



legislative update

from
Voices
for Georgia's Children

February 9, 2026

Last night I went to the Olympics. Not in majestic Cortina or fashion-forward Milano, but in my head, such as it is. I fell asleep listening to that [song](#) (“Baa-ba-ba-ba-baaa-baaa-baaa-baaa...”) and next thing I know I’m at the top of a very long ramp with a couple of ski poles and two fat budgets strapped to my feet. I’m sitting on a red chair, suspended above the snow, hearing the icy wind whistle and watching it flutter the tattered edges of my foot-bound documents. I look up and survey the measures of success spray painted along the run of the slope: Legislative day 15, Legislative Day 20, Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day), Legislative Day 36, and at the green finish line, LEGISLATIVE DAY 40. I am anxious to make the jump and get it over with, mostly since my rear end is uncomfortable (having only trained on the hard wood pews of Room 307 CLOB) and my teeth are chattering from cold, abject terror or poorly fitted Invisalign’s (It’s hard to tell which). But I can’t jump until I hear the House Sergeant at Arms ring the bell.

While waiting, freezing, and wondering how terrible a torn ACL would feel, I find myself also thinking of my Olympic team and coaches. Joshua, Francesca and Kelcie are competing in Cross-Capitol Skiing, Committee Skating and Bill Curling. In their spare moments, you can also find them squashed into a bobsled, steering together and laughing up a storm over whatever weird live animal or Olympic mascot they happed across in the Olympic Village that is the second floor of the Statehouse. Voices’ coaches, Judy, Katie, and Melissa, keep our technique and strength in line, while our “publicist”, Suzanne, makes us look like we belong on the front of a Wheaties box or selling a fancy mattress. And then there is a whole townsworth of learned Voices experts who keep us fed with the necessary testimonial proteins and [factsheet nutrients](#) we need to compete in the first place. With a team like that, how could we NOT get a gold?!

Read on for a summary of one of my “skis” (House version of the Amended FY26 Budget) and wax up your “Lege” – which is the lawmaking version of “Luge” – with the bills below to bet on which slippery toboggan will zip past its competition and land on the podium.

Uh-oh! There’s the bell! Here we go! [Citius, Altius, Fortius!](#)

Polly McKinney
Advocacy Director, Voices for Georgia’s Children

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Budget Information

Amended Fiscal Year 2026 – House Changes to Governor’s Recommendations

(Balanced to \$42.268 Billion State Dollars)

Yellow highlight = Changes from the House

Statewide

- **\$611.76 Million Added** to 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 June 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

- **\$35 Million Added** for the Department of Community Health Integrated Eligibility System (IES) modernization.
- *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

- **\$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.

Jump to Agency:

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- [Dept. of Administrative Services](#)
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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**

- **\$50 Million Added** for one-time funds for the State Housing Trust Fund to address homelessness through matching funds to local governments and nonprofit organizations.

Payments to Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

- **\$50 Million Added** for rural infrastructure for economic development.

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.
- **\$2.5 Million Added** to support spinal injury services.

Healthcare Access & Improvement

- **\$4.8 Million Added** to establish a grant program to support the creation of new rural medical and dental clinics.
- **\$800,000 Added** in one-time funds for hospital infrastructure and emergency power.
- **\$155,251 Added** in one-time funds for two portable training ultrasound machines.
- **\$250,000 Added** for rural colorectal screenings

Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled

- **\$226.98 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization. (Gov. rec. = \$223.98 Million Add)
- **\$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

- **\$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. - -

- **\$1.17 Million Added** for the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University.
- **\$17.81 Million Added** in one-time funds for the expansion of graduate medical education programs in South Georgia.
- **\$100,000 Added** to promote rural residency programs.
- *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
- **\$1.02 Million Added** for food and farm equipment and software upgrades

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) (Gov. rec. = \$38.9 Million Added for the physical health contract for a per diem increase (\$10,946,108), outside-the-wire care (\$15,000,000), and to reflect the opening of additional beds (\$12,923,790).)
- **\$374,587 Added** for the dental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$479,411 Added** for the mental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$312,500 Added** for residential substance abuse treatment centers effective April 1, 2026
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize prior year funds (\$20,402,982) for physical health risk share obligations.

Offender Management

- **\$6.24 Million Added** for jail subsidy payments to local jails for housing Department of Corrections inmates.
- **\$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)
- **\$93,672 Added** for required staff needed to meet accreditation requirements to operate a high school diploma program.
- **\$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.
- **\$2.48 Million Added** for the purchase of public safety supplies and equipment. (Gov. rec. = \$2.45 Million Add)
- **\$93,179 Added** for additional programming at Metro Reentry Facility.
- **\$880,104 Added** for operations at five modular correctional units
- **\$3.88 Million Added** for operations at Lee Arrendale State Prison. (Gov. rec. = \$1.54 Million Add)

- **\$764,220 Added** for offender call monitoring contract due to an increase in usage
- **\$1.9 Million Added** for data intelligence maintenance and integration costs
- **\$284,398 Added** for contracted food services due to rising food and labor costs
- **\$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

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.)

Business & Finance Administration

- **\$1.15 Million Added** for facilities

Charter Schools

- **\$1 Million 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.

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 a 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 Adjusted Downward)

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. = \$14.48 Million Add)
- **\$57,601 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the charter system grant. (Gov. rec. = \$44,952 Add)
- **\$58,834 Added** for a midterm adjustment to the local charter school grant.
- **\$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)
- **\$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.
- **\$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.
- **\$1.38 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.

Technology/Career Education

- **\$50,000 Added** in one-time funds for youth leadership programming.

Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

- **\$50 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.

