomas to be awarded posthumously if necessary, and directs the State Board of Education to create rules to make sure the process happens quickly and respectfully.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1294	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73171 (Lupton-83rd)	Allows a transfer student entering a Georgia public school to temporarily satisfy required medical documentation requirements for up to 180 days after the student's initial enrollment, by submitting a medical form completed by an out-of-state physician. Note, this temporary acceptance does not override or fulfill any separate requirements imposed by state law, State Board of Education rules, Department of Public Health regulations, or athletic participation rules.	House Education Committee
HB 1302	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73189 (Gambill-15th)	Restructures and modernizes Georgia's education and workforce development system. The bill renames the "Office of Student Achievement" to the "Office of Education and Workforce Strategy," and expands its role in coordinating education, workforce planning, and data systems across agencies. It requires development of a combined 'Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act'	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in

		(WIOA) Plan and Perkins State Plan, aligning secondary, postsecondary, and adult workforce programs with regional labor market needs and federal requirements. The bill designates the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) as the state apprenticeship agency and renames the High Demand Apprenticeship Program to the Top State for Talent PreApprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program. It expands support for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship sponsors, provides financial incentives (including contract completion awards), prioritizes high-demand careers, and updates definitions and reporting requirements related to apprenticeships. The bill creates an "Education Data Governance Board" and directs the Office of College and Career Academies within TCSG to support workforce-aligned education programs.	House Rules Committee.	
HB 1308	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73196	(Silcox-53rd)	Allows local and state charter schools to lease, use, or purchase school buildings or facilities from a local board of education if those buildings have been used less than 60% for student instruction over the past two years.	House Education Committee
HB 1325	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73254	(Ballard-147th)	Require local boards of education to provide parents and teachers opportunities to be involved in developing and updating student codes of conduct.	House Education Committee
HB 1327	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73258	(Ridley-6th)	Requires the local board of education or governing body of each public and private elementary and secondary school in the state to install a key box at each school building, with the location determined in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies to allow emergency access. Each key box must contain the keys and access control devices necessary to access all buildings and rooms on school grounds. Requires each governing body to adopt policies and procedures to implement these requirements.	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1330	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73261	(Carter-93rd)	Amends Quality Basic Education Act to include Georgia Public School Excellence and Stability Act which creates the Georgia Public School Excellence and Stability (GPSES) grant. This grant shall fund tutorial and other education services to students, and provide salary supplements to teachers and admin with more than 3 years of	House Education Committee

		creditable service (limited to \$5000 per year and for up to 3 years). Schools eligible are included on the most recent list of public schools in the lowest 25% of all public schools based on the cumulative individual school ratings.	
HB 1352	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73296 (Hilton-48th)	Requires each local education agency to adopt a policy allowing students to be excused for at least one hour per week to attend off-campus released-time religious instruction. The policy must require written parental consent; attendance records maintained by the provider; transportation provided by the parent or provider; provider responsibility for student supervision; and student responsibility for missed work. No local funds may support the course except administrative costs for awarding credit. Courses may not be held on school property unless facilities are available to community groups on a neutral basis. Local education agencies must determine whether to award credit based on instructional time, syllabus review, assessments, and instructor qualifications. The Department of Education must seek to maximize available state and federal funding to support implementation, regardless of participation levels.	House Education Committee
HB 1363	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73341 (Silcox-53rd)	Requires public schools, University System of Georgia institutions, and Technical College System of Georgia institutions to treat harassment or discrimination motivated by or including antisemitism the same as religion-based discrimination. By September 29, 2026, the Department of Education must appoint a statewide K-12 Title VI Coordinator to oversee complaints in public schools, establish and publicize a uniform complaint process, receive and investigate complaints, issue written findings and recommendations, ensure corrective actions within 30 days, monitor compliance, refer unresolved cases to federal authorities, and submit an annual report to state leadership. The Department must conduct or supervise investigations and issue written compliance determinations.	House Higher Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1378	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73367 (Carter-93rd)	Clarifies the definition of a student's residency for the Georgia Promise Scholarship is where they primarily live.	House Education

HB 1402 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73444 (Hagan-156th)	<p>Requires all public school students in Pre-Kindergarten through third grade to receive vision and hearing screenings at school. Parents must be given advance notice and may opt out, but prior consent is not required. Parents must be notified if their child fails a screening. Schools must report screening data to the Department of Public Health, which will provide training, issue annual reports to the General Assembly, and develop rules in collaboration with the State Board of Education. The bill also provides one-time grants of up to \$15,000 per district for screening equipment, subject to appropriations.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>
HB 1410 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73463 (Cummings-39th)	<p>Modernizes vision screening and literacy readiness requirements for students in kindergarten through 12th grade by providing them a vision screening by a trained school or Department of Health staff member to students at first enrollment and again in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10. Schools must provide screenings at these times and may provide additional vision screenings if they have the resources to do so. Parents are notified and given the opportunity to opt out. The bill also creates the Georgia Vision Access Fund to support screening technology, training, exams, and eyeglasses for uninsured or underinsured students, directs the Department of Public Health to adopt updated evidence-based screening standards prioritizing advanced digital devices, authorizes certification of screening contractors, and grants rulemaking authority to implement these changes.</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>
HB 1471 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73724 (Davis-87th)	<p>"Georgia Student Mental Health Days Act"- Requires each local school system and public school to adopt a policy which grants up to 5 excused absences for mental health days. Such policies shall provide for notification by parent or guardian, or by students who are over 18 or emancipated to the local school system, and documentation of absences excused in accordance with the Code Section. No local school system or public school shall require disclosure of student's mental health or emotional well-being in order to have an absence excused. At the beginning of each school year, or upon enrollment, each public school shall notify</p>	<p>House Hopper</p>

		the parent or guardian of each student of all mental health resources or services, if any, available through such public school. The State Board of Education shall develop a model policy.	
HB 1477	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73755 (Santos-117th)	"The Special Education Advocate Registration Act" - Establishes a registration process with the Georgia Department of Education for advocates who represent or advise individuals with disabilities and their parents in administrative proceedings under IDEA. Registered advocates must undergo a criminal background check and are those who receive payment for providing such representation or consultation.	House Hopper
HR 145	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69875 (Erwin-32nd)	Urges the Department of Education and the Department of Public Health to collaborate to prioritize the expansion of vision and hearing screenings at various grade levels to identify students with undiagnosed and untreated vision or hearing problems.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HR 1299	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73072 (Wade-9th)	Expresses support for dissolving the United States Department of Education and restoring educational authority to the states	House Special Rules Committee
HR 1348	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73202 (Powell-33rd)	Constitutional Amendment – Proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution, which provides that the state board of education must establish the qualifications, duty, and salary of the state school superintendent. The amendment authorizes the General Assembly to provide by local law that school superintendents must be elected by local voters rather than appointed by local boards of education.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
SB 148	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70241 (Hatchett-50th)	Allows local school boards to offer hunting safety instruction for students in grades six through 12. Each local board of education is also authorized to establish a curriculum for hunter safety instruction based on the hunter education courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources. The State Board of Education will adopt instructional standards no later than April 1, 2026. Section 2 creates O.C.G.A. 20-2-590, which establishes an outdoor learning spaces pilot program beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Private, nonprofit, and local school system	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The Senate agreed to changes made by the House & the bill now awaits transmission to the governor

		funding may be utilized for design and construction costs. Section 3 removes the requirement of involvement from a licensed physician or other person authorized by the Georgia Composite Medical Board in automated external defibrillator programs. Section 4 increases the number of personal days school personnel may utilize accumulated sick leave for from three days to five days	for his consideration.
SB 150	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70242 (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.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Retirement Committee.
SB 171	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70343 (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. Students who do not qualify for automatic enrollment may be placed in the pathway by a parent or guardian if they scored above the 50th percentile statewide on the prior year's math end-of-grade assessment. The bill also requires annual reports on program implementation and outcomes to be submitted to the Senate Education and Youth Committee.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.
SB 369	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71940 (Still-48th)	Amends the Charter Schools Act to create and define a new category of dropout recovery charter school serving students in grades six through 12 that provides special education, remedial education, and specified nontraditional programs such as dropout prevention, credit recovery, and flexible scheduling, and excludes schools serving kindergarten through fifth grade. It requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules governing petitions for such schools, including requirements that charters describe the special education, remedial, and nontraditional services to be offered and establish measurable objective performance standards for academic achievement, student growth, and student retention, and it authorizes existing charter schools to convert to dropout recovery charter schools subject to initial term restrictions. The bill directs the State Board of Education and the	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

		State Charter Schools Commission to establish separate principles and standards for dropout recovery charter schools, including monitoring and reporting on the specified performance standards, and requires the Office of Student Achievement to report separately on their performance without including individual school ratings in the overall local school system rating.	
SB 381	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72153 (Kemp-38th)	Amends the Quality Basic Education Act to create a new state grant program targeted to students living in poverty. Students are defined as living in poverty if they are enrolled in SNAP, TANF, or foster care, or if they lack stable housing as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The State Board of Education is required to award grants to supplement services for these students, and at least 90% of grant funds must be used for direct program expenditures.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 401	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72249 (Williams-25th)	Requires each local board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on firearm safety in grades K-12. Such instruction can be incorporated into the health and physical education course. Implementation will begin in the 2028-2029 school year, and the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards for such firearm safety instruction. Each local board of education are authorized to establish a curriculum for instruction in firearm safety based on courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources and shall include the following topics: 1) safe storage of a firearm, 2) school safety relating to firearms, and 3) how to avoid injury if the student finds a firearm. Such instruction is not to include the use or presence of live ammunition, live fire, or live firearms. Instruction is to be viewpoint neutral, and shall not espouse personal political beliefs relating to firearms.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 412	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72289 (Hickman-4th)	Increase from three to five the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate

			Rules Committee.
SB 425	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72466 (Harbin-16th)	Requires all schools that receive state funding with students in any of grades three through five to provide instruction in cursive handwriting to all students by no later than third grade.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill rests in Senate Rules Committee.
SB 426	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72470 (Harbin-16th)	Requires all students to take and receive a 70% on the United States Citizenship Civics Test in order to receive a high school diploma or HSE diploma. It can be taken as many times as needed to earn the minimum required score, and can be taken at any time grades 9-12.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 438	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72584 (Payne-54th)	Makes full-day kindergarten mandatory for public school students.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 445	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72665 (Dolezal-27th)	Provide for the State of Georgia to participate in the federal tax credit program for contributions of individuals to scholarship-granting organizations.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 446	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72695 (Dixon- 45th)	Includes the State of Georgia in the federal tax credit program for scholarship granting organizations. The bill also designates the state revenue commissioner to oversee the program and sets requirements for qualifying organizations.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Ways & Means Committee
SB 459	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72833 (Hickman-4th)	Lowers the age at which children become subject to compulsory attendance provisions from seven to five once enrolled and establishes a statewide policy requiring children to attend kindergarten before enrolling in first grade, subject to readiness-based exceptions. It adds first grade to Georgia's placement and promotion framework and creates mandatory first-grade readiness assessments, including defined procedures for screening, intervention, parental notice, appeals, and placement committee decisions when students are identified as at risk of not attaining grade-level reading proficiency.	Senate Education & Youth Committee

The bill substantially revises the Georgia Early Literacy and Dyslexia Act to align literacy instruction with the science of reading. It updates requirements for universal reading screeners, including approval timelines, reporting requirements, and the availability of at least one free screener for school systems. Local school systems are required to implement tiered reading interventions for at-risk students, provide written notification to parents, document placement decisions, and participate in expanded state reporting on literacy outcomes. Annual statewide reports on reading readiness and early-grade literacy performance are revised and expanded. It limits literacy instruction in kindergarten through third grade to high-quality instructional materials aligned with the science of reading and prohibits the use of state funds for unapproved materials beginning with the 2029–2030 school year. Local boards of education are required to approve such materials, and the State Board of Education must annually determine and present to the General Assembly a recommended funding level to support their adoption. The bill adds Quality Basic Education funding for school-based literacy coaches in every public school serving kindergarten through third grade, with proportional funding for smaller schools. It establishes minimum qualifications and duties for school-based, regional, and regional leadership literacy coaches, restricts these roles to instructional support functions, and prohibits assignment of administrative or evaluative duties. The Professional Standards Commission is required to create a literacy coaching endorsement and to revise educator preparation program standards to align reading instruction with the science of reading, with ongoing compliance reviews and reporting. It also restructures state-level literacy governance by replacing the Georgia Literacy Coach with a Georgia Director of Literacy and a Georgia Literacy Coach Coordinator housed within the Office of Student Achievement. It establishes the Georgia Literacy Coordinating Committee to align literacy initiatives across agencies and to review local unified literacy plans. Beginning in 2027, adoption of a unified literacy plan becomes a condition for local systems seeking waivers,

charter approvals, or charter renewals. The bill also creates a standing Georgia Literacy Task Force responsible for recommending universal reading screeners, instructional materials, and professional learning programs, with required action by the State Board of Education on those recommendations. The bill authorizes regional educational service agencies to employ regional literacy coaches, integrates literacy requirements into statewide promotion and retention policies for grades one, three, five, and eight, and directs the Office of Student Achievement to coordinate a comprehensive statewide literacy awareness campaign in collaboration with multiple state agencies.

SB 466	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72914 (Bearden-30th)	Require public and private schools to install secure key boxes at school buildings (as funding allows). The boxes, placed with input from local law enforcement and emergency officials, would help in case of emergencies.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 471	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72949 (Dolezal-27th)	Makes permanent the provision providing that no local board of education, local school superintendent, or school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel shall make or enforce any rule that requires a student to wear a face mask or face covering while present on school property unless such rule provides that a parent or guardian of such student may elect for his or her child to be exempt from such rule.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote THIS TUESDAY.
SB 472	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72966 (Hickman-4th)	Expands the grounds for suspending local board of education members to include findings by the state auditor that a school system requires the highest level of monitoring or has engaged in financial mismanagement or misconduct, and establishes related hearing and reinstatement procedures. It limits superintendent contract extensions to 12 months when a system is designated high risk and requires new contracts to treat certain audit findings or failure to comply with corrective action plans as grounds for termination for cause. The bill caps advance distributions of state funds at 50 percent of the prior year's allotment unless the state auditor approves a higher amount with an accompanying monitoring and intervention plan that the local	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.

board must adopt. It also requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to implement a statewide program of progressive monitoring and interventions for school systems and state charter schools, sets audit readiness standards, authorizes delayed audits when standards are not met, and expands the state auditor's investigative authority over local school systems and state charter schools.

SB 475	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72969 (Kemp-38th)	Lowers the threshold required to trigger an election to dissolve an independent school system and consolidate it into the applicable county school system by reducing the petition requirement from one-fourth of qualified voters to 10 percent of qualified voters in the independent school system. It makes conforming changes to clarify that, upon repeal, the territory of the independent system becomes part of each respective county school system in which the territory is located and continues operating under its existing structure until the county board assumes control. The bill also amends the Charter Schools Act to require local boards of education to treat local charter schools no less favorably than other local schools regarding the expenditure of special purpose local option sales tax proceeds for education, while clarifying that school systems are not required to use such funds to purchase or improve property not owned by the local school system.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 479	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73002 (Kemp-85th)	Allows elementary and secondary school students to be excused from school for at least one day to participate in a civic or political event. Requires the State Board of Education to develop a model policy mandating that each local school system and public school provide at least one excused absence per school year for civic or political participation.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 484	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73052 (Setzler-37th)	Creates an alternative certification pathway through the Professional Standards Commission for experienced teachers. Eligible candidates must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have specified K-12 or postsecondary teaching experience, complete an experience-based preparation program, pass required ethics and content assessments, and receive a public school	Senate Education & Youth Committee

job offer. The bill also prohibits discrimination against teachers holding a professional certificate, including exclusion from job fairs or recruitment activities.

SB 487	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73064 (Hickman-4th)	Establishes the Education Workforce Data Governance Advisory Committee within the Office of Student Achievement for the purpose of setting policies and standards for collecting and using education workforce data, aligning and integrating data from multiple agencies and school systems, reducing duplication, standardizing definitions, and developing a public dashboard with available data on educator recruitment and retention. Committee membership would include one representative from the Department of Education, Department of Early Care and Learning, the University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia. This law would automatically expire on July 1, 2036.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 490	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73068 (Wicks-34th)	"Georgia Student Mental Health Days Act" - Requires local governing body's of each school system to adopt a policy providing students with at least 3 excused absences for mental health days. Such policy shall include systems the parents to notify the school that the student is taking a mental health day, and documentation of absences used in this Code section. No local school system shall require a student to disclose his or her mental health in order to receive an excused absence. At the beginning of the school year, or upon enrollment, schools shall notify the parent or guardian of each student of all mental health resources available through the school, if any. The State Board of Education shall develop a model policy for use by local school systems.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 493	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73111 (Kemp-38th)	Amends Georgia's promise scholarship law to establish additional accountability requirements for participating private schools. It requires the education savings authority to adopt rules governing program administration, prioritize economically disadvantaged students when funds are limited, set eligibility standards for schools and service providers, and conduct annual random audits of student accounts. The authority may take corrective action for misuse of funds,	Senate Education & Youth Committee

make students or parents ineligible for violations, and refer substantial misuse to the Attorney General. By December 31, 2026, in coordination with the Office of Student Achievement, the authority must establish an academic performance standard requiring that at least half of participating students at a school are performing at or above grade level or demonstrating academic growth, based on specified assessment data and enrollment duration. Beginning that same date and annually thereafter, the authority must review participating schools for compliance and apply escalating consequences for repeated failure, including improvement plans, probation, enrollment limits, and a three-year prohibition on enrolling new participating students after a fourth finding. The authority must also conduct annual eligibility reviews of participating schools, may deduct up to 5 percent of account funds for administrative costs, and may contract with a qualified organization to administer the program. Conflicting laws are repealed.

SB 497 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73140> (Dixon-45th)

Requires that each time a student receives medical, nursing, or therapeutic counseling services from a school employee that are not part of instruction, a record must be created and included in the student's education records. It also requires written notification to the parent within 48 hours of such services being provided. Limited exceptions allow a school employee to withhold parental notification if the employee reasonably believes that notifying the parent would exacerbate imminent danger to the student or another person, or in cases involving suspected child abuse. In such cases, the employee must notify the principal within 12 hours and provide an explanation. The bill requires local education agencies to adopt policies by July 1, 2026, to implement these requirements and specifies that these provisions are not subject to waiver for certain school systems.

Recommended
DO PASS by
the Senate
Education &
Youth
Committee.
The bill will be
on the Senate
Floor for a vote
THIS TUESDAY.

SB 498 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73137> (Dixon-45th)

Creates the Georgia Charter School Facilities Authority to provide loans and other financing assistance to qualified charter school organizations for constructing and renovating

Recommended
DO PASS by
the Senate
Finance

		educational facilities, and assigns it to the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission for administrative purposes. The authority may issue notes, make and secure loans, enter lease agreements, collect fees, and accept grants, but its obligations are not debts of the state and it has no power of eminent domain. The bill limits most loans to the lesser of 20 percent of project costs or 2 million dollars, caps renovation loans at 200,000 dollars, restricts loan terms to five years or the remaining charter term, allows withholding of state funds upon default, provides tax exemptions except for sales and use tax, and clarifies the commission's role in disbursing capital outlay funds for public and charter schools.	Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 513	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73241 (Dickerson-21st)	Requires local school systems to adopt a multi-tiered framework of attendance supports, including school-wide strategies, targeted interventions for at-risk students, and individualized attendance intervention plans for chronically unexcused students. It defines chronically unexcused student, requires attendance review teams to meet regularly to develop written intervention plans with student and parent input, and makes chronically unexcused students ineligible for extracurricular and interscholastic activities until a plan is developed or modified. The bill requires schools to track compliance with intervention plans, report noncompliance to the Department of Education, and authorizes that information to be shared with the Department of Driver Services. It further prohibits issuance of an instruction permit or driver's license to minors under 18 who are not enrolled in school, not compliant with an attendance intervention plan, or otherwise meeting specified educational criteria, and requires the Department of Education to provide enrollment and compliance data to the Department of Driver Services for enforcement.	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House Committee.
SB 515	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73243 (Hickman-4th)	Revises Georgia's teacher recruitment and retention tax credit program under the Quality Basic Education Act. Beginning July 1, 2026, the annual credit for newly designated participating teachers is reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,500 per school year, for up to five consecutive years,	Senate Finance Committee. The bill will be heard in committee

while teachers already eligible for the \$3,000 credit as of June 30, 2026, may continue receiving that amount for the remainder of their eligibility. The bill updates eligibility criteria by limiting participating schools to rural schools and those identified among the lowest-performing under the statewide accountability system, with the Department of Education designating up to 100 schools annually and prioritizing the lowest 25 percent performing schools and those with high-need subject vacancies. Eligible teachers must be newly hired in a high-need subject area, hold at least a bachelor's degree in education from an approved institution, and possess a valid induction or professional certificate. Teachers may participate for up to five consecutive years if they remain at the same school, subject to provisions for involuntary transfers, leave, and performance ratings. The measure increases the annual statewide cap on participating teachers from 1,000 to 1,200, establishes priority rules if applications exceed the cap, extends the application deadline through December 31, 2034, and requires the Office of Student Achievement to continue annual evaluation and reporting.

