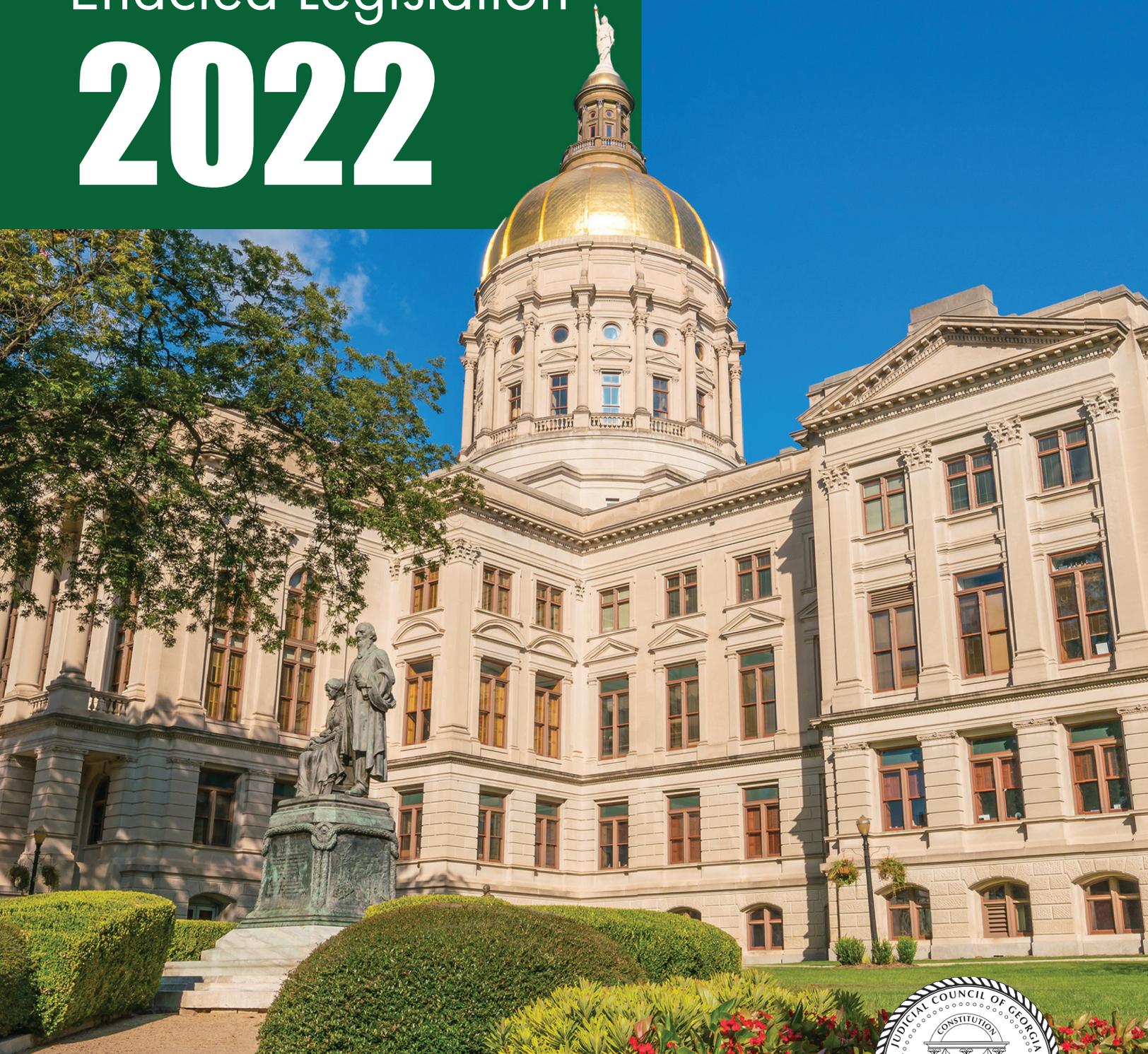


Summary of Enacted Legislation **2022**



Prepared by the Judicial Council/
Administrative Office of the Courts
Governmental and Trial Court Liaison



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FOREWORD

The Summary of Enacted Legislation provides summaries of bills and resolutions that are pertinent to the judiciary passed by the 156th Georgia General Assembly during the 2022 Regular Session. This publication organizes the summaries in numerical order based on their subject matter.

The Summary of Enacted Legislation is intended to be a convenient reference guide. Please note: a bill summary should not be used as the definitive source of legal interpretation. For detailed information, the Act itself should be examined.

Last, but certainly not least, the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts would like to thank our 2022 Legislative Intern – Sahiti Namburar– for her contributions during the legislative session.

SUMMARY OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 Session of the 156th Georgia General Assembly convened on January 10, 2022, and adjourned Sine Die on April 4, 2022. During the session, the General Assembly passed legislation spanning a wide range of subject matters, including comprehensive mental health treatment reform, revisions to weapons carry license laws, a state income tax cut, and various local redistricting bills. Additionally, the FY 2023 State Budget is based on an increase in the revenue estimate to \$30.2 billion, a 10.8 percent increase over FY 2022. Among other items, the budget provided restoration of budget reductions across the judicial branch and cost of living adjustments for all State employees.

A significant number of bills affecting Georgia's judiciary passed, including [HB 916](#), the Judicial Council's Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act, and the creation of three additional superior court judgeships. Other bills supported by the Judicial Council which passed this session deal with surety bonds ([HB 1183](#)) and settlements involving minors ([HB 620](#)).

To view the summaries of all bills tracked by the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, please visit the [JC/AOC Legislative Tracking Website](#).

To view all bills introduced during the Georgia General Assembly's 2022 session, please visit www.legis.ga.gov/. To view the bills signed by the Governor in 2022, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/signed-legislation/2022-signed-legislation>.

