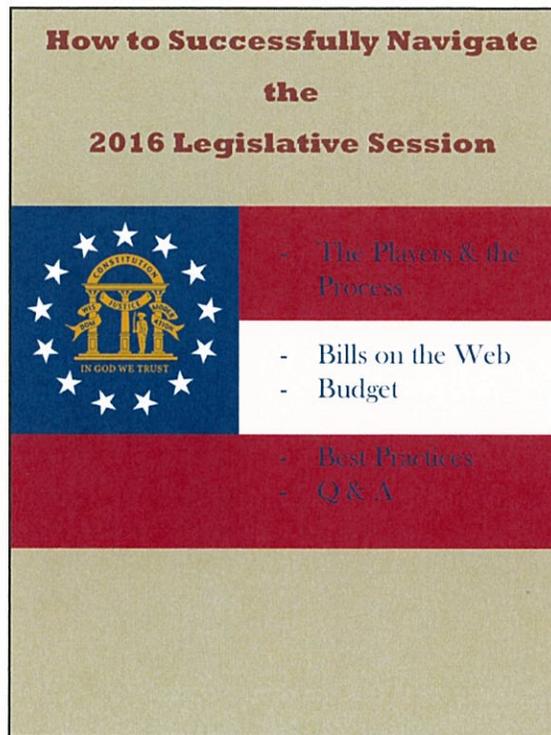


**A
Guide
to the
GOLD
DOME**

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&
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December 1, 2015



Our goal today is to give you all tips and tricks on how to navigate the legislature during session – its always a quick 40 days with a lot at stake so we hope this presentation will give you some “hacks” so-to-speak on this nuanced process.

Please ask questions if you would like us to clarify or elaborate something and we can take questions at the end as well

In the context of a courtroom, there is criteria for users to have a successful day in court (showing up on time, dressing appropriately, having necessary forms and documents ready)

The same rules apply when we are talking about working with the legislature.



40 session days- these are not successive days, they are set by the leadership, which agrees upon an adjournment resolution to determine which 40 days the General Assembly will meet.

Adjournment Resolution- sent out by AOC, so you know which dates the legislature is in session.

Crossover- all House bills have to pass through the House, all Senate bills have to pass through the Senate.

Sine Die- Gen assembly adjourns sine die, meaning without assigning a day for a further meeting or hearing. Last day of session, often goes until midnight.

Legislation works in 2 year cycles, often referred to as a biennium. The January following an election starts a new biennium. This is important because legislation lives through two sessions. The first year of a biennium, the legislature often extends the session into April. In the second year of a biennium, they tend to schedule a quick session because members are not allowed to fundraise while the legislature is in session and with 2016 being an election year, there is a rush to raise money.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



180 members =
119 Republicans + 60 Democrats
+ 1 Independent



House Speaker
David Ralston



House Judiciary
Chairman Wendell
Willard



House Judiciary
Non-Civil
Chairman Rich Golick

Speaker determines which committee the bills are going to be assigned to, as well as who chairs specific committees

Bills addressing the courts are typically assigned to these two House committees, but can also go to juvenile justice (chaired by Representative Tom Weldon or Public Safety, chaired by Alan Powell).

No surprise, committee assignments for a bill are sometimes a very political. If legislation is a priority (or of the speaker is looking to kill the bill) it can sometimes be assigned to a committee that may not be the most germane. Example: HB 310 last year.

SENATE

56 members =
38 Republicans + 18 Democrats



Lieutenant
Governor

Casey Cagle

President
Pro Tempore

David Shafer



LG serves as the president of the senate and presides over the floor. He does not get a vote. Both the LG and Senator Shafer have considerable power over committees for both bills and senators as well.