TODAY
(MONDAY).

SB 519 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73280> (Anderson-43rd)

Prohibits employees of public schools from being selected as the evaluator for other employees of such public school. Requires any surveys of public school employees conducted pursuant to this Code section to be conducted anonymously. Requires K-12 teachers to be provided no less than two planned restroom breaks per day, one of which may coincide with such teacher's planning period. Requires all public school officials and professionals to be provided opportunity to continue professional development and receive training relevant to their roles. Requires school bus operation policies and procedures to include the ability for a bus driver to request a bus monitor of he or she has concern regarding the behavior of a student who rides his or her school bus.

Senate
Education &
Youth
Committee

SB 523 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73343> (Goodman-8th)

Requires public schools, University System of Georgia institutions, and Technical College System of Georgia institutions to treat harassment or discrimination motivated by or including antisemitism the same as religion-

Recommended
DO PASS by
the Senate
Higher
Education

		based discrimination. By September 29, 2026, the Department of Education must appoint a statewide K–12 Title VI Coordinator to oversee complaints in public schools, establish and publicize a uniform complaint process, receive and investigate complaints, issue written findings and recommendations, ensure corrective actions within 30 days, monitor compliance, refer unresolved cases to federal authorities, and submit an annual report to state leadership. The Department must conduct or supervise investigations and issue written compliance determinations.	Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 537	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73417 (Harbin-16th)	Prohibits elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools in the state from displaying, at any time or in any place, any flag other than the flag of the United States or the flag, coat of arms, or state emblem of the State of Georgia.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 552	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73523 (Watson-1st)	"True Patriotism and Universal Student Access (TPUSA) Act" - Establishes that students enrolled in public school shall be permitted to engage in political activities and expression in the same manner and extent that students may engage in non political activities and expression. Students may organize partisan or nonpartisan political activities to the same extent that students are permitted to organize non-curricular groups during non instructional time. It shall be unlawful to deny equal access or fair opportunity to conduct a meeting on the basis of the political, philosophical, ideological, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Public schools shall hold open forums whenever such school grants an offering for one or more non curricular related school groups to meet on school premises during non instructional time. Partisan and nonpartisan political groups shall be given the same access to public school facilities, and the same ability for advertising and meeting announcements.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 557	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73542 (Payne-54th)	Makes student discipline requirements and public school employee complaint policies nonwaivable for traditional public schools, charter schools, and completion special schools under flexibility or charter contracts. It requires local boards and	Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill will be

		public school governing bodies to adopt policies allowing a school employee who is the victim of physical violence by a student or a student's parent or guardian to transfer to a substantially similar position within the same system without retaliation. The bill also prohibits the use of student discipline data in calculating school climate star ratings and takes effect July 1, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year.	heard in committee this TUESDAY.
SB 589	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73650 (Brass-6th)	Revises the age requirement for kindergarten and first-grade enrollment, changing the cutoff date from September 1 to August 1 for all children who have turned five by that date. Children who turn four or five by August 1 can attend Georgia's voluntary Pre-K for one year, with four- and five-year-olds treated equally for available seats.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 595	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73661 (James-28th)	Authorizes the State Board of Education to establish a student personal development and career readiness program to help students grow academically, prepare for careers, and develop personally through mental health, life skills, case management, and other supports.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
SB 597	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73694 (Mangham-55th)	"Student Legal Literacy and Life Skills Education Act" - Amends Quality Basic Education Act such that no later than January 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards for a course for 9-12 in legal literacy and life skills. At a minimum, such content standards shall relate to instruction in constitutional rights, individual legal responsibilities, interactions with law enforcement, employment rights, workplace protections and contracts, housing and tenant rights, and consequences of violating a criminal law. Beginning in the 2027-28 school year each local board of education and other public school governing bodies shall require all students, as a condition of graduation, complete at least a half-credit course in legal literacy and life skills. Such course shall be eligible to count toward a social studies or elective unit of credit requirement for graduation.	Senate Education & Youth Committee



Higher Education

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 7	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69287	(Kendrick-95th)	Creates an income tax credit of \$4,000, up to \$12,000 total, for workforce-ready graduates employed in a high-tech, full-time job. The job must be located in a "rural county," defined as a county with less than 50,000 residents of which at least 10 percent are living in poverty. The job must also be in one of the following fields: data scientist; software developer; information security analyst; web developer; computer sales engineer; information technology manager; computer research scientist; network and systems administrator; or a computer support specialist.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 88	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69427	(Barnes-86th)	Establishes a student loan repayment program for students who have completed a program of study in veterinary technology and practice in rural counties in Georgia. Only those who have been practicing veterinary technology for 10 years or less are eligible for loan repayment. The loan repayment is limited to a maximum total award of \$30,000 or less per eligible applicant, distributed at a rate of \$10,000 per 12 months of service. The board is authorized to provide loan repayment to no more than five applicants per year, subject to availability of appropriated funds.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 206	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69722	(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.	House Higher Education Committee
HB 385	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70185	(Holcomb-101st)	Allows students concurrently seeking a baccalaureate degree and a first professional degree, and students who meet achievement standards and commence a graduate program at an eligible institution within 18 months of earning a baccalaureate degree, to use the full number of hours of HOPE scholarship eligibility.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.
HB 419	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70261	(Hawkins-27th)	Prevents the prohibition of possession of an opioid antagonist on university system or technical college system property or at university system or technical college system sponsored activities. The bill requires institutions and units to acquire and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists in a secure location, subject to	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.

available funding from community funding sources. For institutions or units that maintain an automated external defibrillator, the bill requires such institutions or units to maintain an opioid antagonist storage compartment within three feet of said automated external defibrillator, subject to available funding from community funding sources. The bill authorizes university system and technical college system personnel to administer opioid antagonists when necessary in specified situations.

HB 541	(Dempsey-13th)	<p>Expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions that offer baccalaureate programs in nursing, have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least 10 years, have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. These institutions must also have a four-year average passage rate of at least 80 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination, and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved institutions for the tuition equalization grant program, not the Dual Enrollment program or HOPE scholarships/grants.</p>	<p>PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee.</p>
HB 962	<p>https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72211 (Martin-49th)</p>	<p>Relating to savings trust accounts, to change the total account balance limit for the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan from \$235,000 to a reasonable amount set by the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan board of directors. The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-27, related to the computation of taxable net income, to expand the eligibility for a tax deduction for contributions to a savings trust account from being specifically for contributions to Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan accounts to contributions to any qualified tuition program established by a state and is exempt from taxation per Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.</p>

HB 1052 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72389 (Berry-56th)	Establishes grants to assist eligible students with off-campus housing expenses. The maximum award per student shall not exceed the difference between the cost of on-campus housing and the cost of off-campus housing. Students must apply for the grant. If the student is offered a grant and they are not enrolled as a student at the eligible postsecondary institution they shall refund the money awarded to the commission.	House Higher Education Committee
HB 1064 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72515 (Rice-139th)	Adds the Classic Learning Test (CLT) to be included with tests such as the SAT and ACT. Amends Quality Basic Education act to include improved scores on the CLT to the primary goals. Also adds the CLT prep courses to possible elective courses offered by local school boards, and removes SAT specific language. Expands dual enrollment requirements to include the CLT. Included the CLT for schools to apply to certain waivers. Includes the CLT and CLT10 in home study requirements. Includes CLT in Zell Miller Scholarship requirements and establishes a score of 86 on the CLT as an equivalent Zell Miller Scholarship requirement. Also adds receiving above 75th percentile on the CLT to HOPE Scholarship requirements.	House Higher Education Committee
HB 1113 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72637 (Barrett-24th)	Updates the Georgia Defined Contribution Plan to clarify that individuals performing services for an institution in which they are enrolled in either part-time or full-time are excluded from being considered employees.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Retirement Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1293 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73170 (Jones-47th)	Ppdates Dual Achievement Program provisions and provides for a funding method.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1300 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73177 (Seabaugh-34th)	Amends the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan Act to raise the maximum account balance from \$235,000 to \$550,000.	House Higher Education Committee

HB 1328 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73259 (Wade-9th)	Increases the maximum number of persons that can receive the University of North Georgia military scholarships.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1345 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73287 (Rice-139th)	Authorizes the governor, in consultation with the State Workforce Development Board, to approve all eligible workforce training programs in relation to the federal Workforce Pell Grant program.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Higher Education Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1366 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73346 (Carter-93rd)	<p>"Georgia Teacher Retention Scholarship Act"- Allows the Georgia Student Finance Authority to award post secondary scholarship to children of public school teachers who have taught in a public school in the state for at least 10 years. Scholarships must be awarded to students enrolled in postsecondary education and be classified as an undergraduate student in a program leading to a certificate, diploma, baccalaureate or first professional degree and such student shall maintain satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs. Students are not to have earned a baccalaureate or first professional degree or have attempted 190 or more quarter or 127 semester hours at any postsecondary institution. Written application shall be created by the authority. The authority shall approve scholarship renewals only upon request of the recipient's application.</p>	House Higher Education Committee
HB 1382 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73371 (Gisler-121st)	Encourages universities to award academic credit to active duty military members and veterans for college-level learning acquired through military service when the training and experience are substantially related to the coursework for which credit is sought. The Board of Regents must use Joint Services Transcripts issued by the U.S. Department of Defense and award credit	House Higher Education Committee

consistent with recognized organizations that evaluate military course credit recommendations. In collaboration with the Department of Veterans Service, the Board is authorized to develop and make available a guide identifying courses for which academic credit may be awarded based on military service.