Office of the Governor

Governor's Emergency Fund

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

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

- **\$5.7 Million Added** to meet federal matching requirements for emergency preparedness.
- **\$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.
- **\$9.97 Million Added** and \$5 Million of existing funds used to facilitate the transition to Next Generation 911 emergency services.
- **\$500,000 Added** for emergency services

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

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

Governor's Office of Student Achievement: Literacy Initiative Coordination

- **\$282,688 Reduced** to reflect dyslexia screener savings.
- **\$300,250 Added** for one-time funds for America250 literacy initiatives. (Gov. rec. = \$300,000)

Dept. of Human Services***Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention - Special Project***

- **\$15 Million Added** for an integrated child welfare reporting system.

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

- **\$82.74 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.)
- **\$1.6 Million Added** to restore the cancellation 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***

- **\$25 Million Reduced** based on projected expenditures.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation***Regional Investigative Services***

- **\$294,420 Added** to annualize three human trafficking positions.
- **\$0 Eliminated** for one-time connectivity to the statewide gang case management system. (Gov. rec. = \$800,000 Elimination)

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.

Dept. of Juvenile Justice***Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)***

- **\$2.54 Million Added** for personal services due to decreased turnover

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.

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

- **\$300 Million total Added** to Provide state match for endowment for the needs-based DREAMS Scholarship program. (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.)
- **\$67,000 Added** to support GALILEO access.

Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics

- **\$200,000 Added** to expand the current partnership with Clark Atlanta University for prostate cancer research

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.

Dept. of Revenue

Taxpayer Services

- House said **NO** to the governor's recommendation 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." **Instead** the House said 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)."

Georgia Student Finance Commission

Dual Enrollment

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

Engineer Scholarship

- **\$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 directed to utilize reserves to meet the projected need.

HOPE Scholarship – Private Schools

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

HOPE Scholarships - Public Schools

- **\$11.27 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Grant

- **\$1 Million Reduced** and direction to utilize reserves to meet the projected need.

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**Airport Aid**

- **\$15 Million Added** for Airport Aid

Capital Construction Projects

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

Capital Maintenance Projects

- Governor 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

- **\$1.72 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)

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund**Board of Regents, University System of Georgia**

- **\$40 Million Added** for additional major rehabilitation and renovation projects, statewide.
- **\$15.3 Million Added** to design and construct the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering building, Georgia Institute of Technology. (Gov. rec. = \$88.2 Million)
- **\$5.6 Million Added** to design the School of Nursing at the University of Georgia, Athens, Clarke County.
- **\$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.
- **\$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.

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.
- **\$27 Million Added** to begin design and construction of new Georgia Regional Hospital - Atlanta to address mental health and forensic bed capacity.

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.
- **\$220 Million Added** in undesignated state surplus to construct a new 480-bed private prison facility to meet need for additional 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

- **\$2.73 Million Added** to design, construct, and equip the renovation of the Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta, Richmond County.



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

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.

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
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
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 the number of pursuits initiated or terminated in	House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

		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 phased approach to changing how 17-year-olds are	House Judiciary

handled in Georgia's justice system, beginning with the creation of an implementation committee upon the Governor's signature. The 12-member committee, co-chaired by House and Senate Judiciary leaders, is tasked with reviewing national standards, practices in other states, and operational, technological, and fiscal considerations. It must issue a comprehensive implementation report by December 1, 2028, and automatically dissolves on January 1, 2029. If the General Assembly appropriates funding in FY 2029, the bill raises juvenile court jurisdiction to include most 17-year-olds starting January 1, 2029; without funding by January 1, 2034, the reform repeals. Under the jurisdiction change, most 17-year-olds would be routed to juvenile court and eligible for juvenile services and interventions. The bill also creates special juvenile handling for traffic offenses committed by 17-year-olds, contingent on the jurisdiction change being funded. Serious violent felonies would remain under superior court jurisdiction, with a structured transfer process requiring comprehensive assessments before a case can move from juvenile to superior court.

Juvenile
Committee

HB 1075 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72501>

Amends Georgia's sexual offense penalties to modify sentencing for offenders with prior trafficking convictions. Removes enhanced felony penalties for those previously convicted of human trafficking who commit certain sexual offenses. Thanks to the team at Gold Dome Partners for this summary!

House
Judiciary Non-
Civil Committee

HB 1076 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72502> (Ehrhart-36th)

Creates a felony offense for knowingly obstructing, hindering, blocking, or interfering with a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer using a motor vehicle, punishable by up to \$100,000 in fines and one to five years of imprisonment.

House
Judiciary Non-
Civil Committee

HB 1080 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72507> (Neal-79th)

Creates a separate fund in the state treasury to support and enhance public safety and the administration of justice. Funds may be used for the purchase, lease, and maintenance of equipment, technology, and infrastructure for local law enforcement agencies and courts; to support workforce development; and to fund data-sharing systems and programs that promote

House Public
Safety &
Homeland
Security
Committee

public safety, judicial efficiency, and effective administration. The fund may accept voluntary gifts, grants, donations, devises, or contributions of money or property from private individuals, corporations, nonprofit organizations, or foundations, provided that no contributor receives any special privilege, consideration, or benefit not available to the public generally. The fund shall be governed by a nine-member board of trustees appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

HB 1127 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72681 (Crawford-89th)	<p>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 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.</p>	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1175 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72786 (Neal-79th)	<p>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.</p>	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1223 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72913 (Gullett-19th)	<p>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</p>	House Judiciary Committee

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.