BUDGET

[HB 910 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022](#)

House Author: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

HB 910 is the Amended Budget for State Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). To view the budget as passed by the General Assembly, please click [here](#).

Signed by the Governor: March 16, 2022

Effective Date: March 16, 2022

The AFY 2022 Budget is based on a revised revenue estimate of \$30.3 billion, an increase of 11.3 percent over HB 81 (2021). Statewide Common Budget Changes for AFY 2022 include a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible employees. The adjustment was made up of a one-time pay supplement (\$3,750) and a \$5,000 salary increase effective April 1, 2022 (\$1,250). Highlights of the AFY 2022 budget (state funds) include the following:

Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees- **\$670,820**
- Increase funds to reflect the salary and travel/per diem expenses for a temporary judge - **\$117,069**
- Increase funds for per diem adjustments - **\$40,922**
- Reduce funds pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-7-3 – **(\$60,553)**

Georgia State-wide Business Court

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time benefit eligible employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs- **\$41,513**
- Increase funds for annual leave payouts for term clerks - **\$9,040**
- Increase funds for subscriptions- **\$7,665**
- Increase funds for jury trial per diem expenses - **\$15,000**
- Increase funds for travel - **\$5,775**
- Reduce funds pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-7-3 – **(\$4,037)**

Judicial Council

Council of Accountability Court Judges

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time benefit eligible employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs - **\$30,692**
- Increase funds for a one-time salary adjustment to provide parity for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees funded by federal and other funds - **\$2,243**
- Increase funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions - **\$18,594**

Office of Dispute Resolution

- Increase funds to provide a one-time salary adjustment to provide parity for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees funded by federal and other funds- **\$8,074**

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$39,488**

Judicial Council

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$325,075**
- Increase funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions (AOC) - **\$569,928**
- Increase funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions (Council of Magistrate Court Judges)- **\$27,023**
- Increase funds to reflect restoration of budget reductions (Council of Probate Court Judges)- **\$25,964**
- Increase funds to provide a one-time salary adjustment to provide parity for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees funded by federal and other funds- **\$15,251**

Judicial Qualifications Commission

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$30,692**

Resource Center

- No changes

BUDGET cont.

Juvenile Courts

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$94,500**
- Increase funds for the case management contract - **\$25,000**

Grants to Counties for Juvenile Court Judges

- Increase funds for grants to counties for the Cobb Judicial circuit effective January 1, 2022 - **\$12,500**

Superior Courts

Council of Superior Court Judges

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$59,233**

Judicial Administrative Districts

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employee - **\$105,815**
- Increase funds for operations to assist with the case backlog - **\$37,417**

Superior Court Judges

- Increase funds for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees - **\$3,130,791**
- Increase funds for an additional three senior judge days per active judge to assist with the case backlog - **\$405,114**
- Increase funds for senior judge assistance with additional need due to special circumstances cases - **\$74,568**
- Increase funds for the employer contribution to the Employees' Retirement System for two Superior Court Judges per SB 176 (2020 Session) - **\$66,590**
- Reduce funds for personnel based on actual start dates of new positions – **(\$654,176)**
- Reduce funds pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-7-3 – **(\$884,076)**

Supreme Court

Supreme Court of Georgia

- Increase funds for a one-time salary adjustment to provide parity for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees funded by federal and other funds - **\$40,370**
- Increase funds to annualize daily allowance days and commute mileage for one additional justice who resides 50 miles or more from the Judicial Building in Atlanta in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-2-3 - **\$51,826**
- Increase funds to reflect an increase in the employer contribution rate for the Employees' Retirement System - **\$66,092**
- Increase funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered self-insurance programs - **\$9,635**
- Increase funds for a salary adjustment of the Georgia State Patrol Trooper assigned to the Supreme Court - **\$2,189**
- Increase funds for one-time funding for a newly appointed Justice effective August 1, 2021, and moving costs and chamber repairs for current Justices effective July 1, 2021 - **\$26,294**
- Increase funds to restore operations - **\$205,347**

[HB 911 – General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023](#)

House Author: Rep. David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

HB 911 is the Budget for State Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). To view the budget as passed by the General Assembly, please click [here](#).

Signed by the Governor: May 12, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

The FY 2023 budget is based on a revenue estimate of \$30.2 billion, an increase of 10.8% over the original FY 2022 budget. Statewide Common Budget Changes for FY23 include a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit eligible employees, adjustments to the Employees' Retirement System, and funds to

BUDGET cont.

allow eligible employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of annual leave as salary per year. Highlights of the FY 2023 budget (state funds) include the following:

Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$909,941**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$198,248**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate - **\$927,723**
- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administer in insurance programs - **\$3,632**
- Reflect an adjustment in TeamWorks billings - **\$816**
- Provide funds for ongoing cost of annual cyber security risk audit - **\$33,000**
- Provide funds for ongoing cyber security vulnerability scanning - **\$11,700**
- Provide funds for ongoing security event logging system and associated maintenance - **\$25,000**
- Provide funds for ongoing cost of advanced multi-factor authentication software and maintenance - **\$3,700**
- Provide funds for ongoing cost of data center battery back up system maintenance - **\$4,000**
- Provide funds for ongoing maintenance costs associated with delivery of interactive web access to courtroom information - **\$9,000**
- Increase funds for per diem adjustments - **\$88,095**
- Eliminate one-time funds for the development of the Case Management System - **(\$97,500)**

Georgia State-wide Business Court

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$58,840**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$7,301**

- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$7,325**
- Increase funds for a staff attorney - **\$8,087**
- Increase funds for the senior deputy clerk - **\$8,087**
- Increase funds for a judicial assistant - **\$2,500**
- Increase funds for subscriptions - **\$7,665**
- Provide funds for jury trial per diem expenses - **\$15,000**
- Increase funds for travel - **\$5,775**

Judicial Council

Council of Accountability Court Judges

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$45,285**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$1,481**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$23,482**
- Restore operating funds - **\$74,374**

Office of Dispute Resolution

- No changes

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$45,748**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$1,718**
- Increase funds for a training assistant position - **\$49,600**

BUDGET cont.