A Day in the Life of a Georgia Legislator

<u>House</u>		<u>Senate</u>	
8am	Appropriations General Gov't Subcommittee		
9am	House Rules	9am	Caucus Meeting
10am	House Floor Session	10am	Senate Floor Session
		12pm	Senate Rules (on adjournment)
2pm	House Judiciary Committee	2pm	Senate Education & Youth Comm
3pm	Fleming Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil		
4pm	House Public Safety Committee	4pm	Senate Judiciary Committee

Highlight difference between House and Senate Schedules- House has subcommittees on everything, especially in the judiciary committees. House members also typically sit on more committees. The House has A LOT of appropriations subcommittee meetings.

The House, with its larger membership, has a much higher volume of bills.

Rules Committee???

House vs. Senate



House rules sets the calendar for the next day.

Senate Rules: 18 members. Acts as the gatekeeper to the floor. It's a little different from the House. The Rules Chairman, Jeff Mullis, allows each member to bring up a set number of bills to be voted out of committee. There is no formal hearing here, just a bunch of lobbyists nervously sweating that their bill is going to get voted out.

NAVIGATING THE WEB

continued...

Votes

Apr/02/2015	Senate Vote # 287	Yea: 45	Nay: 2	NV: 7	Exc: 11
Mar/27/2015	House Vote # 117	Yea: 104	Nay: 54	NV: 5	Exc: 17
Mar/27/2015	House Vote # 116	Yea: 76	Nay: 75	NV: 11	Exc: 18
Mar/27/2015	House Vote # 115	Yea: 91	Nay: 50	NV: 12	Exc: 19
Mar/09/2015	Senate Vote # 102	Yea: 52	Nay: 2	NV: 0	Exc: 2

Current Version [Open Current Version in New Window](#)

15 SB 134/AP

Senate Bill 134

By: Senators Stone of the 23rd, Beach of the 21st, Jones II of the 22nd, Thompson of the 5th, Miles of the 49th and others.

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to local government budgets and audits, so as to require reports of local government
3 revenues submitted to the Department of Community Affairs identify the total amount of
4 speeding fine revenue collected by the local government, to amend Article 2 of Chapter 14
5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to speed detection devices,
6 so as to provide for a rebuttable presumption for law enforcement agencies' use of speed
7 detection devices when fines are less than a certain percent of the agencies' operating
8 budgets, to provide for the calculation of such budgets, to provide for related matters, to
9 repeal conflicting laws, and for other purposes.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA**

11 **SECTION 1.**

Past Versions

- LC 29-60-375/104
- No passed Senate
- As introduced LC 39-0907

- Floor votes & amendment votes
- PDF of the current version * **Stipulation** *
- Past versions (different LC numbers)

“Tricks of the Trade”

Tacking
(or Hijacking)

The Rope
Line



When your bill can't get through the regular old way, some legislators will use tacking to get a bill passed. Use example of Judy non-civil in the House holding committee on House bills after crossover day. Code section must be the same and the tacked language must be germane to the purpose of the original bill.

The Rope Line- Only members and senate or House staff can go on the floor of the respective chambers. So lobbyists and citizens wait outside the chamber door and what is called the rope line. Get a page to grab the member for you. Just one way to interact with your legislator during session.

Best Practices For Effective Outreach

- **Do...**
 - reach out to your local legislators prior to session
 - arrive to hearings early and introduce yourself to Committee Chairs
 - Sign in if planning to speak
 - be informed of Council initiatives and messaging
 - Unified Voice
 - be prepared with data, metrics, & performance measures
 - assess support and opposition for your bill
 - ask us to assist you!
- **Don't...**
 - forget to notify your local legislators when you plan to be at the Capitol
 - arrive at key hearings without taking time to prepare
 - forget supporting data!
 - forget picture ID!

DO

Reach out – many of you are on a first name basis with your legislators, and that's great. For those who aren't, you can quickly foster a relationship this way.

Be prepared with data, metrics and perf measures: data and evidence is so important these days. We are going to talk a little later about the results from your survey, so the findings from that will serve as excellent supporting data and information in the legislature. You may wish to consider handouts based on your data as well – these should be simple, clear and easily digestible. Make sure it is cleared with your respective council leadership so you can stay on message.