HB 1226	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72917 (Clark-100th)	Revises Georgia law on the justified use of force by adding a rebuttable presumption that force used to prevent death, great bodily injury, or a forcible felony is reasonable and necessary, while clarifying circumstances in which justification does not apply, including provocation and commission of a felony. It expands the types of evidence a defendant may introduce to support a justification claim, including prior family violence, dating violence, or child abuse by the alleged victim. The bill clarifies criminal immunity by specifying procedures and standards for pretrial immunity determinations, revises arrest standards to require probable cause that force was unlawful, and expands civil immunity to bar claims by the person against whom force was used as well as that person's representatives, heirs, and accomplices, while affirming that there is no duty to retreat.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
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 Hopper
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.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 160	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70289 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Requires an intelligent speed assistance device to be installed on vehicles belonging to individuals who have a second or subsequent conviction of a violation in regard to reckless driving outlined in O.C.G.A. 40-6-390.1. The maximum speed limit for the device will be no greater than 20 percent above the posted speed limit, and costs related to installation are incurred by the offender. The bill revises Code relating to DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs by allowing the completion credit of any DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program to be acceptable in applying for a limited driving permit and requiring written consent to obtain and transfer electronic records in relation to the program. No fees may be charged in the electronic transfer of assessment component results. Additionally, online or remote courses that provide in-person instruction are prohibited. Certified DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs are authorized to charge an assessment component fee of \$100, an intervention component fee of \$275, and a course enrollment fee that includes a materials fee of up to \$25, a state administration	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to the House Motor Vehicles Committee. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

fee of \$30, and an additional assessment fee of \$10. Further Code is amended to change driver improvement clinic fees from \$95 to \$125.

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 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.

Senate Public
Safety
Committee



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 that are prohibited from having sexual intercourse or sodomy with one another.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 256	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69869	(Wiedower-121st)	Adds new rights to the bill of rights for foster parents, including 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, the right to	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee. The bill will be heard in committee

request that a certified volunteer advocate be present at all meetings with the Department of Human Services (DHS) when the foster parent is present, the right to be free from retaliation or discrimination based on a complaint or grievance with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and the right to seek and obtain independent legal advice and counsel regarding the foster parent's status. Certain references to the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia are changed to foster parent advocacy organizations. The bill also changes the date by which DHS must develop a grievance procedure for dealing with grievances of foster parents from 2007 to 2025.

TODAY
(MONDAY).

HB 490 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70414> (Bazemore-69th)

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

House
Economic
Development &
Tourism
Committee

HB 943 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72141> (Silcox-53rd)

Requires the Division of Family and Children Services is required to develop and implement a five-year pilot program to provide autism spectrum disorder screenings and clinical evaluations for children in foster care, as well as training, services, and resources related to autism for division staff, healthcare providers, and caregivers, including online options. The pilot program must begin in three regional service areas in its first year and expand to additional regions each year until all regional service areas are included. The program is directed, to the extent possible, to prioritize screenings, evaluations, and services for children in foster care who have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactive disorder or reactive attachment disorder, or who have been prescribed psychotropic medications. As part of implementation, the division must plan for incremental expansion, develop communication strategies for caregivers, ensure the availability of medical consultants in regional service areas, and provide technical assistance and dedicated

House Judiciary
Juvenile
Committee

staff to support the pilot. By July 1, 2031, the division must submit a detailed report on the program's implementation and effectiveness, including recommendations for permanent adoption and identification of services to be provided, and is authorized to adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the pilot program. This pilot is subject to available appropriations.

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 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.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1002	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72295	(Camp-135th)	Transfers Medicaid coverage for foster children from managed care to fee-for-service and gives the Dept. of Community Health permission to submit any Medicaid state plan amendments (to CMS) necessary to do so.	House Health 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	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee

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.

HB 1043 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72373 (Scott-76th)	<p>Creates the Georgia Child and Youth Trafficking Care Coordination Office within the Department 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.</p>	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 1141 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72700 (Camp-135th)	<p>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.</p>	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee
HB 1142 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72701 (Hagan-156th)	<p>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</p>	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

		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.	
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)	Prohibit any contract or agreement that has the purpose or effect of concealing the details relating to a claim of childhood sexual abuse. The bill also provides for the confidentiality of identifying information of victims of childhood sexual abuse.	House Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1192	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72841 (Taylor-173rd)	Requires the Dept. of Human Services and the Dept. of Community Health to segregate state and federal funds that are designated for specific purposes, prohibiting commingling and use for any other purpose. It also directs the Commissioners of each department to conduct annual reviews of departmental operations, contracts, and accounting practices to identify cost savings and efficiency opportunities. Beginning December 31, 2026, the commissioner must report these findings annually to legislative appropriations and health committee leaders.	House Health 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	House Judiciary Juvenile Committee

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 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.

HB 1238 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72959> (Dempsey-13th)

Requires the Department of Community Health Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize the qualification of caregivers of those recipients of medical assistance who are under the age of 21 and at-risk conditions for Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of respite care and related services. Upon approval of the waiver, the Department shall take all necessary steps to provide for payment of such care and services with Medicaid funds.

House Hopper

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71802> (Hilton-48th)

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.

House Human Relations & Aging Committee. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.

HR 1023	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72264 (Jones-25th)	Constitutional Amendment providing that every parent has a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and control of their children.	House Judiciary 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 with changes made to the bill by the House & has returned the bill to the House for possible further action.
SB 27	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69508 (Albers-56th)	"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 causes 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	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

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.

SB 383	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72159 (Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Modifies the review to be performed by local child fatality review committees, adding members to such committees and requiring attendance for training. The bill also clarifies the scope of child deaths subject to review and modifies deadlines and requirements for reports relating to child deaths. In addition, it modifies the procedures of the coroner or medical examiner and the review committee in identifying child deaths that meet the statutory criteria for review by the committee.	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
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 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	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.