Judicial Council

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$480,021**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$54,232**
- Reflect a change in the Employee's Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$281,198**
- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs - **(\$3,547)**
- Provide funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions - **\$593,868**
- Increase funds for a research analyst position - **\$83,260**
- Increase funds for a customer support specialist position - **\$73,326**
- Increase funds for an IT Help Desk position - **\$96,980**
- Increase funds for a policy counsel I position - **\$137,926**
- Reduce one-time funds for judicial workload assessments - **\$236,113**
- Increase funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions (Council of Magistrate Court Judges) - **\$27,023**
- Increase funds to reflect restoration of budget reductions (Council of Probate Court Judges) - **\$25,964**
- Increase funds for grants to Civil Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence - **\$1,322,828**
- Increase funds for grants to Civil Legal Services for Kinship Care Families - **\$274,674**
- Reduce one-time matching funds for the Child Support Collaborative Grant - **(\$21,600)**

Judicial Qualifications Commission

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit-eligible state employees effective July 2, 2022 - **\$45,285**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to

- withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$1,923**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$30,434**
- Increase funds for legal counsel for Hearing Panel Commission members - **\$100,000**

Resource Center

- Provide funds for operations to reflect restoration of budget reductions - **\$25,000**

Juvenile Courts

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$96,950**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$25,970**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$23,878**
- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs - **\$12,213**
- Increase funds for the case management contract and provide compatibility with SHINES at the Department of Human Services - **\$35,000**

Grants to Counties for Juvenile Court Judges

- Increase funds to provide prorated supplemental grants by county based on dependency case backlog less than 180 days in that county as certified by the executive director of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the commissioner of the Department of Human Services - **\$690,000**
- Increase funds for grants to counties for the Cobb Judicial Circuit pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-52 effective January 1, 2022 - **\$25,000**

BUDGET cont.

Superior Courts

Council of Superior Court Judges

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$80,887**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$30,410**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$58,518**

Judicial Administrative Districts

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time benefit-eligible state employees effective July 2, 2022 - **\$161,774**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$50,101**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$114,637**
- Increase funds for operations to assist with the case backlog - **\$149,665**

Superior Court Judges

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$4,325,992**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$236,188**
- Reflect a change in the Employee's Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$774,176**
- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs - **(\$259,997)**

- Reflect an adjustment in TeamWorks billings - **\$14,552**
- Reduce funds to reflect a decrease in the Employer Contribution Rate from 8.81% to 8.03% - **(\$230,249)**
- Provide funds to annualize a new judgeship in the Ogeechee Circuit per HB 786 - **\$198,790**
- Provide funds to annualize a new judgeship in the Flint Circuit per HB 786 - **\$198,790**
- Provide funds to annualize a new judgeship in the Cobb Circuit per HB 786 - **\$198,790**
- Provide funds for one additional judgeship in the South Georgia Circuit effective January 1, 2023 - **\$210,400**
- Provide funds for one additional judgeship in the Blue Ridge Circuit effective January 1, 2023 - **\$210,400**
- Provide funds for one additional judgeship in the Mountain Circuit effective January 1, 2023 - **\$210,400**
- Increase funds to provide five senior judge days per active judge and utilize existing 'American Rescue Plan Act of 2021' (ARP) funds to provide an additional five senior judge days per active judge to expedite all cases - **\$675,193**
- Provide funds for the employer rate contribution to the Employees Retirement System for two superior court judges per SB 176 - **\$66,590**
- Provide funds for a salary increase for law clerks to improve employee retention and reduce turnover - **\$675,599**

Supreme Court

Supreme Court of Georgia

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2022 - **\$648,211**
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - **\$123,169**
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution - **\$584,671**

BUDGET cont.

- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs - \$1,404
- Reflect an adjustment in TeamWorks billings - \$10,686
- Provide funds to annualize daily allowance days and commute mileage for one additional justice who resides 50 miles or more from the Judicial Building in Atlanta - \$53,954
- Provide funds to annualize the increase in the employer contribution rate for the Employee Retirement System - \$127,671
- Increase funds to annualize an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered self-insurance programs - \$9,635
- Increase funds for a salary adjustment of the Georgia State Patrol trooper assigned to the Supreme Court - \$10,585
- Increase funds for personal services for a central staff attorney position to handle pro se matters and one central staff attorney for regulatory filings - \$319,416
- Provide funds to purchase enterprise document management software per Department of Audits and Accounts Special Examination Report 18-10 - \$24,120

COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT

[HB 263 – Retirement; benefits for judges of probate courts; revise method through which certain actuarial equivalents are determined](#)

House Author: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Billy Hickman (R – Statesboro)

HB 263 amends Code Section 47-11-71 of the OCGA to allow the board to adopt a current and accurate mortality table to determine actuarial equivalents in monthly retirement benefits should a probate court judge choose to receive retirement benefits up to the date of their designated survivor's death.

Signed by the Governor: May 5, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1391 – Criminal procedure; compensation for public defenders and assistant public defenders; revise](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 1391 amends Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 17 of the OCGA to revise the compensation of circuit public defenders and certain assistant public defenders.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 343 - Retirement; prohibition of granting postretirement benefit adjustments to any individual who became a member on or after July 1, 2009; remove](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome)

House Author: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

SB 343 amends Chapter 2 of Title 47 of the OCGA to revise provisions related to employer contributions for creditable service for forfeited leave and to increase the rate of employer contributions to certain members' 401(k) accounts based upon years of creditable service.