HB 1413 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73467 (Martin-49th)	Requires Georgia Student Finance Authority to establish a need based postsecondary scholarship for unmet financial need. Students must complete FAFSA, be enrolled in a postsecondary program, and have not yet completed a baccalaureate or first professional degree. To remain eligible, students must have at least a 2.0 GPA. Maximum award shall be \$3,000, and awards shall not exceed an amount that is more than student's unmet financial need. Scholarships shall not be awarded for more than 8 semesters or 12 quarters. Students awarded scholarship shall complete a financial literacy course and be engaged in paid or unpaid work at least part time. The authority shall establish a separate fund for appropriated funds, and public or private grants, gifts, donations, or contributions.	House Higher Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1417 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73471 (Campbell-35th)	Requires that the Georgia Student Finance Authority include grades in fine arts courses in the calculations of HOPE scholarship eligibility, beginning for students who graduate after July 1, 2026.	House Education Committee
SB 400 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72232 (Burns-23rd)	Updates the regulation of nonpublic postsecondary education by defining distance education and expanding postsecondary activity to include distance education provided to individuals in the state or delivered from within the state. It limits degree-granting authority to institutions that are accredited or actively pursuing accreditation by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accreditor. The bill removes the requirement for Title 43-regulated institutions to participate in the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund, allows institutions to use an irrevocable letter of credit in place of a surety bond, and authorizes denial of applications based on prior regulatory noncompliance or harm to students. It clarifies that formal hearing and	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Education Committee.

appeal rights do not apply to denials of additional course offerings. To protect students in the event of closure or potential closure, the executive director may require submission or seizure of academic records and maintain permanent custody of those records. The bill also revises Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund provisions by no longer exempting long-participating institutions from continued payments, limiting student reimbursement eligibility under specified conditions, and granting the fund an independent right to recover reimbursements from defaulting institutions.

SB 432	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72506 (Walker III- 20th)	Extends the automatic repeal process put in place for USG and TCSG regarding nonlapsing revenue from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2031.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Higher Education Committee.
SB 485	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73054 (Payne-54th)	Allows students in accredited master's in social work programs to sit for the master's in social work licensing examination in such applicant's final semester of the program.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 556	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73535 (Payne-54th)	Provides for the inclusion of advanced placement and international baccalaureate fine arts courses in the calculation of grade point averages for determining student eligibility for the HOPE scholarships and other scholarships.	Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.



Environmental Safety

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
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HB 79	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69411 (Newton-127th)	<p>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. Creates sales tax exemptions for the purchases of firearms, ammunition, gun safes, and related accessories will be for four days beginning on the second Friday of October of each year.</p>	<p>PASSED HOUSE. Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.</p>
HB 1054	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72391 (Moore-91st)	<p>"Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 2026"-Prohibits businesses from knowingly exposing individuals to chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without providing clear and reasonable warnings and from discharging such chemicals into sources of drinking water, subject to specified exceptions. The bill directs the Governor to publish and annually update lists of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity based on scientific and regulatory standards. It authorizes enforcement by the Attorney General, district attorneys, and, under defined conditions, private individuals, and allows courts to issue injunctions and assess civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day per violation. The bill establishes notice, reporting, settlement, and certificate-of-merit requirements for private enforcement actions. It creates the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Fund to receive most penalties collected and to support administration and enforcement of the Act. The Act takes effect January 1, 2027, only if voters approve a related constitutional amendment in the 2026 general election. The bill also requires that a business operating in Georgia not expose individuals, without clear warnings, to chemicals that cause cancers or reproductive harm and prohibits the release of these chemicals into drinking water. Penalties for violations range on number and extent of offenses. By January 1, 2027, the Governor will provide a list of the chemicals, and at least once a year on-going, the Attorney General will republish and update that list.</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee</p>

HB 1217	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72907 (Berry-56th)	"Bryce Brooks Act" - Requires a lifeguard to be positioned every 150 yards on each public beach in this state at periods of high occupancy. The Department of Economic Development shall develop and implement a pilot program to encourage high school students to become lifeguards. No later than Dec 31, 2028 the department shall submit a detailed written report on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Health, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the House and Senate Appropriations Committee. The pilot program shall terminate on January 1, 2029.	House Economic Development & Tourism Committee
SB 204	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70476 (Moore-53rd)	Prohibits counties and municipalities from regulating the storage of firearms in vehicles.	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. Awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.
SB 374	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72065 (Strickland-42nd)	Allows local governments to adopt ordinances that require fire sprinklers to be installed in residential buildings with two or more units. (Currently, code does not require such residential buildings to have fire sprinklers, but this bill would allow city or county governments to ordain these requirements.)	Senate Public Safety Committee
SB 454	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72763 (Williams-25th)	Allows temporary door locking devices to be used in public buildings. Such devices should be able to be removed or engaged without opening the door and removed with a single operation. Can be used with a key from the inside, but should be engaged or removed without key from the outside. They cannot be permanently mounted to the door unless they do not prevent normal function of the door. Permits devices to be used to secure a door to a room or to a secure fire exit, hallway, or entrance way leading to a fire exit so long as the device is only used during an active threat, is installed no higher than 48 inches off the ground, and is integrated into building safety plans and emergency drills and	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.

trainings. If used in a fire exit or hallway, devices must be approved by local fire department or safety agencies.

SB 495 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73129> (Harrell-40th)

"Age-Appropriate Design Code Act" - Regulates certain for-profit online services that are reasonably likely to be accessed by minors and that collect or process personal data. Covered entities are prohibited from specified high-risk data practices and design features for minors unless the consumer explicitly requests the feature and the entity uses a commercially reasonable, technically feasible age-assurance method to determine the consumer is not a minor. Prohibited practices include collecting or using personal data beyond what is necessary for the service requested, using data for new purposes, enabling undisclosed monitoring or location tracking, using personal data to power algorithmic feeds except in limited cases, sending push notifications between midnight and 6:00 a.m., and using features such as autoplay, infinite scroll, variable reward systems, or other designs that may promote compulsive use. Before deploying new or materially changed designs, covered entities must assess the risk of compulsive use in minors, provide lower-risk alternatives by default when feasible, document and retain assessments for ten years, and submit records annually to an independent auditor; small businesses meeting specified revenue and data thresholds are exempt from these assessment requirements. The Attorney General must adopt and periodically update rules identifying additional prohibited practices and acceptable age-assurance methods. The bill requires highest-privacy default settings for minors, including limits on adult-minor recommendations and direct messaging, disabling public display of friends and interaction counts, disabling search indexing and location sharing by default, and restricting push notifications. It requires tools for minors to block users, manage algorithmic feed preferences, and request deletion of accounts and personal data, with deletion requests honored within 15 days. Covered entities must also provide detailed public disclosures about privacy practices, algorithmic feeds, and data use. Violations constitute unfair or deceptive acts

Senate
Children &
Families
Committee

under the Fair Business Practices Act and may be enforced by the Attorney General or through private actions, with statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation or actual damages, plus additional remedies. The Act includes specified exclusions and construction provisions and becomes fully effective January 1, 2027, with earlier effectiveness for rulemaking.

SB 550	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73516 (Summers-13th)	Provides that manufacturers of firearms shall not be held liable for the manufacture of a product alleged to be defective, for failure to warn, or for negligence based on the absence or presence of any design, functionality, safety mechanism, or performance standard that is not required by federal law. This code section shall not limit liability for a firearm manufacturer in cases in which a firearm contained a manufacturing defect or failed to operate in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's express warranties or representations.	Senate Judiciary Committee
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Technology, AI & Digital Safety – NEW!!!

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 996	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72263	(Berry - 56th)	This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, beginning October 31, 2026, and annually thereafter, to work in coordination with the Division of Family and Children Services within the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the General Assembly identifying food deserts in the state, describing associated health issues, and recommending strategies to reduce the number and size of food deserts. The bill allows the department to satisfy any of these reporting requirements by incorporating relevant information from federal government materials that address the same topics.	House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

HB 1351	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73295 (Cannon-58th)	Provides a definition of artificial intelligence. Requires any governmental agency that uses or contracts with a third party for AI services in hiring to include a disclaimer in the job posting stating that AI may be used to evaluate applications. If a governmental agency uses or contracts with a third party for AI services to evaluate employee performance and that evaluation results in termination, the agency must provide a disclaimer identifying the documents and decision-making pathways that led to the termination, along with documentation of human review of those decision pathways. The disclaimer must also explain how the AI system was adopted and deployed and identify any data, sources, or metrics used.	House Governmental Affairs Committee
SB 9	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69351 (Albers-56th)	Defines terms related to artificial intelligence (AI), and establishes the offenses of fraudulent election interference and solicitation of fraudulent election interference by using AI-generated media in campaign advertisements. The bill introduces the terms "materially deceptive media" and "AI generated media," and criminalizes the publication of this type of media within 90 days of an election with intent to deceive voters and influence the outcome of an election. The State Election Board is authorized to investigate complaints regarding fraudulent election interference within 90 days of an election and will publicly release the findings of completed investigations. The attorney general is granted concurrent jurisdiction with local district attorneys to criminally prosecute violations regarding fraudulent election interference upon recommendation from the State Election Board. The bill clarifies that the use of AI-generated content in campaign advertisements is not unlawful as long as the proper disclosures are displayed.	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The Senate has disagreed to changes made to the bill by the House & has returned the bill to the House for possible further action.
SB 398	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72204 (Hatchett-50th)	Establishes criminal offense for virtual peeping: Prohibits the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) to generate an image of an adult without that adult's consent; a person who commits such an act will be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. If a person commits virtual peeping and causes a generative AI image of obscene material of an	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non- Civil Committee.

adult without consent, the offender shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment of 1 to 10 years and a fine of up to \$50,000. If a person causes generative AI without a minor's consent or that of a legal guardian, the offender shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment of 1 to 5 years and a fine of up to \$10,000. For obscene minor images produced by generative AI, the offender, upon conviction, will be guilty of a felony and punishable by imprisonment of 5 to 20 years and a fine of up to \$100,000. A person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor rather than a felony if all of the following conditions are met: the minor depicted was at least 14 years old at the time the image was generated; the image was created with the minor's consent; the defendant was 18 years of age or younger at the time of generation; the defendant did not distribute the image to another person; and the court, in its discretion, determines that the image was not intended to harass, intimidate, embarrass, or be used for commercial purposes. Each image generated shall count as a separate offense. This law does not apply to activities by law enforcement or prosecutors in the investigation or prosecution of criminal offenses. If the offender is an immediate family member of the victim, the fines do not apply.