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 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. Awaits assignment to House 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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
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	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee.

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.

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 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.	Senate Children & Families Committee
SB 468	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72902 (Cowsert-46th)	This bill revises current law governing sexual offender registration, supervision, and housing-related programs by expanding definitions, reporting requirements, monitoring authority, and information sharing, while adding provisions that more explicitly account for offenses involving minors and proximity to minors. It expands definitions to include homelessness and imposes enhanced registration and reporting requirements for homeless sexual offenders, including more frequent in-person reporting and detailed disclosure of where an offender sleeps or stays, and authorizes sheriffs to share relevant information with homeless service providers. The bill broadens authority to place certain sexual offenders on electronic or GPS monitoring, including those experiencing homelessness, establishes review requirements for continued monitoring, and clarifies responsibility for monitoring costs. It revises risk assessment provisions by requiring certain	Senate Public Safety Committee

sexual offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026, including specified offenses involving minors, to be assigned designated risk levels that affect supervision and monitoring. The bill also expands reporting requirements related to international travel, foreign residence, employment, and education and directs that this information be transmitted to appropriate federal and interstate databases. In addition, it amends the Stable Housing Accountability Program to require applicants to disclose sexual offender registration status, mandates notification to local sheriffs, and requires consideration of an applicant's proximity to locations where minors commonly congregate, such as schools, parks, playgrounds, and child care facilities, when evaluating housing assistance and placement.

SR 622	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72472	(Kirkpatrick-32nd)	Creates the Joint Study Committee on Evaluating Escalating Costs in Georgia's Foster Care System.	PASSED SENATE. Awaits assignment to House committee.
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Health & Behavioral Health

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
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. Awaits assignment to Senate 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.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules 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
	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	Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.

		not apply to use of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy in clinical trials approved by the Food and Drug Administration.	
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 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.	House Public & Community Health Committee
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 state health benefit policies to provide coverage to state employees for medically necessary orthotic devices and prosthetic devices and their materials and components. The bill also notes that public school teachers, employees, and members and employees of the Board of Regents, and the retirees of these groups are considered to be state employees.	House Health 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 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.	House Ways & Means Committee
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)	Requires healthcare plans to treat emergency ambulance transport as a covered service whenever the transport is requested by a first responder or a healthcare practitioner responsible for the patient's care. For out-of-network ambulance providers, it establishes minimum reimbursement standards: plans must pay the rate set by contract or by local government action (such as an ordinance or regulation) in the jurisdiction where the service	House Insurance Committee

originates, or, if no such rate exists, the lesser of 400 percent of the applicable Medicare ambulance rate or the provider's billed charges. Any payment made under the bill is deemed payment in full, aside from standard patient cost-sharing, and the bill prohibits balance billing by out-of-network ambulance providers. It further caps patient copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles for out-of-network ambulance services at in-network levels, ensuring patients are not charged more for emergency ambulance care because the provider is out of network.

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
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 smoke-free air law to ban smoking within 25 feet of certain buildings and places already covered by existing restrictions.	House Public & Community Health 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 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.	House Education Committee
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. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).
HB 1096	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72612	(Taylor-173rd)	Provides that if certain employees of a county board of health become employees of such department such employees will retain accrued annual and sick leave.	House Public & Community Health Committee

HB 1097	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72613 (Petrea-166th)	Establishes mandatory criminal background, registry, and professional license status checks for owners, license applicants, and employees of certain licensed mental health and residential facilities. The bill requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to conduct fingerprint-based state and national criminal history checks through the Georgia Crime Information Center and the FBI. It defines disqualifying crimes, criminal records, and “direct access” roles and prohibits facilities from employing or retaining individuals who receive an ineligible determination or appear on specified registries. The bill requires facilities to maintain personnel files documenting eligibility determinations and authorizes DBHDD to conduct additional checks during investigations or after arrests. It mandates termination of employees and revocation or denial of licenses when required checks result in ineligibility, with civil penalties for facilities that fail to comply. The bill establishes administrative review and appeal procedures for adverse determinations and authorizes DBHDD to adopt rules to implement and enforce these requirements.	House Public & Community Health 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, 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,	House Ways & Means Committee

it may withhold distributions, require corrective action, and ultimately suspend collection of the tax if noncompliance is not remedied.

HB 1104	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72620 (Townsend-179th)	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.	House Health Committee
HB 1110	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72629 (Hilton-48th)	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 preapproval 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.	House Ways & Means Committee
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 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.	House Ways & Means Committee

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)	Provides that, in cases where a private review agent or utilization review entity is questioning the medical necessity of a healthcare service, a final determination on medical necessity must be agreed to by a clinical peer licensed in this state.	House Hopper
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 Hopper
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.	House Special Rules Committee. The bill will be heard in committee this TUESDAY.
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
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 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.	PASSED SENATE. Recommended DO PASS by the House Public & Community Health Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.

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. Recommended DO PASS by the House Health Committee. The bill moves on to 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	(Cowser-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	Senate Judiciary Committee

by individuals, behavioral health care providers, and program staff.