Signed by the Governor: May 10, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

CRIMINAL

[HB 218 – Crimes and offenses; weapons carry license reciprocity in this state; expand](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Larry Walker, III (R – Houston)
House Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

HB 218 amends Code Section 16-11-126 and Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the OCGA to allow the Attorney General to enter into reciprocal weapons carry license agreements with other states. Additionally, the bill lists certain prohibitions on state actors in seizing or regulating weapon related activity while in a state of emergency and lists civil remedies for violations and damages under this Code.

Signed by the Governor: April 12, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 478 – Evidence; expert testimony in criminal cases; change rules](#)

House Author: Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

HB 478 amends Chapter 7 of Title 24 of the OCGA to provide that the opinion of a witness qualified as an expert under this section may be given on the facts as proved by other witnesses. Upon motion of a party, the court may hold a pretrial hearing to determine whether the witness qualifies as an expert and whether the expert's testimony satisfies the requirements of this section.

The bill also clarifies that the courts of the State of Georgia should not be viewed as open to expert evidence that would not be admissible in other states.

Signed by the Governor: May 5, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1134 – Crimes and offenses; prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity; provide for concurrent authority](#)

House Author: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 1134 amends Code Section 16-15-4 of the OCGA to provide for the concurrent authority of prosecuting attorneys and the Attorney General to prosecute

offenses involving criminal gang activity.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1183 – Criminal procedure; increase time allotted to try a criminal case in judicial emergencies; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 1183 amends OCGA § 17-6-72 to clarify when a surety may be released from a bond. The bill clarifies that the 120-day timeline for remission begins upon entry of a judgment.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1188 – Criminal procedure; each act of child molestation charged as a separate offense; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Jodi Lott (R – Evans)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 1188 amends Code Section 16-6-4 of the OCGA relating to child molestation and aggravated child molestation to provide that each act of child molestation shall be charged as a separate offense. The bill also amends Code Section 16-12-100 to specify that an offender can be charged and convicted for each separate image or depiction.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1433 – Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; revise and update composition of advisory board](#)

House Author: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)
HB 1433 amends Code Section 35-6A-11 of the OCGA to revise and update the composition of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

CRIMINAL cont.

[HB 1452 – Domestic relations; dating violence protective orders; revise a definition](#)

House Author: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 1452 amends Chapter 13A of Title 19 of the OCGA to revise the definition of dating violence by expanding the period for persons who were in a dating relationship from six to the last twelve months.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 10 – “Jaye Mize Law”; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Emanuel Jones (D – Decatur)

House Sponsor: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

SB 10 amends Article 2 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the OCGA to provide for the offense of impersonating an officer of the court and to provide for limitations regarding the use of electronic monitoring devices. SB 10 also amends Title 17 of the OCGA to provide for the waiver of restoration fees in the reinstatement of driver's licenses by order of the court. Furthermore, the bill amends Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the OCGA to provide for judicial discretion in suspension of a driver's license upon failure to appear for certain traffic violations.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 461 – Bails, Bonds; human trafficking as a bailable offense; add the offense](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Clint Dixon (R – Gwinnett)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jodi Lott (R – Evans)

SB 461 amends Code Section 17-6-1 of the OCGA to add the offense of human trafficking as a bail-restricted offense.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 479 – Firearms by Convicted Felons and First Offender Probationers; each firearm in the possession or attempted possession of certain offenders shall be charged as a separate offense; specify](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

House Sponsor: Rep. Jodi Lott (R – Evans)

SB 479 amends Code Section 16-11-131 of the OCGA to specify that each firearm in the possession or attempted possession of certain offenders shall be charged as a separate offense.

Signed by the Governor:

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 539 – Wiretapping, Eavesdropping, Surveillance; use of any device to photograph or record patients in a health care facility shall be unlawful; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

House Sponsor: Rep. Steven Sainz (R – St. Marys)

SB 539 amends OCGA § 16-11-62 to provide that the use of any device to photograph or record patients in a facility operated by a county board of health shall be unlawful.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 565 – Sentence and Punishment; any time after conviction; defendant convicted of an offense and sentenced as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude may petition the sentencing court to grant the relief of vacatur; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

House Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

SB 565 amends Article 1 of Chapter 10 of Title 17 of the OCGA to provide that any time after conviction for a misdemeanor or felony offense, a defendant convicted of an offense and sentenced as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude may petition the sentencing court to grant the relief of vacatur. The bill also provides for the return of fines and fees paid by the defendant whose conviction is vacated and provides that testimony from certain individuals relative to such petitions may be taken by remote electronic means.

Signed by the Governor: May 9, 2022

Effective Date: May 9, 2022

CIVIL

[HB 620 – Guardian and ward; payment of certain settlements involving claims of minors; clarify and revise procedures and requirements](#)

House Author: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 620 amends Title 29 of the OCGA to clarify and revise procedures and requirements for the payment of certain settlements involving claims of minors. The bill increases from \$15,000 to \$25,000 the amount that may be received or accepted by a minor's natural guardian without becoming a conservator or requiring approval of the court. HB 620 also revises OCGA § 29-3-3 to clarify the definition of "gross settlement" and define the term "net settlement" in cases of settlements involving minors and clarifies when a conservator is required for receiving such settlements for the minor.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[HB 961 – Torts; authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits; provide for evidence of fault of nonparties](#)

House Author: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 961 amends Code Section 51-12-33 of the OCGA as to provide that when an action is brought against one or more persons for injury to person or property, the trier of fact, if any, shall apportion its award of damages among the person or persons who are liable according to the percentage of fault of each person.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: May 14, 2022

[HB 974 – Property; deeds; require electronic filing](#)

House Author: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (R – Cataula)