Ask us to assist: we are here to support you in whatever you may need – from legal research and policy analysis to bill summaries to meeting you before hearings to make sure you know where to go, our role is to serve you

****Do consider informing both your supporters and opposition****

DON'T

Forget to notify local legislators when you plan to be at the Capitol – legislators love when their constituents and fellow local officials make an appearance at the Capitol. For both judges and legislators, it shows support and engagement from their community. It's a benefit to you as a judge to have that name recognition and familiarity, but it also benefits the legislators bc it demonstrates that their local community cares.

Budget & State Appropriations

- Judicial Council – Section 6 of the Budget
- Judicial Council Budget Process
 - White Paper Cycle: May – June
 - Enhancements to FY 16 and development of FY 17
 - Budget Committee (led by Justice Melton) consideration and recommendation
 - Judicial Council adoption
- Submission of JC Budget by September 1st
- OPB and Governor’s Review
- Legislature: Appropriations subcommittee hearings
 - Representative Andy Welch
 - Senator Charlie Bethel
- Governor’s signature

Judicial Council budget unit is found in Section 6 of all Appropriations Documents

Subprograms are part of the Judicial Council Program within the Judicial Council budget unit, which receives funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Specific amounts are appropriated to each subprogram by the Judicial Council for their operations. Total funds appropriated to the AOC by the Judicial Council are budgeted at the discretion of the AOC Director and Chief Justice. The AOC Director does not necessarily exercise discretion as to actual expenditures for all subprograms.

Total JC request in FY 2017 is \$15,521,282

Justice Harold Melton serves as chair of the JC Budget Committee and Ashley Garner, JC/AOC CBO, leads the budget effort in JC/AOC

Government & Trial Court Liaison

Action During the Legislative Session

- Policy Committee support → led by Presiding Justice Harris Hines
- Monitor and track legislation
- Facilitate weekly teleconferences
- Legislative website
- Daily and weekly legislative reports



Policy Committee support – staff the Committee (coordinate meetings, work with Councils on legislative proposals, facilitate communications during session, provide support when requested).

Monitor and track legislation – in addition to JC package, we monitor hundreds of bills that go through the General Assembly each year. If a bill affects the courts, we track it. Some bills don't go anywhere after being introduced, some move a little bit but end up dying, etc etc, and you'll be able to find all of those bills through our legislative website.

Weekly teleconferences – Presidents and Council legislative chairs, and staff; check in for everyone to keep everyone informed

What Happens From April to December???

- Legislative Development
 - meetings and strategy
- Study Committees
- Commissions and Councils



Under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the AOC of Georgia assists judges, administrators, clerks of court, and other officers, employees, and entities of the judiciary by performing administrative and legal, fiscal, information technology, communications, and other technical services.

We are a service agency designed to assist you, your courts, and your Councils serve the people of Georgia.

Legislative development- GTCL provides policy support to the Judicial Council and other councils as requested. This involves meeting with stakeholders like the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, the State Bar, Georgia Municipal Association, etc to discuss issues that concern JC legislation or others legislation.

Study committees- attend study committees that affect the judiciary and provide judges with information related to those topics.

Commissions and councils- The Office of Governmental and Trial Court Liaison collaborates with the judiciary, the executive and legislative branches of government, the State Bar and other entities to further the policy goals of the Judicial Council and the statutory mission of the AOC.

Outside of session, we attend meetings regarding judicial issues, like the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Judicial Compensation Commission, Appellate Review

Jurisdiction Commission, etc.

Additionally, GTCL provides its regular services to members of the Judicial Council and each class of court. This includes:

Administrative Services: the Council of Municipal Court Judges, the Council of Municipal Court Clerks, the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and the Council of Probate Court Judges

Secretariat Services: to the Municipal, Magistrate and Probate Court Judges Training Councils.



**Presentation Adjourned
Sine Die!**