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, 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.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
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)	Reduces the reporting requirement for physicians participating in the Low THC Oil Registry to the Board of Physicians from semiannual to annual. Requires physicians to submit sufficient information annually for the	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The

		Board to confirm that a valid doctor-patient relationship exists and that the Low THC oil is being recommended for the condition the physician is treating or that the patient is receiving hospice care.	bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 427	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72469 (Watson-1st)	The bill creates a provisional medical license and establishes a pathway to full licensure for internationally trained physicians. To qualify, an applicant must have an offer of full-time employment under supervision at a medical practice, hospital in a rural county or, an accredited medical school. The physician must hold a current or recently expired medical license in good standing from a foreign jurisdiction, meet medical education requirements, and have no disqualifying criminal or disciplinary history. Applicants must also demonstrate English proficiency, be legally authorized to work in the United States, and pass required examinations or competency assessments approved by the medical board. The bill allows multiple methods for demonstrating clinical competence, including recognized licensing exams, specialty board certification, or a comprehensive assessment program.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
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.	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
SB 433	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72533 (Strickland-42nd)	“Rio’s Law”-Authorizes a special Georgia license plate for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or a developmental disability, as well as for qualifying family members or legal guardians. The bill sets eligibility requirements, an application process supported by a medical affidavit, and penalties for false representations, and requires cancellation of the plate when eligibility ends. It also adds training on interactions with individuals with autism or developmental disabilities to basic peace officer training starting January 1, 2027. The required training includes communication strategies,	Senate Public Safety Committee

		behavioral recognition, investigative practices, alternatives to physical restraints, and emergency caregiver notification. The Peace Officer Standards and Training Council must develop the training in collaboration with the Department of Community Health and relevant nonprofit organizations.	
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	Senate Health & Human Services Committee
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.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Industry & Labor Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules 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,	Senate Health & Human Services Committee

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.

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 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.

Senate Health & Human Services Committee

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.

Senate Health & Human Services 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 facility or station must have an emergency medical services provider on staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	PASSED HOUSE. Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.
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 paid maternal birth leave for eligible state employees after six months of full-time employment, with a maximum of 120 hours available within a 12-month period. Unused leave may not be cashed out. Hourly employees	House Public & Community Health Committee

qualify if they have worked at least 700 hours during the six-month eligibility period. The bill also prohibits retaliation, discrimination, or discharge related to the use or eligibility for this leave. The provisions take effect July 1, 2027.

HB 1138 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72697> (Camp-135th)

"Increasing Access to Contraceptive Act" - Allows licensed pharmacists, acting in good faith, to dispense self-administered or administer injectable hormonal contraceptives to adults, and to minors with proof of a prior prescription, without requiring pharmacist participation. The Georgia Composite Medical Board and State Board of Pharmacy must issue a joint protocol by January 1, 2027 authorizing dispensing without a patient-specific order and setting training, documentation, notification, and review requirements. Pharmacists must complete approved training, conduct patient assessments, provide counseling and written information, ensure privacy, and refer patients as appropriate, while health insurance plans covering prescription drugs must cover FDA-approved contraceptives with minimum three-month initial and twelve-month refill supplies.

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

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

House Insurance Committee

adoptions and do not prohibit insurers from offering benefits more favorable than those required.



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 certain schools that offer after-school programs to make such programs available to pre-kindergarten students on the same basis as the school's other students; to provide for yearly limited waivers from the Department of Early Care and Learning.	House Education Committee
HB 1146	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72706	(Olaleye-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	(Olaleye-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



K-12 Education

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 310	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70021	(Olaleye-59th)	Provides grants of up to \$7,500 to eligible student teachers to support teacher recruitment, distributed in installments during their student teaching. The State Board of Education administers the program.	House Education Committee. The bill will be heard in subcommittee 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. Section 2 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. Section 3 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.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 908	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71991	(Smith-41st)	Prohibits public schools, private schools, or home school programs 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 school capacity and academic and grade level prerequisites.	House Education Committee
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)	Amends the Quality Basic Education act to require that any mandated physical examinations prior to participation in extracurricular activities are to be completed by a qualified healthcare professional (including medical physicians, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant) and such physical examinations should be valid for 12 months. Also, such examinations should include a cardiovascular screening that follows	House Health Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

procedures outlined by nationally recognized organizations that follow evidence-based recommendations (such as American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, or other nationally recognized organizations). Any student with positive findings should be referred for further testing. Educational and evidence-based materials that provide information regarding sudden cardiac arrest should be provided to parents of students participating in activities that require physical examination, and such information should be provided as a part of completing participation forms and said examination.

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.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules 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,	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House

		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.	Rules 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.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
HB 1030	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72360 (Donatucci-105th)	Adds the "Math Matters Act" to the Quality Basic Education Act, requiring the State Board of Education to adopt evidence-based advanced math standards. The bill mandates advanced math course options beginning in middle school, including an 8th-grade algebra-integrated course for high school credit and accelerated courses for 9th and 10th grades. Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, districts must provide at least 60 minutes per day of core math instruction for 4th and 5th graders and automatically enroll eligible students into advanced math courses in 8th grade and high school, with opt-out and opt-in procedures for families. The bill requires additional instructional supports for advanced math students, parent and student information on course benefits, annual reporting by the Department of Education, and establishes teacher qualification requirements.	House Education Committee
HB 1032	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72362 (Scott, 76th)	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	House Education Committee

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.

HB 1038 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72368 (Griffin-149th)	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.	House Education Committee
HB 1045 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72375 (Herring-145th)	"You Are Not Alone Awareness Act" - Requires schools that issue student IDs for grades 6th-12th to print on the badge, "9-8-8 - You are not alone. Right now, anyone experiencing a suicidal crisis or emotional distress should call or text 9-8-8. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year."	House Education Committee
HB 1048 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72385 (Hilton-48th)	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 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.	House Education Committee
HB 1050 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72387 (Frye-122nd)	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	House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

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.

HB 1051 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72388> (Berry-56th)

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.

House
Education
Committee

HB 1062 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72513> (Rice-139th)

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 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.