HB 974 amends Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the OCGA to require electronic filing for deeds and to provide for the effect of a missing or incorrect tax parcel identification number on a recorded instrument. The bill also

amends Chapter 14 of Title 44 relating to mortgages, conveyances to secure debt, and liens, to require certain information on the first page of security deeds.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 1088 – Property; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 1088 amends Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the OCGA to authorize nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates. A sale undertaken as authorized by this Code Section shall divest the owner of all right, title interest, and equity that such owner has in or to the time share estate. For the purpose of carrying out and effectuating the power of sale, the owners' association shall be constituted the true and lawful attorney in fact of such owner to sell such time share estate.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[SB 332 – “Inform Consumers Act” enact](#)

Senate Author: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

House Sponsor: Rep. Houston Gaines (R – Athens)

SB 332 amends Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the OCGA to provide for certain disclosures by third-party high-volume sellers of consumer products on online marketplaces. The bill provides definitions for several terms including the following: consumer product, high-volume third-party seller, and online marketplace. SB 332 also requires online marketplaces to provide certain notifications and a consumer reporting mechanism. The bill provides for the Attorney General to bring civil action in any appropriate court if he or she has reason to believe that any online marketplace has violated this article or affects one or more residents of this state.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

CIVIL cont.

[SB 363 - "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975,"; class action suits and for damages for violating the requirements for solicitations for corporate filings; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia)

House Sponsor: Rep. Marcus Wiedower (R – Watkinsville)

SB 363 amends Part 2 of Article 15 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the OCGA relating to the “Fair Business Practices Act of 1975” to provide for class action suits and for damages for violating the requirements for solicitations for corporate filings or employment or labor related posters or notices.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 438 – Contracts; certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments; change](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

SB 438 amends Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 13 of the OCGA relating to retention of contractual payments and creation of escrow accounts on contracts for installation, improvement, maintenance, or repair of water or sewer facilities, so as to change certain provisions relating to retainage of progress payments.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 493 – Time-Share Projects and Programs; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

SB 493 amends Part 7 of Article 5 of Chapter 3 of the OCGA to authorize nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates under a power of sale.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[SB 500 – Commerce; a litigation bar on governmental entities regarding certain statewide opioid litigation; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

House Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

SB 500 amends Title 10 of the OCGA to provide for a litigation bar on governmental entities regarding certain state-wide opioid litigation.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[SB 543 – Wrongful Death; a parent who is determined to be responsible for the homicide of his or her child shall have no right of recovery against the value of the child’s life; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Sonya Halpern (D – Atlanta)

House Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee)

SB 543 amends Chapter 4 of Title 51 of the OCGA to provide that a parent who is determined to be responsible for the homicide of his or her child shall have no right of recovery against the value of the child's life. SB 543 also amends Article 1 of Chapter 53 of the OCGA relating to will, trusts, and administration of estates generally, to provide for forfeiture of an intestate share of an estate under certain circumstances.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 576 – Grandparents or Family Members Visitation Rights; provisions regarding visitation actions brought by certain grandparents of minor children; revise](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

House Sponsor: Rep. Robert Dickey (R – Musella)

SB 576 amends Code Section 19-7-3 of the OCGA relating to actions by grandparents or other family members for visitation rights or intervention, revocation or amendment of visitation rights, appointment of guardian ad litem, mediation, hearing, and notification to family members of child's participation in events.

Signed by the Governor: May 9, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

COURTS

[HB 56 – Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide additional judge](#)

House Author: Rep. Wes Cantrell (R – Woodstock)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White)

HB 56 provides a fourth superior court judgeship for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. The new judgeship shall initially be filled through appointment by the Governor for a term running from January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024. An election shall be held, and the elected judge shall begin their term on January 1, 2025.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

[HB 409 – Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission; establish](#)

House Author: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 409 amends Chapter 18 of Title 15 of the OCGA to revise the process for the appointment of a substitute for absent or disqualified district attorneys and solicitors general. HB 409 also adds new Code section OCGA § 45-15-71 establishing the Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission and a process for considering requests for and providing state-funded representation for certain judges in legal actions resulting from actions taken pursuant to, or nonperformance of, their official duties.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 441 – Courts; reestablishment of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board as an advisory board to The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

House Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

SB 441 amends Title 15 of the OCGA to provide for the reestablishment of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board as an advisory board to The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia. The Board is required to create uniform standards for the creation and transmission of electronic criminal history data between local and state justice agencies, by January 1, 2023. The Council of Su-

perior Court Clerks will share these standards with the Council of Superior Court Judges and the Council of State Court Judges, and the chief superior court judge of each judicial circuit and the chief state court judge of a county shall assist with the implementation of these standards.

The bill also amends Title 35 of the OCGA to authorize the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to identify and investigate election-related claims if there is evidence that is sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of an election.

Signed by the Governor: April 27, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 464 – Guardian and ward; petition for appointment of temporary guardian of minor filed in probate court may be transferred to juvenile court; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (R – Cartersville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

HB 464 amends Title 29 of the OCGA to provide for when a petition for the appointment of a temporary guardian of a minor filed in the probate court may be transferred from the probate court to the juvenile court. The bill also revises the assessment of certain costs, compensation, fees and expenses relating to guardian and ward.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 624 – South Georgia Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Darlene Taylor (R – Thomasville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 624 provides a third superior court judgeship for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit. The new judgeship shall initially be filled through appointment by the Governor for a term running from January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024. An election shall be held, and the elected judge shall begin their term on January 1, 2025.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

COURTS cont.