SB 444	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72666 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Authorizes the use of artificial intelligence systems in health insurance operations to automate tasks, reduce administrative burdens, support decision-making, and perform other lawful functions related to coverage for health care services, provided that AI is not the sole basis for a utilization review or coverage determination.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Technology & Infrastructure Innovation Committee.
SB 455	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72792 (Merritt-9th)	Establishes the Georgia Artificial Intelligence Commission to advise state leaders on the use, risks, and governance of artificial intelligence across Georgia government. The commission is tasked with developing statewide principles and guidelines, inventorying AI systems used by state agencies, identifying high-risk applications, and recommending legislative or administrative actions. It is administratively housed within the Georgia Technology Authority, composed of executive, legislative, academic, and private-	Senate Science & Technology Committee

			sector members, and required to issue annual reports beginning in 2027.	
SB 488	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73067	(Setzler-37th)	Treats generative artificial intelligence systems like a physical product for purposes of certain lawsuits involving injuries to minors. If a child is harmed after using or being affected by a generative AI system, the bill allows the child (or their representative) to bring a product liability claim, arguing that the system was defective or not reasonably safe for its intended use. It also allows lawsuits not only against the manufacturer, but against companies that sell or distribute the AI system. The bill creates a legal presumption that the manufacturer and seller had a duty to warn about the risk of harm, unless they can prove otherwise.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 571	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73570	(Still-48th)	Requires age verification on websites that contain substantial online gambling content (33.33% of total material). This can include submission of digital ID including drivers license or government issued ID, or any commercially reasonable age verification that meets or exceeds and Identity Assurance Level 2 standard, as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Commercial entities that violates this COde section are liable to an individual for damages resulting from a minor accessing gambling content including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. Such entities are also subject to a fine up to \$10,000 for each violation, and amount shall be determined by the superior court in the county which any affected minor resides. The AG or solicitor general or DA shall institute proceedings to impose such fines within 1 year.	Senate Children & Families Committee
SR 789	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73299	(James-28th)	Creates the Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence	Senate Science & Technology Committee



Shelter & Nutrition

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
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HB 61	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69373 (Seabaugh-34th)	The bill refines the definition of “resides” to explicitly include the unauthorized occupation of property, thereby broadening how squatting is defined under Georgia law. It expands the jurisdiction of magistrate courts to hear cases involving alleged squatters and establishes a removal process allowing property owners to file a verified complaint that authorizes law enforcement to remove individuals deemed to be unlawfully occupying the property. The bill also creates potential criminal penalties for individuals who fraudulently claim a legal right to occupy property and provides liability protections for property owners who act pursuant to the bill’s removal procedures. At the same time, it establishes a civil cause of action for wrongful removal, permitting individuals who are improperly removed to recover damages, including up to three times the fair market monthly rental rate. In the lodging context, the bill clarifies the authority of innkeepers to remove guests and alters the legal treatment of long-term residents of extended-stay hotels by treating nonpayment as potential criminal trespass, effectively reversing certain protections previously recognized for those residents.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
HB 400	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70201 (Frye-122nd)	Creates the 'Community Housing Options Increase Cost Efficiency (CHOICE) Act.' The bill requires the Department of Community Affairs, when reviewing certain applications, to give priority to workforce housing ready communities; workforce housing ready experts; and workforce and home ownership leaders. The bill removes specified matching requirements related to the local maintenance and improvement grant program for a county or municipality certified as a workforce and home ownership leader. The bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to annually determine and publish the following: the median household income of each county and municipality in the state; and the population of each county and municipality in the state.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 779	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71401 (Neal-79th)	Requires landlords and managers of apartment buildings or complexes to provide local police and fire department with after hours maintenance telephone numbers and afterhours management	House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill was

HB 947	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72145 (Momtahan-17th)	<p>telephone numbers. Landlords or managers out of compliance will be fined \$2,000 per violation.</p>	<p>introduced late and did not cross over.</p>
		<p>“Georgia SNAP Integrity Act of 2026” - The Georgia Department of Human Services is permitted to examine documents, electronic material, records, and other materials relating to SNAP recipients or applicants which may be obtained by subpoena. The bill restricts new categorical eligibility or gross income standards to be granted unless required by federal law. For households with zero net income, include an able-bodied adult without dependents, or with unstable circumstances, will have a certification period of no more than four months by January 1, 2029. For households that may become ineligible for SNAP within 30 days of eligibility determination, the certification period will be one to two months. The bill provides further household eligibility requirements, including but not limited to income, residency, and citizenship or immigration status. Beginning July 1, 2027 and for every six months until January 1, 2029, the department will submit a status report to the chairpersons of the House Appropriations Committee; Senate Appropriations Committee; House Committee on Public and Community Health; and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. On a monthly basis, the Department of Human Services ("department") will review information that may indicate a circumstance changes that may affect eligibility including but not limited to death records and changes in residency. Additionally, on a monthly basis, the department will review federal data regarding earned income; death registry; incarceration records; income and employment; fleeing felon information; and address change information. On a quarterly basis, the department will receive and review information from the Department of Labor and the centralized employee registry to see if a change in circumstances may affect an individual's SNAP eligibility. A data-matching agreement will be shared with the department and the Georgia Lottery Corporation to identify households with lottery winning that may affect their SNAP eligibility. Language is added to restrict the</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.</p>

department from seeking, applying for, accepting, or renewing waiver of work requirements without first having General Assembly authorization. The bill provides a definition for "EBT card" and lists card display, citizenship, work, and usage requirements. Language is provided that the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Division of Family and Children Services ("division") may coordinate to identify SNAP use expansion at local farmers markets, and the division and department will submit an annual report by December 31 to the General Assembly that shows farmers market vendor participation and improvement recommendations. The bill restricts SNAP benefits from being used to purchase food or beverages in a food service establishment or beverages intended to be consumed at time of purchase, and the division may issue guidelines to authorized SNAP retailers. The bill does not limit or regulate D-SNAP or other emergency circumstance services.

HB 993	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72260	(Barnes - 86th)	Requires public to schools schedule a lunch period of 30 consecutive minutes of seated time for each class. Requires each board of education or school governing body to set policies including the following matters to ensure that all students have sufficient time to eat lunch during the lunch period: (1) Scheduling strategies for lunch periods; (2) Staffing patterns for school lunch personnel; and (3) Strategies and methods to minimize the time students spend waiting in line to receive meals. Schools will report on such to GaDOE annually. Additionally, and subject to appropriations, the State Board of Education shall be authorized to provide grants to local school systems or other public schools for the purpose of implementing the provisions.	House Education Committee
HB 1007	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72302	(Berry-56th)	Provides residential tenants with the right to complete necessary repairs within their unit if the landlord fails to address the issue within 14 days after receiving written notice. The tenant may hire a pre-approved licensed professional—either named in the lease agreement or previously identified by the landlord in writing—to complete the repair. Once the repair is completed, the tenant may deduct the cost from the next rent payment, provided the repair cost does not	House Judiciary Committee

		exceed the rent amount. If the landlord fails to complete the repair within 60 days of notice, the tenant may, after providing 30 days written notice, terminate the lease.	
HB 1013	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72320 (Bell-75th)	Designates lemon pepper wings as the official Georgia state chicken wing flavor.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Special Rules Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1014	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72321 (Bell-75th)	Prohibits private and public primary and secondary schools from serving, selling (or allowing a third party to serve or sell) food or beverages that contain certain synthetic dyes, and prohibits the addition of specific ingredients in food and the selling any food under an invented name when it does not contain some ingredient suggested by such name or contains only an inconsiderable quantity.	House Education Committee
HB 1017	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72345 (Kendrick-95th)	Defines “business enterprises” as private entities (excluding nonprofits) that own interests in at least 100 single-family residential properties in Georgia and broadly defines what qualifies as single-family residential property. Beginning January 1, 2027, it prohibits such business enterprises, including their affiliates, from purchasing or otherwise acquiring interests in single-family residential properties, with limited exceptions for secured lending and temporary ownership through foreclosure if the property is sold within three years. The bill also creates a new tax classification for “business enterprise property,” requiring these properties to be assessed and taxed at 100% of fair market value. It establishes mandatory ownership certification requirements, penalties for noncompliance, lien enforcement, and administrative procedures for assessment, classification, and release when property no longer qualifies. In order to define and establish a separate class of property that includes only tangible real property qualifying as business enterprise property and to establish a program by which certain properties within such	House Ways & Means Committee

		class may be assessed for taxes at different rates or valuations, a Constitutional Amendment is required.	
HB 1031	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72361 (Holly-116th)	Prohibits landlords from increasing rent for a renewing tenant by more than 5 percent.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1035	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72365 (Scott-76th)	Prohibits the foreclosure of a lien or any other involuntary forfeiture of an owner-occupied dwelling for nonpayment of nontax service charges. The bill clarifies that a foreclosure or involuntary sale of a owner-occupied dwelling may occur for nonpayment of ad valorem or other taxes, as well as for defaulting on a mortgage. Property owners' associations or condominium associations may suspend the use of common areas, levy late charges, or record a notice of delinquency for delinquent property owners. Utilities and local authorities may pursue collections via civil action for unpaid service charges, but cannot pursue a lien resulting in foreclosure or tax sale of an owner-occupied property.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1049	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72386 (Frye-122nd)	Limits criminal penalties and civil damages of donors and gleaners (A gleaner is a person who harvests for use or distribution an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner) that donate food and organizations that accept food.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1055	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72480 (Holly-116th)	"Neighborhood Ownership, Transparency, and Accountability (NOTA) Act"-Prohibits a person and affiliates of a person from purchasing a single-family home in a qualifying county if such person owns 25 or more single-family homes that are being used for rental purposes. Requires such landlord and/or affiliates to provide annually to the Secretary of State. any equity or debt financing from any business, the number of properties owned in the state, the U.S., and internationally, the number of evictions for the previous year, and identifying information of all properties owned in this state. Authorizes the Attorney General and private parties, municipalities, and county governments to bring civil actions to enforce the cap on ownership of more than 25 single-family homes in a qualified county. (Note that "qualified county" is defined as a county with a population greater than 150,000	House Judiciary Committee