House
Education
Committee

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

House
Education
Committee

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.

HB 1099 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72615> (Flournoy-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 a special education visual impairment endorsement.

House
Education
Committee

HB 1107 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72626> (Rice-139th)

"Excellent Teacher Preparation Act"-Establishes an educator preparation provider or EPP which is a teacher education program or educator leadership program. It requires the GADOE to collaborate with the State Board of Education, USG, and the Office of Student Achievement to develop performance measures and evaluations for each EPP and which shall be based on the preparedness and performance of EPP graduates. This includes total number of graduates who complete the EPP, enrollment requirements, first and best attempt passage rates by EPP graduates on Georgia certification exams, job placement rates of EPP graduates, 1- and 3-year retention rates of EPP graduates, EPP satisfaction rates, annual evaluations of EPP

House
Education
Committee

graduates, and student performance data for EPP graduates. Performance measures for each EPP shall be reported by the commission no later than January 1, 2028 and each year thereafter. EPP participants shall be surveyed each year by the Office of Student Achievement to assess satisfaction with preparedness. A summary of these measures shall be a part of the annual report regarding the Georgia education workforce.

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

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
Committee

HB 1164 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72768> (Wade-9th)

Expands state oversight of the financial management, auditing, and fiscal accountability of local school systems and state charter schools as follows: It creates a required State Board of Education audit committee with authority to review audit findings, financial risk indicators, and corrective actions, and it adds new annual audit readiness, payment compliance, and financial reporting certifications for school systems and charters. The bill establishes clearer standards and processes for identifying moderate-risk and high-risk fiscal conditions, requires corrective action and remediation plans, mandates enhanced and more frequent financial reporting, and imposes restrictions on superintendent contract extensions during periods of elevated fiscal risk. The bill authorizes the Department of Audits and Accounts to conduct expanded audits, investigations, and ongoing fiscal monitoring through a new tiered intervention framework, including authority to require corrective measures and increased transparency. It allows for modification or termination of flexibility and charter contracts in cases of severe financial distress, expands the Office of Student Achievement's role in reviewing fiscal efficiency

House
Education
Committee

and waiver use, revises audit and accounting standards, and strengthens investigatory authority related to financial mismanagement or misconduct.

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)

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. 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

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

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.	
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
HB 1218	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72908 (Flournoy-74th)	“Georgia Virtual Public School Student Athletic Participation Act” - Allows students in grades 6th-12th participating in virtual school to join extracurricular activities (e.g., sports, clubs, theatre, etc.) at their resident public school.	House Education Committee
HB 1220	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72910 (Ballard-147th)	Waives the attendance requirements for scholarship eligibility for students whose parent is an active duty military service member stationed in GA in the past year, students who have IEP or 504 Plans, or has been diagnosed with dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder, speech-language delay, hearing loss, or other intellectual or developmental disabilities designated by the Department of Education. Limits the amount awarded by scholarship organizations to students with IEP or 504 Plans, dyslexia, autism, speech language delays, hearing loss or other IDD, to no more than the average state and local expenditures per student in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary education for this state.	House Education 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 Hopper
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 Hopper
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 Hopper
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, completion schools or strategic waiver school systems.	House Hopper
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 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	PASSED SENATE. PASSED HOUSE. The Senate agreed to changes made by the House & the bill now awaits transmission to the governor for his consideration.

		personnel may utilize accumulated sick leave for from three days to five days	
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.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Retirement Committee. The bill will be on the Senate Floor for a vote TODAY (MONDAY).
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. Annual reports on the program's implementation and outcomes must be submitted to the Senate Education and Youth Committee.	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Education & Youth Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.
SB 369	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/71940 (Still-48th)	This bill revises the "Charter Schools Act of 1998" by allowing the conversion of existing charter schools into completion charter schools and requiring the State Board of Education to establish rules, regulations, policies, and procedures to govern the content of a charter school petition.	Senate Education & Youth Committee
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	Senate Education & Youth Committee

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.

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.	Senate Education & Youth 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.	Senate Finance Committee
SB 459	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72833 (Hickman-4th)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	Senate Education & Youth Committee

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

Senate Hopper

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.

SB 472 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72966> (Hickman-4th)

Expand state oversight and intervention authority when a local school system is found to pose significant financial risk or has engaged in financial mismanagement or misconduct. For audit findings issued on or after July 1, 2026, such determinations trigger the hearing and potential suspension process for eligible local board members and authorize enhanced state involvement in financial operations. The bill limits advance distributions of state education funds to no more than 50 percent of the prior year's state allotment, unless the State Board of Education receives a written recommendation from the state auditor. Advance distributions above that limit are permitted only if the state auditor determines they are necessary, imposes a mandatory intervention plan, and the local board formally agrees to comply with that plan. It also establishes a formal intervention framework, allowing the state auditor to develop, modify, and conclude an intervention plan governing financial operations, with advance funding contingent on compliance.

Senate Hopper

SB 475 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72969> (Kemp-38th)

Requires local boards of education to treat local charter schools no less favorably than other local schools with respect to the expenditure of the proceeds of a special purpose local option sales tax for education.

Senate Hopper



Higher Education

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 962	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72211	(Martin-49th)	Allows beneficiaries of the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan to contribute an amount that is determined reasonable by the board based on current and anticipated costs of education and removes the \$235,000 maximum for beneficiaries to contribute. Also, contributions to a qualified tuition program established by a state or agency, are exempt from taxes pursuant to	House Ways & Means Committee

	section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.	
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
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 appeal rights do not apply to denials of additional course offerings. To protect students in the event of closure or potential closure, the executive	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Higher Education Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.