[HB 916 – Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act; enact](#)

House Author: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 916, the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act, replaces Georgia's current certiorari review and notice of appeal statutes with a unified "petition for review" procedure for appealing a case from a lower judiciary to superior court or state court. The bill outlines the new petition for review procedure including filing deadlines, filing formats, procedures for amendment or extension, and policies regarding venue. Under the new procedure, courts are directed to render decisions based on the merit of an appeal and not dismiss cases on procedural grounds unless required to by law. "Lower judiciary" is broadly defined to include any government official or body exercising judicial or quasi-judicial authority by law to capture all appeals of judicial and quasi-judicial decisions to superior and state court, while maintaining the current appellate jurisdiction of both courts. Additionally, the bill provides for confirming and technical amendments throughout the Code.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 1275 – Local government; appointment and removal of municipal court judges; revise provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Bonnie Rich (R – Suwanee)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 1275 amends OCGA § 36-32-2 to clarify the proceedings related to the removal of municipal court judges, including the requirement that a judge subject to removal proceedings be served by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery with a petition for removal that states the cause(s) for termination in sufficient detail, the names of known witnesses, and a concise summary of the evidence to be used against the judge. The bill also provides that that in the event of a vacancy occurring during the term of a judge appointed under OCGA § 36-32-2.1, the governing authority of the municipal corporation is authorized to appoint an individual to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term created by such vacancy.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1346 – Courts; clerks of superior courts; provide for construction](#)

House Author: Rep. James Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

HB 1346 allows clerks of superior courts to serve as or offer advice in his or her role as a judge advocate or in any other military role in an active duty or reserve component of the US Army, US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, US Air Force, US National Guard, Georgia National Guard, Georgia Air National Guard, Georgia Naval Militia, Georgia State Defense Force or in the National Guard or Air National Guard of any state or territory of the US.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 395 – Mountain Judicial Circuit; third judge of the superior courts; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)
House Sponsor: Rep. Stan Gunter (R – Blairsville)

SB 395 provides a third superior court judgeship for the Mountain Judicial Circuit. The new judgeship shall initially be filled through appointment by the Governor for a term running from January 1, 2023, until December 31, 2024. An election shall be held, and the elected judge shall begin their term on January 1, 2025.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

GENERAL

[HB 907 – Elections; dates for special elections; question related to sales and use taxes for transportation; revise provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

HB 907 amends Code Section 21-2-540 of the OCGA to provide that a special election which presents a question to voters shall be held only on one of the following two dates. In odd numbered years, the special election is held on the third Tuesday in March or Tuesday after first Monday in November. In even-numbered years, the special election shall be held on the third Tuesday in March. However, if a special election is to be held in a year when a presidential primary is held, then the special election will occur on the same day as the presidential primary election. Furthermore, the special election shall present a question to the voters on sales and use taxes.

Signed by the Governor: February 15, 2022

Effective Date: February 15, 2022

[HB 963 – Controlled substances; Schedule I and IV; change certain provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge)

HB 963 amends Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the OCGA to change certain provisions relating to Schedule I controlled substances and Schedule IV controlled substances. The bill also amends the definition of a dangerous drug.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: May 14, 2022

[HB 1013 – Mental Health Parity Act; enact](#)

House Author: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

HB 1013 provides comprehensive reforms to mental health treatment practices in Georgia. HB 1013 includes the requirement that health insurance providers cover mental health and substance use disorders issues in the same manner they cover physical ailments. The bill also requires that coverage be extended

to spouses and dependents. Many of the reforms most relevant to the judiciary can be found in Part III and Part IV of the bill. HB 1013 creates a three-year grant program aimed at studying the efficacy of assisted outpatient treatment. The bill provides a detailed definition of what constitutes assisted outpatient treatment. Court-relevant aspects of this definition include the establishment of certain procedures for filing for outpatient status in the probate court, safeguarding the due-process rights of those committed into involuntary outpatient care, the establishment of communication between providers and the courts, and an effort to provide alternatives to arrest and prosecution. The bill outlines the process and requirements for the awarding of grants; probate courts and other courts with relevant jurisdiction can receive these grants. Part IV of the bill provides for the creation of a grant program through the the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to fund accountability courts serving the mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder population to implement trauma-informed treatment. Additionally, CJCC will designate an employee to provide technical assistance to courts. HB 1013 also allows a mental health court division that serves those with co-occurring substance use disorders to receive expenditures from the County Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Fund. The bill further tasks the Mental Health Courts and Corrections Subcommittee of the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission with continuing its exploration of community supervision strategies for addressing mental health issues. The term of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission is extended to June 30, 2025.

Signed by the Governor: April 4, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1069 – Mental health; adult mental health programs; provide licensure](#)

House Author: Rep. Bruce Williamson (R – Monroe)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)

HB 1069 amends Chapter 3 of Title 37 of the OCGA to provide for the classification, evaluation, licensure, and monitoring of various programs designed for the treatment and therapeutic recovery of adult persons

GENERAL cont.

diagnosed with mental illnesses or related disorders. The bill provides for minimum standards of quality and services for each designated class of programs. Applications for a license to operate an adult mental health program shall be submitted by the governing authority to the department. Moreover, the records and name of any mentally ill person who seeks or obtains treatment or counsel from an adult mental health program shall be confidential and not revealed unless authorized by a guardian or in response to a valid court order.

Signed by the Governor: May 6, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1390 – Labor and industrial relations; right of action against a county or city employer for retaliation; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Teri Anulewicz (D – Smyrna)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

HB 1390 amends Chapter 5 of Title 34 of the OCGA relating to sex discrimination in employment to provide for a right of action against a county or city employer for retaliation.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1405 – The Zoning Procedures Law; revise](#)

House Author: Rep. Shea Roberts (D – Atlanta)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta)

HB 1405 amends Title 36 of the OCGA to revise "The Zoning Procedures Law." The bill also revises provisions related to judicial review of zoning decisions. HB 1405 also provides for requirements for zoning decisions by boards or agencies using delegated powers and requires review procedures for decisions made by boards or agencies using delegated powers.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 1428 – Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions](#)

House Author: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Brain Strickland (R – McDonough)

HB 1428 amends the OCGA to revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in, and reenact the statutory portion of said Code in furtherance of the work of the Code Revision Commission. The bill also repeals portions of said Code, or Acts in the amendment which have become obsolete, have been declared to be unconstitutional, or have been preempted or superseded by subsequent laws. HB 1428 further codifies principles of law derived from decisions of the state Supreme Court.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: May 14, 2022

[SB 120 – Solicitors-General of State Courts; honorary office of solicitor-general emeritus; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)

House Sponsor: Rep. Chuck Efstration (R – Dacula)

SB 120, known as the "Ethics in Government Act of 2021," amends Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the OCGA to revise the powers and duties of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. The bill clarifies the ability of Commission staff attorneys to investigate complaints and investigations. Moreover, SB 120 revises how maximum contribution limits are implemented and amends affidavit filing requirements for certain public officers.