		as of the most recent United States decennial census.)		
HB 1132	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72686	(Franklin-160th)	Exempts nonprofit public charities classified as 501(c)(3) from state and local sales taxes on materials used for the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. The exemption applies only if the charity is properly registered as a 501(c)(3) and the property consists of single-family homes financed for first-time homebuyers through non-interest-bearing loans with a minimum 30-year mortgage term. Eligible buyers must have household incomes at or below 80% of the area median income, as determined annually by HUD based on county limits.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1159	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72731	(Gambill-15th)	Allows for deduction of payments from the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture received on or before March 31, 2026 from taxable state income.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1162	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72737	(Holly-116th)	Requires corporations, limited liability companies, and their subsidiaries that hold an interest in three or more multifamily residential properties to disclose those properties and their addresses to the Georgia Secretary of State as part of their annual filings. The bill directs the Secretary of State to publish this ownership information on the Georgia Corporations Division website, including linking subsidiary holdings to parent or controlling entities. The requirements apply to both corporations and LLCs and take effect for annual filings made on or after July 1, 2026.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1165	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72769	(Scott-76th)	Requires the Department of Community Affairs to create a list of state-owned unused land by December 31, 2026, that could be used for community gardens. Additionally, requires by December 31, 2027, each city with a population of 25,000 or more to set up and maintain at least one community garden within the city limits, as long as suitable state-owned land is available and approved by the State Properties Commission. Allows the State Properties Commission to lease	House State Planning & Community Affairs Committee

		or provide state-owned land to a city for community gardens.	
HB 1171	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72782 (Frye-122nd)	Requires all lease agreements to include a nonwaivable warranty of habitability, obligating landlords to maintain rental premises in a condition fit for human habitation by complying with housing codes, making necessary repairs, keeping common areas safe and clean, maintaining essential systems and appliances, providing waste removal, and ensuring running water, hot water, and heat. If a landlord fails to meet these requirements, a tenant may terminate the lease or continue it and pursue specified remedies, including rent withholding, damages, injunctive relief, repair and deduction, or substitute housing, while preserving the tenant's duty to maintain the unit in a reasonably clean and safe condition and avoid damage beyond ordinary wear and tear.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1177	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72789 (Williams-168th)	Requires residential projects undertaken by development authorities to be for affordable housing.	House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1188	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72837 (Sanchez-42nd)	Prohibits landlords from entering into a rental agreement with, or accepting payment from, a consumer unless the landlord has first clearly and conspicuously disclosed the total rental price for the residential property. It further prohibits landlords from charging or collecting hidden or improper fees, including fees that are excessive; charged for services not actually performed or received; related to services the landlord is already required to provide under federal, state, or local law or under the rental agreement; used to force a tenant to use a specific vendor or service provider chosen by the landlord; or charged without being clearly and explicitly authorized in the rental agreement.	House Judiciary Committee

HB 1252	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73019 (Olaley-59th)	"Homes for Georgians First Act" - Defines an institutional real estate investor based on ownership scale, fiduciary status, pooled investor funds, and asset thresholds. It prohibits such investors from purchasing a single-family home unless the property has been on the market for at least 30 days and a prospective owner-occupant buyer has not acquired the home by matching an offer.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1389	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73426 (Santos-117th)	Extends a notice for a tenant to vacate or pay from three business days to seven business days when a tenant fails to pay the rent, late fees, utilities, or other charges owed to the landlord when it becomes due, if the tenant refuses to pay the amount due or fails to deliver possession when so demanded after being provided with a notice to vacate or pay all past due rent, late fees, utilities, and other charges owed to the landlord.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1396	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73438 (Efstration-104th)	Requires privately funded organizations that operate shelters or provide outreach services to homeless individuals and meet specified requirements to participate as an authorizing agency for purposes of the Georgia Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).	Recommended DO PASS by the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1418	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73472 (Adeyina-110th)	Authorizes local governments to establish a recovery food program connecting people in a local community so they can share food and help reduce hunger and food waste. Digital platform, such as a website or app, can be created local government to run the program and support limiting participation to people in their local community. Those community members sharing resources in good faith are protected from civil and criminal penalty.	House Technology & Infrastructure Innovation Committee
HB 1439	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73558 (Park-107th)	Prohibits retail food establishments from using customer data to set prices and expands the definition to limit the use of digital shelf price tags.	House Technology & Infrastructure Innovation Committee

HR 656	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71497 (Olaley-59th)	Creates the House Study Committee on Expanding Home Ownership Opportunities for Georgians.	House Rural Development Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HR 1047	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72349 (Kendrick-95th)	Constitutional Amendment - Sets the rate of the ad valorem tax assessment of a single-family residential property to 100% of its fair market value when such property is owned by a business enterprise with an interest in at least 100 single-family residential properties within this state which are used primarily for the purpose of generating rental income.	House Ways & Means Committee
HR 1416	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73420 (Dickey-134th)	Creates the Joint Study Committee on Generational Sustainability of Family Farms. There will be nine members: three members appointed by the Senate president; three members appointed by the House speaker; the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; and the chairs of both the House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committees, who will serve as co-chairs of the study committee. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2027.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.
SB 170	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70340 (Jackson-41st)	Defines an affected rural hospital as an acute care hospital with fewer than 100 beds located in a rural county within a region where the Governor declared a state of emergency after July 1, 2024. A rural county is defined as one with a population under 50,000 based on the 2020 census, excluding military personnel and dependents. Subject to appropriations, the department must establish a grant program to fund the acquisition and installation of backup generators for affected rural hospitals to ensure operations during emergencies. Grant criteria and awards will be set in consultation with the director of emergency management and homeland security, with priority given to hospitals lacking backup generators or the means to install them. Grant amounts may be determined on a case-by-case basis.	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The Senate has disagreed to changes made to the bill by the House & has returned the bill to the House for possible further action.

SB 365	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71791 (Watson-11th)	Amends Georgia law relating to agriculture and animals to establish new transparency, testing, and disclosure requirements for certain large-scale organic produce, meat, and poultry producers. It requires large-scale organic produce producers to conduct routine monthly testing for prohibited substances, maintain testing records, and notify state and federal authorities and halt sales if violations are detected. The bill imposes recordkeeping, source verification, and detailed disclosure requirements on large-scale grass fed meat producers, including disclosures about livestock management history, use of livestock markets, deviations from advertised production claims, and whether cattle were over five years old at slaughter. It adds specific labeling, testing, disposal, notification, and sales suspension requirements for beef produced from older cattle, including testing of specified risk materials for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. The bill also requires large-scale pasture-raised poultry producers to conduct routine avian influenza testing, maintain records, notify authorities of positive cases, suspend sales, and implement biosecurity measures when necessary. It mandates separate tracking of different meat species, sourcing verification for direct-to-consumer sales, and authorizes civil penalties and suspension or revocation of marketing claims for noncompliance.	Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
SB 413	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72291 (Jackson-41st)	Permits the termination of a residential rental or lease agreement if a tenant or legal occupant of a residence has experienced residential firearm violence or reasonably fears such violence will occur at the residence. The legislation defines “residential firearm violence” as an act committed against a tenant or legal occupant at, or in the immediate vicinity of, the residence that includes a felony committed with a firearm, a misdemeanor committed with a firearm, any action involving a firearm that creates a serious risk of injury, or any action involving a firearm that results in injury. To exercise this termination right, the tenant or legal occupant must provide the landlord with documentation, which may include: documentation from a victim services provider verifying that the tenant or legal	Senate Judiciary Committee

		occupant has experienced residential firearm violence; a record from a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency verifying the act of residential firearm violence; a record from a health care provider; or a sworn affidavit from a qualified third party.	
SB 414	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72290 (Jackson-41st)	Prohibits landlords from entering into a rental agreement with, or accepting payment from, a consumer unless the landlord has first clearly and conspicuously disclosed the total rental price for the residential property. It further prohibits landlords from charging or collecting hidden or improper fees, including fees that are excessive; charged for services not actually performed or received; related to services the landlord is already required to provide under federal, state, or local law or under the rental agreement; used to force a tenant to use a specific vendor or service provider chosen by the landlord; or charged without being clearly and explicitly authorized in the rental agreement.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 415	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72292 (Dickerson-21st)	Prohibits any person from producing, selling, trading, distributing, or offering to produce, sell, trade, or distribute any lab-grown meat ("Lab-grown meat" means any food product that is produced, wholly or in part, by artificially growing the cell cultures of animal muscle or organ tissues) for human consumption.	Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
SB 463	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72849 (Dolezal-27th)	Prohibits, beginning January 1, 2027, business enterprises from directly or indirectly owning more than 500 single-family residences, unless they constructed the properties, and prohibits foreign investment vehicles and certain foreign-controlled enterprises from owning single-family residences used as rental property. Existing entities above the cap may not acquire additional properties but are not required to divest. The bill creates a private right of action with statutory damages for violations, requires broker disclosure of the restrictions, and makes enterprises exceeding the cap ineligible for specified state tax credits while limiting or requiring add-back of certain depreciation deductions related to such properties.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Economic Development & Tourism. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote THIS TUESDAY.

SB 576	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73611 (Tillery-19th)	Establishes a property tax assessment framework for community housing providers in Georgia. The bill defines a “community housing provider” as a natural person, nonprofit, charitable organization, or certain small business entities owning no more than 2,000 properties in the state. Tangible real property used for housing provider services and owned by a community housing provider is assessed at 40% of the value applied to other real property, while other housing provider property is assessed at full value. The bill allows tax assessors to require an annual sworn affidavit confirming that property qualifies as community housing provider property. Definitions for “housing provider” and “housing provider services” are provided, and the bill includes criteria for determining fair market value of property.	Senate Finance Committee
SR 800	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73332 (Goodman-8th)	Creates an 11-member Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote THIS TUESDAY.