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 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>

Extends the automatic repeal process put in place for USG and TCSG regarding non-lapsing revenue from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2031. Senate Finance Committee



Environmental Safety

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 79	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69411	(Newton-127th)	Provides a tax credit for firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices of up to \$300. This tax credit must be pre-approved and can only be applied once in a taxpayer's lifetime. The aggregate limit of tax credits is capped at \$10 million per year. 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.	PASSED HOUSE. Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill moves on to Senate Rules Committee.
HB 1054	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72391	(Moore-91st)	"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	House Judiciary Committee

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.

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



Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
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	Recommended DO PASS by the Senate Public Safety Committee. The bill moves to Senate Rules Committee.

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.

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 telephone numbers. Landlords or managers out of compliance will be fined \$2,000 per violation.

House Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill was introduced late and did not cross over.

HB 947 <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72145> (Momtahan-17th)

Directs Georgia to seek federal approval to implement new restrictions and administrative changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and sets out requirements that would apply only if that approval is granted. It requires the state to apply to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a waiver, report regularly to legislative committees on the status of that request, and delay implementation of any SNAP purchase restrictions until federal authorization is received. If approved, the bill requires updates to SNAP systems, retailer guidance, recipient notifications, and monitoring of impacts on purchasing patterns and public health, with multiple reports to the General Assembly. The bill mandates new EBT card design requirements, including the participant's name, photograph, and fraud-prevention information, while preserving use by legally authorized individuals. It conditions SNAP participation on verification of U.S. citizenship consistent with federal law, compliance with federal work requirements, and annual recertification beginning in 2027. The bill also expands state efforts to increase SNAP use at farmers markets and prohibits SNAP benefits from being used for made-to-order foods and beverages intended for immediate consumption

Recommended Do Pass by the House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee. The bill moves to House Rules Committee.

within retail stores, requiring point-of-sale controls to enforce those restrictions.

HB 948 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72146 (Camp-135th)	<p>Requires notices of foreclosure to include a notice of the mortgagor's right to initiate a claim for any surplus funds after the foreclosure sale, as well as instructions on how to make an initial claim for surplus funds. The notice will contain language stating that surplus funds may be considered abandoned property and may escheat (the passing of an interest in land to the state when a decedent has no will, no heirs, or devisees) to the state if funds are not claimed within the currently prescribed timeline of five years.</p>	<p>Recommended DO PASS by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill moves on to House Judiciary Committee.</p>
HB 993 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72260 (Barnes - 86th)	<p>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.</p>	<p>House Education Committee</p>
HB 996 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72263 (Berry - 56th)	<p>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.</p>	<p>House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee</p>
HB 1007 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72302 (Berry-56th)	<p>Provides residential tenants with the right to complete necessary repairs within their unit if the landlord fails to address the issue within 14</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee</p>

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 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.	House Special 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	House Ways & Means Committee

		program by which certain properties within such 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 local governments from adding unpaid service charges—such as water, sewer, or solid waste fees—to the ad valorem tax roll for the purpose of tax execution or tax sale. Prohibits foreclosure sales based on liens from condominiums or homeowners' associations for unpaid assessments treated as debts. Additionally, it prohibits utilities from foreclosing on owner-occupied homes for unpaid service fees and prevents tax sales based on these non-tax service charges.	House Ways & Means 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 as of the most recent United States decennial census.)	House Judiciary Committee

HB 1132 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72686 (Franklin-160th)	<p>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.</p>	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1159 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72731 (Gambill-15th)	<p>Exempts taxation of all income received by individuals, corporations, and partnerships under the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmer Bridge Assistance Program. Starting with the 2025 tax year, they may subtract from their taxable income any payments they received from the USDA's Farmer Bridge Assistance Program, as long as those payments were received by March 31, 2026, and were included in federal income.</p>	House Ways & Means Committee
HB 1162 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72737 (Holly-116th)	<p>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.</p>	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1165 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72769 (Scott-76th)	<p>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</p>	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)	<p>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.</p>	House Judiciary Committee
HB 1177 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72789 (Williams-168th)	<p>Finds that Georgia has a significant shortage of housing affordable to households earning below the area median income and that this shortage is limiting economic development and employment growth. The bill amends state law to expand the authority of development authorities to acquire, construct, improve, lease, or finance single-family, two-family, and multifamily residential housing as an eligible development project. This authority applies when the housing is intended to be primarily occupied by households below specified income levels and is determined to support trade, commerce, industry, or employment opportunities.</p>	House Governmental Affairs Committee
HB 1188 https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72837 (Sanchez-42nd)	<p>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</p>	House Judiciary Committee

		charged without being clearly and explicitly authorized in the rental agreement.	
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
SB 170	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70340 (Jackson-41st)	Establishes a grant program to acquire and install backup generators in certain rural hospitals. The Department of Community Health will work with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to set the criteria for these grants. Funding for the program will depend on appropriations from the General Assembly, and the amount awarded to each recipient will be determined individually. The bill also adds "affected rural hospital," which means an acute care hospital located in a rural county that contains fewer than 100 beds and is located in any region of the state in which the governor declared a state of emergency after July 1, 2024.	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	Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee

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.