Signed by the Governor: March 2, 2022

Effective Date: March 2, 2022

[SB 226 – Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

House Sponsor: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

SB 226 amends Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the OCGA to require each local board of education to adopt a policy providing for a complaint resolution process to be used by its local school system

GENERAL cont.

to address complaints submitted by parents or permanent guardians alleging that material that is harmful to minors has been provided or currently available to a student. The bill also requires the Department of Education to develop a model policy for use by local school systems that meets the requirements of this Code section.

Signed by the Governor: April 28, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 319 – “Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021”; enact](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jason Anavitarte (R – Dallas)

House Sponsor: Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

SB 319 amends Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the OCGA to amend Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16 of the OCGA relating to carrying and possession of firearms so that it shall be unlawful for an person to use or possess in any park, historic site, or recreational area any weapon or long gun unless such person is a lawful weapons carrier. SB 319 further amends Part 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the OCGA to revise provisions of law relating to transportation passenger safety to revise provisions regarding the carrying of firearms. The bill further amends Part 2 of Article 10 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the OCGA relating to parking for persons with disabilities to revise certain laws regarding carrying of firearms.

Signed by the Governor: April 12, 2022

Effective Date: April 12, 2022

[SB 337 – Public Officers; suspension of compensation because of indictment for a felony; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Larry Walker, III (R – Houston)

House Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Gullett (R – Dallas)

SB 337 amends Chapter 5 of Title 45 of the OCGA to provide for the suspension of compensation of certain public officers who are suspended because of an indictment for a felony.

Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 345 – State Government; state and local governments from mandating vaccine passports; prohibit](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

House Sponsor: Rep. Rick Jasperse (R – Jasper)

SB 345 amends Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the OCGA to define ‘agency’ as “every state department, agency, board, bureau, office, commission, public corporation, and authority.” The bill provides that no agency shall require proof of vaccination of any person as a condition for providing any service or performing any duty of such agency.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC

[HB 1216 – Traffic offenses; enhanced penalties for violations of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Lauren McDonald (R – Cumming)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia)

HB 1216 amends Article 15 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the OCGA relating to serious traffic offenses to provide for enhanced penalties for violations of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. The bill also provides enhanced penalties for fleeing or eluding a police officer during the commission of certain crimes or under certain circumstances. HB 1216 also prohibits the use of a blue light to impersonate a law enforcement officer.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 403 – “Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act”; enact](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Marcus Wiedower (R – Watkinsville)
House Sponsor: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

SB 403 amends Title 37 of the OCGA to enact the “Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act.” The bill provides for immunity for the transport of a patient to a facility and establishes co-responder programs. Each community service board shall establish a co-responder program and law enforcement agencies within a community service board’s service area may elect to partner with the community service board to establish one or more co-responder teams.

SB 403 also provides for each community service board to employ or contract with behavioral health professionals to provide support services for individuals and families regarding behavioral health disorder. When a behavioral health crisis involves an individual who is on Medicaid or is uninsured or underinsured, the community service board will handle case work to identify the types of services needed to support the individual’s stability and to locate affordable sources of those services.

Signed by the Governor: May 9, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[SB 404 - Emergency Medical Services Personnel; Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain certain fingerprints under certain conditions; authorize](#)

Senate Author: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)
House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Holly Springs)

SB 404 amends Article 3 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the OCGA to authorize the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain certain fingerprints where criminal background checks are authorized in certain circumstances. The department is required to notify the individual of the retention of a fingerprint.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

LOCAL

[HB 614 – Griffin Judicial Circuit; assignment of cases; revise method](#)

House Author: Rep. Karen Mathiak (R – Griffin)

HB 614 provides that beginning on July 1, 2021, and in July in every odd-numbered year thereafter, the chief judge of the superior courts of the Griffin Judicial Circuit shall be selected by a majority vote of the judges of the Griffin Judicial Circuit.

Signed by the Governor: April 18, 2022

Effective Date: April 18, 2022

[HB 826 – Lost Mountain, City of; incorporate](#)

House Author: Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (R – Marietta)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R – Marietta)

HB 826 provides for a local referendum for the creation of the City of Lost Mountain.

Signed by the Governor: February 22, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 839 – Mableton, City of; incorporate](#)

House Author: Rep. Erica Thomas (D – Austell)

HB 839 provides for a local referendum for the creation for the City of Mableton.

Signed by the Governor: May 9, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 840 – Vinings, City of; incorporate](#)

House Author: Rep. John Carson (R – Marietta)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)

HB 840 provides for a local referendum for the creation of the City of Vinings.

Signed by the Governor: February 23, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 841 – East Cobb, City of; incorporate](#)

House Author: Rep. Matt Dollar (R – Marietta)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell)

HB 841 provides for a local referendum for the creation of the city of East Cobb.

Signed by the Governor: February 15, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

[HB 878 – Clayton County; State Court; provide salary of solicitor-general](#)

House Author: Rep. Rhonda Burnough (D – Riverdale)

HB 878 provides for the salary of the solicitor general of the State Court of Clayton County. The bill also allows for the solicitor general to employ assistant solicitor generals, attorneys, investigators, paraprofessionals, clerical assistants or other employees authorized by the Board of Commissioners of Clayton County.

Signed by the Governor: April 18, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

[HB 1117 – Bryan County; State Court; authorize collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Ron Stephens (R – Savannah)

HB 1117 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the State Court of Bryan County and provides for the termination of such technology fee and dedication of residual funds to technology uses.