Miscellaneous

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 383	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70183 (Cox-28th)		Amends the 'Georgia High School NIL Protection Act,' to provide for high school student athletes and prospective student athletes to receive name, image, or likeness compensation. The bill provides for the automatic expiration of contracts that provide name, image, and likeness compensation to student athletes after the student athlete graduates or is no longer enrolled, and allows for professional	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee.

representation of student athletes and prospective student athletes. The bill requires written notice to high school student athletes outlining the effects of receiving money or other items of value on the student's future eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

HB 733

(Miller-62nd)

Creates the position of insurance consumer and policyholder advocate within the office of the commissioner of insurance. The insurance consumer and policyholder advocate is tasked with: reviewing insurer practices related to policy cancellations and nonrenewals; participate in rate approval processes; educate insurance consumers and policyholders on the risks and benefits of different types of insurance; and advocate for insurance consumers and policyholders. The advocate is entitled to appear on behalf of insurance consumers and policyholders in any proceedings before the commissioner related to violations of the Code section and in judicial proceedings appealing an act by the commissioner. The bill adds that no rate can be unjustifiably increased and that any rate filing that results in an overall rate increase of 10 percent or more within a 12-month period is subject to an examination and an open and transparent review process. The bill adds the requirement for workers' compensation insurers to consult with the State Board of Workers' Compensation for establishing rates. The bill requires motor vehicle insurance writers to not enact rates, rating plans, rating systems, underwriting rules, or collect premiums unless the commissioner approves the filings by the writers or 60 days have passed. The commissioner can extend the 60-day period to no more than 40 days. Insurers are required to submit to the commissioner detailed actuarial reports demonstrating the necessity of a proposed rate increase based on claims trends, risk factors, and financial solvency and a breakdown of administrative expenses, claim costs, and profit margins. The commissioner and advocate must approve any rate increases based on an examination of documents from the insurers. Approval of rate increases by the commissioner is to be supported by clear and compelling data, necessary for the insurer's

Recommended
DO PASS by
the House
Budget & Fiscal
Affairs
Oversight
Committee.

		financial stability, and not excessive or unfairly discriminatory to insurance consumers or policyholders. Any complaint of unfair rate charged, rating plan, rating system, or underwriting rule is to be reviewed and investigated by the advocate, and is required to request a hearing before the commissioner to hear such a complaint.	
HB 902	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71975 (Jones-25th)	Provides for transparency and accountability in insurance rates and rate regulation after the enactment of tort reform law and for the publication of certain information. The bill also extends the time for data collection and analysis related to tort reform law and provides for findings on savings from tort reform law.	House Insurance Committee
HB 930	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72079 (Lupton-83rd)	Provides refundable tax credits for household essentials and workforce participation, including up to \$1,000 for single filers, \$2,000 for joint filers, plus \$1,000 per dependent, and up to \$1,000 for approved workforce training expenses, with the State Workforce Development Board required to identify high-demand training programs. It also offers up to \$5,000 annually for up to five years to attorneys practicing wills and estates or landlord-tenant law in rural areas, expands state low-income housing tax credits to certain non-federally funded projects, and imposes an additional 0.20 percent excise tax on marketplace-facilitated retail sales beginning in 2026.	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 946	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72144 (Clifton-131st)	Allows hunters to trap feral hogs without a hunting or trapping license, as long as the hogs are killed upon capture. The bill repeals provisions related to a wildlife control permit for feral hogs. Feral hogs may be hunted on private property from motor vehicles, and unmanned aircraft systems may be used to locate feral hogs.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Natural Resources & the Environment Committee.
HB 1000	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72293 (Gambill-15th)	Provides a one-time income tax refund to taxpayers who filed returns for both the 2024 and 2025 tax years equal to the lesser of either the taxpayer's 2024 income tax liability or \$250 for a taxpayer filing as single; \$375 for a taxpayer filing as head of household; or \$500 for a married couple jointly filing a return. The refund will not be made available to nonresident alien	Recommended DO PASS by the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill rests in

		individuals, individuals claimed as a dependent during the 2024 tax year, or an estate or trust.	House Rules Committee.
HB 1001	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72294 (Wade-9th)	Reduces the income tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99% beginning January 1, 2026.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Finance Committee.
HB 1098	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72614 (Davis-87th)	Establishes the Georgia Investment Act Pilot Fund as a trust in the state treasury to support economic development in impoverished communities, funded through legislative appropriations and public or private contributions. The State Treasurer is required to invest fund assets in the same manner as other state funds, with interest credited back to the fund. The administering authority must create a distribution framework based on economic indicators such as income, unemployment, poverty levels, and documented infrastructure or service gaps. Counties meeting at least three of the specified criteria are eligible for funding regardless of rural or non-rural status. Annual accounting of fund expenditures must be submitted to state budget offices by January 1. The bill also creates a 14-member Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Georgia United Investment to oversee the program.	House Economic Development & Tourism Committee
HB 1124	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72678 (Panitch-51st)	Requires certain agencies to consider the definition of hinduphobia provided for in this Act to apply to laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Hinduphobia is defined as "a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviors towards Hinduism". The bill also authorizes fact finders in certain criminal cases to consider hinduphobia when determining whether a defendant intentionally selected any victim or group of victims or any property as the object of the offense.	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1173	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72784 (Scott-76th)	"DeAndre Thompson Parental Bereavement Protection Act " - Entitles school teachers and school personnel to up to three paid workdays and ten unpaid workdays of bereavement leave per calendar year following the death of an immediate family member, unless granting the leave would unduly disrupt the employer's	House Industry & Labor Committee

operations. Leave must be taken within 60 days of the employer receiving notice of the death. It also provides up to four workweeks of unpaid extended compassionate leave per calendar year related to the death or disappearance of an immediate family member, subject to reasonable documentation requirements, unless the leave would cause undue disruption. Employees denied leave may seek civil liability or injunctive relief.

HB 1189 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72838 (Moore-53rd)	Prohibits prosecution for the offense of sodomy when the conduct involves consenting adults.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1197 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72873 (Powell-33rd)	Allows for billiards and darts tournaments to be conducted on property where the location operator has a contract to install a bona fide coin operated amusement machines (COAM). Tournaments may be conducted on COAM or noncoin operated devices. Prizes from tournaments are to only be given in gift cards and other forms of noncash redemption. The bill creates progressive penalties for COAM location owners who provide rewards from COAM that are not gift cards or noncash redemptions. Penalties include: a warning for the first offense; a fine on the second offense; a suspension and fine on the third offense; and suspension, revocation, or fine on the fourth and subsequent offenses. The bill requires the Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machine Operator Advisory Board to implement a system that tracks and reports to the Lottery Corporation the number and amounts of each form of lottery product issued as noncash redemption. The bill removes the actions of the Lottery Corporation's chief executive officer from reasons of judicial proceedings, and adds that the Metro Atlanta Business Case Division of the Fulton County Superior Court will handle all cases regarding actions of the Lottery Corporation. If a COAM master licensee certifies a dispute with a location owner or operator, the revenue generated from the master licensee's machines subject to the dispute will be paid to the Lottery Corporation if the court finds the dispute valid.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Regulated Industries Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1247 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73010 (Reeves-99th)	"Georgia Bureaucratic Deference Elimination Act" - The bill prohibits a court from deferring to a	Recommended DO PASS by

		state agency when interpreting laws and regulations.	the House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill rests in House Rules Committee.
HB 1394	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73432 (Jackson-128th)	Expands the definition of a historic property to include Rosenwald Schools.	House Rural Development Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1399	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73441 (Gilliard-162nd)	"Georgia Likeness, Expression, Generative AI, and Commercial Yield (LEGACY) Act" - Provides that digital replicas, or deep fakes, are a violation of property rights. The property rights of an individual's likeness shall survive the individual's death 50 years. Any creation, distribution, or exploitation of an individual's likeness in a digital replica or commercial purposes requires consent from the individual. Absence of compensation shall not negate the requirements of this code section. No individual shall claim ownership or exclusive rights over an individual's likeness solely. After receiving notice that an individual did not consent for the use of the digital replica, any entity that knowingly distributes such digital replica shall be in violation of this article.	House Technology & Infrastructure Innovation Committee
HR 1032	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72296 (Jones-60th)	Creates the House Study Committee on Raising the Minimum Wage in Georgia.	House Industry & Labor Committee
HR 1048	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72376 (Schofield-63rd)	"Georgia Bereaved Parents and Family Support Act of 2026" - Provides job-protected bereavement leave for up to six weeks for parents who experience the death of a child.	House Industry & Labor Committee
HR 1054	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72382 (Berry-56th)	Creates the House Study Committee on the Effects of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1).	House Appropriations Committee
SB 74	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69803 (Burns-23rd)	Revises the exception for librarians from the crime of unlawfully furnishing obscene material to not apply if a librarian or a library staff	PASSED SENATE. Recommended

		member fails to comply with a decision by the library's governing authority as to a request or complaint regarding material harmful to minors. The bill requires public library boards of trustees to establish training procedures for members reviewing reconsideration requests regarding materials harmful to minors.	DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
SB 375	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72067 (Still-48th)	Requires certain agencies to consider the definition of hinduphobia provided for in this Act to apply to laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Hinduphobia is defined as "a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviors towards Hinduism". The bill also authorizes fact finders in certain criminal cases to consider hinduphobia when determining whether a defendant intentionally selected any victim or group of victims or any property as the object of the offense.	Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 382	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72161 (Hufstetter-52nd)	Makes the state-wide base year homestead exemption mandatory for all political subdivisions.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Ways & Means Committee
SB 392	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72187 (Albers-56th)	Requires the use of zero-base budgeting in the preparation of the Governor's budget and agency budget requests beginning with the January 2027 budget. It directs legislative budget offices, in coordination with the Office of Planning and Budget, to determine which agencies and programs will submit zero-based budgets each year, ensuring each agency does so at least once every ten years and no more than once every eight years. The bill establishes required components of zero-base budget submissions, including spending analyses, program purposes, performance measures, and alternative funding levels. It assigns the Governor and the Office of Planning and Budget responsibility for coordinating and formatting zero-based budgets. The bill expressly applies to the Board of Regents and requires the Department of Education to submit a zero-base budget in 2027, encourages	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Appropriations Committee.

judicial branch participation, and authorizes legislative review of zero-base budget requests.

SB 467 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72920> (Cowsert-46th)

Creates a new statutory framework regulating how mobile app stores and app developers verify user age and manage minor access to apps. The bill requires app store providers to determine each account holder's age category using commercially reasonable verification methods and, for minors, to affiliate the account with a verified parent account. For minor accounts, app stores must obtain affirmative parental consent before permitting app downloads, app purchases, or in-app purchases, and must obtain renewed consent following any significant change to an app's content, data practices, or monetization. It also requires app store providers to share limited age-category data and parental consent status with developers so developers can enforce age-appropriate restrictions, safety features, and legal requirements, while restricting further data sharing and requiring encryption and data minimization. Developers must rely on this shared data to verify consent, notify app stores of significant app changes, and apply the most protective age category when implementing age-based settings. Enforcement authority is granted to the Attorney General, violations are treated as deceptive business practices, and the bill includes safe-harbor protections for app stores and developers acting in good faith, along with specified exceptions and limitations on data collection and liability.