<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72253> (Brass-6th)

Enacts the Georgia Property Owners' Bill of Rights Act and establishes a new regulatory framework for property owners' associations. The bill requires property owners' associations to register annually with the Secretary of State and prohibits unregistered associations from collecting dues, issuing assessments or fines, placing liens, or initiating foreclosures. It sets registration, renewal, amendment, recordkeeping, inspection, and fee requirements and authorizes the Secretary of State to deny, suspend, or revoke registrations and limit association enforcement actions for specified violations. The bill creates procedures for notices, hearings, subpoenas, orders, and appeals related to enforcement actions. It establishes a State Board for Review of Complaints Regarding Property Owners' Associations to investigate complaints and refer potential violations to law enforcement or prosecutors. The bill codifies a set of rights for owners within community associations, including access to records, notice and participation in meetings, voting rights, access to common areas, protections in foreclosure proceedings, and rights related to flags, signs, household composition, and nondiscrimination. It amends lien foreclosure law to increase the minimum lien amount required for foreclosure from \$2,000 to \$4,000, restricts the use of fees and fines to fund foreclosures, and prohibits associations and related parties from bidding at foreclosure sales. The bill also clarifies limits on lien duration and repeals conflicting laws.

Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee TODAY (MONDAY).

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

Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill will be heard in committee

	<p>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 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.</p>	TODAY (MONDAY).
SB 414	<p>https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72290 (Jackson-41st)</p>	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.
SB 415	<p>https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72292 (Dickerson-21st)</p>	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.
SB 463	<p>https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72849 (Dolezal-27th)</p>	Prohibits any business enterprise, including foreign investors, from owning more than 500 single-family residential properties, directly or indirectly. A claimant may file a civil action against violators to recover the greater of actual
		Senate Judiciary Committee
		Senate Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee
		Senate Economic Development & Tourism

damages or \$100,000 per violation, plus costs and reasonable attorney's fees. Claims must be brought within four years.



Miscellaneous

Bill Number	Link to Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Status
HB 383	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70183	(Cox-28th)	“Georgia High School NIL Protection Act” - Provides for high school student athletes and prospective student athletes to receive name, image, or likeness compensation. The bill provides for the automatic expiration of contracts that provide name, image, and likeness compensation to student athletes after the student athlete graduates or is no longer enrolled and allows for professional representation of student athletes and prospective student athletes. The bill requires written notice to high school student athletes outlining the effects of receiving money or other items of value on the student's future eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.	Recommended DO PASS by the House Education Committee. The bill moves on to House Rules Committee.
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	House Ways & Means Committee

		imposes an additional 0.20 percent excise tax on marketplace-facilitated retail sales beginning in 2026.	
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 tax credit for individual qualified taxpayers who filed income tax returns for the 2024 and 2025 taxable years for an equal to the lesser amount of \$250 for a single taxpayer, \$375 for head of household, or \$500 for a couple filing together.	House Ways & Means 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.	House Ways & Means 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	House Judiciary Committee

		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.	
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 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.	House Industry & Labor Committee
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 1196	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72845 (Smith-18th)	Creates the crime of criminal trespass involving a wild animal in the third degree, which shall be a misdemeanor and punished by imprisonment for not more than 12 months.	House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee
HB 1197	https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72873 (Powell-33rd)	Amends the Georgia Lottery for Education Act to authorize licensed location owners and operators to conduct billiards and darts tournaments on premises with bona fide coin-operated amusement machines and to award noncash prizes, such as gift cards.	House Regulated Industries 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)	Provides an affirmative defense to prosecution if the charged person is employed to work in a public library or any library operated as a part of any school, college, or university, and such individual can demonstrate that he or she has made a good faith attempt to identify and remove from access to minors all physical or electronic material harmful to minors.	PASSED SENATE. Assigned to House Judiciary Non-Civil 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 (Hufstetler-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	Senate Appropriations Committee

and requires the Department of Education to submit a zero-base budget in 2027, encourages judicial branch participation, and authorizes legislative review of zero-base budget requests.

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-sector members, and required to issue annual reports beginning in 2027.

Senate Science
& Technology
Committee

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

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 Ask

The Ask: Out-of-School Time Funds

Ask members of the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee to **increase funding for BOOST afterschool and summer learning grants in the FY27 budget by \$8 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 Behind This Ask:

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 House Appropriations Education Subcommittee:

Rep. Matt Dubnik, Chair, (404) 463-2246, matt.dubnik@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Will Wade, Vice Chair, (404) 651-7737, will.wade@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Kimberly Alexander, (404) 656-7859, Kimberly.alexander@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Robert Dickey, (404) 656-5099, Robert.dickey@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Chris Erwin, (404) 656-7850, chris.erwin@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Leesa Hagan, (404) 656-0177, leesa.hagan@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Edna Jackson, (404) 656-0265, edna.jackson@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Jan Jones, (404) 656-5072, jan.jones@house.ga.gov
 Rep. Todd Jones, (404) 656-9210, todd.jones@house.ga.gov

Upcoming Events

February

ICM's 15th Annual Day at the Capitol

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Time: 9am-2pm

Link: [ICM's 15th Annual Day at the Capitol · Interfaith Children's Movement](#)

Organization: Interfaith Children's Movement

Georgia Child Care Association Day at the Capitol 2026

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Link: [2026 GCCA Day at the Capitol - Georgia Child Care Association](#)

Address: 206 Washington Street, Atlanta, GA, 30334

GMHPP Mental Health Day at the Capitol

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

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

Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#), [SMARTS for Advocacy - NAMI Georgia](#)

Georgia Community Health Worker Awareness Day 2026

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Link: [Georgia Community Health Worker Awareness Day 2026](#)

Georgia Community Health Worker Awareness Day

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026

Time: 1:00pm-5:00pm

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

More Info: Georgia Watch, ntaylor@georgiawatch.org

Georgia Housing Day at the Capitol

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/rz9uj3y>

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

Organization: Georgia ACT

March

Peanut Butter and Jelly Day at the Capitol

Date: Monday, March 3, 2026

Time: 8am-12pm

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

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



Resources You May Find Helpful

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