Signed by the Governor: April 18, 2022

Effective Date: April 18, 2022

[HB 1191 – Bremen, City of; Municipal Court; charge technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R – Bremen)

HB 1191 authorizes the Municipal Court of the City of Bremen to charge a technology fee and to specify the uses to which such technology fees may be applied.

Signed by the Governor: April 18, 2022

Effective Date: April 18, 2022

[HB 1270 – Atkinson County; Probate Court; authorize collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

HB 1270 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Atkinson County. The bill also identifies authorized uses of the technology fee and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

LOCAL cont.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1299 – Elbert County; Probate Court judge also serves as chief magistrate judge of Magistrate Court; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton)

HB 1299 provides that the judge of the Probate Court of Elbert County shall also serve as the chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Elbert County on and after January 1, 2023.

Signed by the Governor: March 2, 2022

Effective Date: March 2, 2022

[HB 1311 – Lanier County; Probate Court; authorize collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. James Burchett (R – Waycross)

HB 1311 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Lanier County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: April 18, 2022

Effective Date: April 18, 2022

[HB 1364 – Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)

House Author: Rep. Teri Anulewicz (D – Smyrna)

HB 1364 amends an Act creating the State Court of Cobb County to change the compensation of judges of the State Court of Cobb County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1411 – Putnam County; State Court; district attorney shall represent the state in all criminal prosecutions and perform the duties of solicitor-general; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)

HB 1411 provides that the district attorney of the judicial circuit within which Putnam County is located shall represent the state in all criminal prosecutions brought in the State Court of Putnam County and shall

perform the duties of the office of solicitor-general of the state court.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[HB 1444 – Coweta Judicial Circuit; Superior Court; change supplemental salaries for judges](#)

House Author: Rep. Randy Nix (R – LaGrange)

HB 1444 provides a supplemental salary for the judges of the Superior Court of the Coweta Judicial Circuit approved December 11, 1953.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1466 – Dougherty County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees](#)

House Author: Rep. Gerald Greene (R – Cuthbert)

HB 1466 authorizes the Magistrate Court of Dougherty County to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1529 – Atlantic Judicial Court; minimum supplement each county shall provide to the judges of the superior court; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Al Williams (D – Midway)

HB 1529 provides for the minimum monthly supplement each county in the circuit shall provide to the judges of the superior courts.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

[HB 1537 – Cobb County; State Court; chief deputy clerk and clerk; change salary](#)

House Author: Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R – Marietta)

HB 1537 changes the salary of the chief deputy clerk and the clerk of the State Court of Cobb County.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2022

Effective Date: May 2, 2022

LOCAL cont.

[HB 1541 – Cobb County; Probate Court; change compensation of sheriff, chief deputy and others](#)

House Author: Rep. Erick Allen (D – Smyrna)

HB 1541 changes the compensation of the clerk of the superior court, the sheriff, and the judge of the Probate Court of Cobb County from the fee system to the salary system.

Signed by the Governor: May 13, 2022

Effective Date: May 13, 2022

[HB 1562 – Gilmer County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Author: Speaker David Ralston (R – Blue Ridge)

HB 1562 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Gilmer County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1566 – Berrien County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Penny Houston (R – Nashville)

HB 1566 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Berrien County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1570 - Gwinnett County; State Court; provide for an additional judge](#)

House Author: Rep. Chuck Efstoration (R – Dacula)

HB 1570 provides for an additional judge for the State Court of Gwinnett County effective January 1, 2023.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

[HB 1578 – Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit; chief judge; provide for designation](#)

House Author: Rep. Trey Rhodes (R – Greensboro)

HB 1578 provides for the designation and duties of the chief judge of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1582 – Dallas, City of; municipal court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Martin Momtahan (R – Dallas)

HB 1582 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Municipal Court of the City of Dallas.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[HB 1585 – Cherokee County; State Court; modify compensation of judges](#)

House Author: Rep. Wes Cantrell (R – Woodstock)

HB 1585 modifies the compensation of the judges of the State Court of Cherokee County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

[HB 1595 – Fayette County; State Court; change compensation of judge and solicitor](#)

House Author: Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Fayetteville)

HB 1595 changes the compensation of the judge and the solicitor at the State Court of Fayette County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

[HB 1596 – Fayette County; State Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Josh Bonner (R – Fayetteville)

HB 1596 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee in the State Court of Fayette County.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

LOCAL cont.

[SB 211 – Probate Court of Crisp County; office of judge; future elections; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Carden Summers (R - Crisp)

House Sponsor: Rep. Noel Williams Jr. (R – Cordele)

SB 211 provides that future elections for the office of judge of the probate court of Crisp County shall be nonpartisan elections.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: April 25, 2022

[SB 635 – Henry County; compensation of such judge of the Probate Court; change the provisions](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough)

House Sponsor: Rep. Demetrius Douglas (D – Stockbridge)

SB 635 changes provisions relating to the compensation of the Henry County Probate Court judge to an annual salary equal to 90% of the then-current total compensation, including the base salary and supplements, of the judges of the Flint Judicial Circuit.

Signed by the Governor: April 25, 2022

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

To view a complete list of vetoed legislation, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/vetoed-legislation/2022-vetoed-legislation>

[SB 616 – State Court of Chattooga County; compensation of the solicitor-general; change](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga)

House Sponsor: Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

SB 616 would change the compensation of the solicitor-general of the State Court of Chattooga County.

Governor’s Veto Statement: *“At the request of the sponsor, I VETO SENATE BILL 616.”*

2022 STUDY COMMITTEES

No Relevant Study Committees

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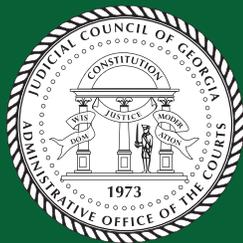
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