Senate
Children &
Families
Committee

SB 502 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73183> (Jones II-22nd)

Eliminates sales tax on child and adult diapers, menstrual products, baby formula, breast pumps and milk storage supplies, and baby wipes; child safety equipment including car seats, booster seats, strollers, cribs and mattresses, baby gates, and electrical outlet covers; basic health supplies such as over-the-counter medicines, bandages, gauze, antiseptics, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, and glucose strips; workforce training materials including tools, books, apprenticeship supplies, and licensing exam materials; home efficiency items such as insulation and smart thermostats; firearm safety storage devices including gun safes and lock boxes; and emergency preparedness supplies

Senate Finance
Committee

such as backup generators, fire extinguishers, batteries, flashlights, radios, and tarps.

SB 526	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73376 (Robertson-29th)	Creates a new licensing and regulatory framework for recovery residences under Title 37, requiring such facilities to obtain a license from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities beginning January 1, 2029. It defines recovery residences, adds them to the department's licensure fee schedule, and directs the department to adopt minimum standards governing admissions, staffing, services, medication management, resident rights, safety, recordkeeping, and incident reporting. The bill authorizes the department to issue, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses; conduct inspections; maintain a public registry; grant provisional licenses; and accept certain national certifications as evidence of compliance. It establishes confidentiality protections for resident records and creates civil penalties of \$100 per bed per day for unlicensed operation, with enhanced penalties for continued violations and a right of appeal.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SB 534	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73412 (Merritt-9th)	Creates the Baby Bond Saving Plan, a state-administered savings program that automatically enrolls Georgia residents born on or after July 1, 2023, and establishes a trust account for each eligible child. The plan is overseen by a board chaired by the Governor, with the state treasurer serving as administrative officer, and allows state and public or private contributions invested under an approved policy. The General Assembly may provide an initial contribution of at least \$1,000 per child, or at least \$2,000 for children in families receiving specified public benefits such as Medicaid, TANF, or SNAP, along with annual contributions of at least \$250 per child, or at least \$1,000 for qualifying low-income families, until age 18. Funds may be used for higher education, career and technical training, homeownership, certain investments, or other board-approved purposes. Contributions and earnings are exempt from state income tax, do not count as assets for need-based aid eligibility, and are held in a separate state treasury trust fund subject to investment standards, reporting, audits, and confidentiality protections.	Senate Finance Committee

SB 539	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73434 (Robertson-29th)	Gives sales tax exemption to diapers, baby formula, therapeutic or preventive creams and wipes for the use on the skin of children, and feminine products.	Senate Finance Committee
SB 540	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73452 (Anavitarte-31st)	Adds a new Code section to require operators of publicly accessible conversational AI services to provide specific disclosures and safeguards, particularly for minor account holders. It requires operators to clearly and conspicuously disclose to minors that they are interacting with an AI system rather than a natural person, either through a constantly visible disclaimer or recurring session notices, and to provide clarification when a user could reasonably be misled. The bill prohibits operators from using unpredictable reward mechanisms to increase minor engagement and requires reasonable measures to prevent the AI from generating sexually explicit content, sexualized statements, simulated romantic or emotional dependence, or representations that it is sentient or human when interacting with minors. It also requires operators to provide parental privacy management tools, adopt protocols to respond to prompts involving suicidal ideation or self-harm with referrals to crisis services, and prohibits AI systems from representing that they provide professional mental or behavioral health care. The Attorney General is authorized to bring civil enforcement actions and seek injunctive relief or civil penalties for violations.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Children & Families Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 582	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/73624 (Williams-25th)	Authorizes a paramedic or emergency medical technician to pronounce death only in cases where such authority has been formally delegated by a coroner or medical examiner.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SR 560	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72168 (Moore-53rd)	Reaffirms the 35th parallel as Georgia's northern border and urges Congress, the federal Department of the Interior, and all other relevant federal, state, and local authorities to recognize and correct the boundary line dividing Georgia from Tennessee and North Carolina.	Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee



Advocacy Asks

[Ask #1: Out-of-School Time Funds](#)

[Ask #2: Family Farm Study Committee](#)

[Ask #3: Funding for DPH's Home Visiting Program](#)

Ask #1: Out-of-School Time Funds

Ask members of the House to *urge the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee* to **increase funding for BOOST afterschool and summer learning grants in the FY27 budget by \$7.5 Million (to reach a total of \$20 Million for grants!)**

The Details (What is BOOST?):

The Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time grants program, or BOOST, is a state-funded, competitive initiative administered through a partnership between the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN). BOOST supports more than 50,000 youth through high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs that are evidence-based and designed to strengthen academic achievement and promote whole child development.

The Why:

Additional State funding for BOOST will:

- Expand access to essential out-of-school time learning across Georgia.

BECAUSE...

- Only 44% of top-scoring applicants received funding last year due to limited funding.
- This means that MANY high-quality programs are going unfunded across the state.

The Message:

Dear Representative,

Please **increase funding for BOOST afterschool and summer learning grants in the FY27 budget by \$7.5 Million** to reach the necessary capacity needed to help fund quality afterschool and summer learning programs across the state which are critical to student success. These dollars enhance student literacy, mental health, and career-ready skills, all while encouraging school attendance and supporting working parents.

Last year Georgia Legislators kindly and wisely appropriated initial funding (\$12.5 Million) for Georgia's nationally acclaimed BOOST grant program. These dollars are supporting afterschool and summer learning in 117 of Georgia's 159 counties and expect to serve over 50,000 kids this school year. Unfortunately, with over \$30 million in grants requested this first round of funding was only able to support a fraction (44%) of qualified applications, leaving many high-quality programs struggling to serve to their full potential. Hence our request for increased funding.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and thank you for all you do every day on behalf of Georgia's children and families.

The How:

Contact members of the [Georgia House of Representatives](#).

Ask #2: Family Farm Study Committee

Ask members of the Senate to vote YES on Senate Resolution 800, a Joint Study Committee on Family Farms, when it comes before them on the Senate floor **this TUESDAY**.

The Details (What the Bill Does)

[SR 800](#) Creates an 11-member Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms. Amid rising food costs, low commodity prices, and ongoing challenges such as workforce shortages, natural disasters, and farmer mental health concerns, this Joint Study Committee will examine opportunities to strengthen and support Georgia's farmers.

The Why:

Agriculture is Georgia's leading economic driver, with family farms serving a critical role in both food production and the vitality of rural communities. Educational and child-serving institutions represent a significant market for these farms and create consistent demand for locally grown produce. Connecting local farms with schools gives children regular access to fruits and vegetables, and can support their health, mental well-being, and lifelong healthy eating habits.

Recognizing these programs as a stable market also provides economic incentives for family farms, helping them plan production, diversify crops, and remain resilient in the face of market fluctuations. Understanding the challenges and opportunities these farms face allows policymakers to craft strategies that strengthen local food systems, boost farmer resilience, and sustain both the economic and nutritional benefits that family farms provide to communities across Georgia. [Aligning underused markets and agriculture create a win-win: healthier children and more sustainable, thriving local farms](#). Consider these data:

- Agriculture contributes approximately \$100.4 billion to the economy.
- Higher produce consumption in childhood decreases risks of short- and long-term malnutrition, obesity, and disease.
- [Some estimates](#) report that children in early care programs, including family child care homes (FCCHs), receive 50–67% of daily nutrition while in care.
- Georgia farms cover around 9.9 million acres of the state.

The Message:

Dear Senator _____,

Please vote YES for the Joint Study Committee on Family Farms, Senate Resolution 800, when it comes before you on the Senate floor this Tuesday. This bipartisan bill will find practical ways to lower farm costs, prepare the next generation of farmers, and create sustainable solutions for farms. All these findings will be crucial to supporting

our largest industry, while also increasing nutritious food access for children. Thank you for your service and for all you do for children and families.

The How (Who to Call):

Contact members of the [Georgia Senate](#) here.

Ask #3: Funding for DPH's Home Visiting Program

Ask members of the House of Representatives to *urge their colleagues on the **House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health*** to support an additional **\$8.9 million in the FY2027 budget** to expand the **Georgia Department of Public Health's Home Visiting Program** into 145 counties, improving maternal and infant health outcomes—particularly in rural Georgia.

The Details (What is DPH's Home Visiting Program?)

DPH's Home Visiting Program:

- Promotes healthy pregnancies
- Improves maternal and newborn health
- Strengthens parenting capacity
- Connects families with needed medical care and community resources
- Expands access to maternal-fetal medicine services in high-need areas

The Why:

Georgia continues to face significant challenges related to maternal mortality, preterm birth, and limited access to specialty maternal care, especially in rural communities. The Georgia Department of Public Health's Home Visiting Program plays a critical role in addressing these challenges by connecting pregnant women and families with public health nurses and trained community health workers who provide education, care coordination, and referrals to appropriate medical and social services.

Expanding this program into 145 counties will allow more families to receive early support, referrals to services, improve access to specialty maternal care, and help reduce preventable complications during pregnancy and early childhood. This request builds upon an existing need and represents a cost-effective investment in improving health outcomes for mothers and babies across Georgia.

The Message:

Dear Representative _____,

Please encourage your colleagues on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health to support **an additional \$8.9 million in the FY2027 budget for the Georgia Department of Public Health's Home Visiting Program**. Expanding this program into 145 counties will improve access to care and strengthen maternal and infant health outcomes. This can be especially helpful for families in rural and high-need communities. Investing in DPH's Home Visiting Program is a cost-effective way to improve outcomes for mothers and babies. Thank you for your leadership and for all you do on behalf of Georgia's children and families.

The How (Who to Call):

Contact members of the [Georgia House of Representatives](#).

Upcoming Events

March

Peanut Butter and Jelly Day at the Capitol

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 8am-12pm

Address: 201 Washington St. SW, Atlanta, GA, 30303

More info: josephine.lamar@house.ga.gov

Crossover Day

Date: March 6, 2026

April

Sine Die!

Date: April 2, 2026



Resources You May Find Helpful

- [Find Your Legislator](#)
- [House and Senate Leadership](#)
- [Georgia House of Representatives](#)
- [Georgia Senate](#)