

Summary of Enacted Legislation 2023



Prepared by the Judicial Council/
Administrative Office of the Courts
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FOREWARD

The Summary of Enacted Legislation provides summaries of bills and resolutions that are pertinent to the judiciary passed by the 158th Georgia General Assembly during the 2023 Regular Session. This publication organizes the summaries in numerical order based on their subject matter.

This Summary is intended to be a convenient reference guide. Bill summaries found in this guide should not be used as the definitive source of legal interpretation. For more detailed information, please review the Act in its entirety at the link provided in the bill summary.

SUMMARY

The 2023 Session of the 158th Georgia General Assembly convened on January 9, 2023, and adjourned Sine Die on March 29, 2023. During the session, the General Assembly passed legislation spanning a wide range of subject matters including criminal street gang activity ([SB 44](#)), a uniform process for assuming custody of children as a result of disposition orders ([SB 133](#)), oversight of prosecuting attorneys ([SB 92](#)), a state income tax credit ([HB 192](#)), and (as constitutionally required) a state budget for Amended Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024.

The General Assembly passed a significant number of bills affecting Georgia's judiciary this year. Notably, [HB 186](#) provides technical and conforming amendments to the Judicial Council's 2022 Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act ([HB 916](#)) and legislation creating three additional superior court judgeships. The Judicial Council also supported the passage of [HB 543](#), which increases the threshold for six-person juries in civil cases unique to state court from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

This was the first year of the two-year biennium, so all bills not passed are eligible to pass during the 2024 session.

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 2023 session, please visit www.legis.ga.gov/. To view the bills signed by the Governor in 2023, visit <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/legislation/signed-legislation/2023>.

BUDGET

[HB 18 - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023](#)

HB 18, the Amended Fiscal Year 2023 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$32.56 billion. This is a 7.8 percent increase, or \$2.36 billion, over the original Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

[HB 19 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024](#)

HB 19, the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, is set by a revenue estimate of \$32.4 billion. This is a 7.4 percent increase, or \$2.2 billion, over the original Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The bill and tracking sheet may be found on the House Budget and Research Office website.

COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT

***Please note:* The following bills are also listed in the Local section of this document.

[HB 265 – Rockdale Judicial Circuit; Superior Court judges, change amount of salary supplement](#)

House Author: Rep. Doreen Carter (D – Lithonia)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia)

HB 265 provides an addition in the supplemental salary for the judges of the Superior Court of the Rockdale Judicial Circuit of \$30,000 with an added \$3,000 to the chief judge of the Superior Court from the funds of Rockdale County.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 694 – DeKalb County; certain judges, judicial and county officers; revise compensation](#)

House Author: Rep. Billy Mitchell (D – Stone Mountain)

HB 694 amends the compensation of certain judges, judicial officers, and county officers in DeKalb County. As amended, beginning July 1, 2023, the salary supplement provided by DeKalb County to the superior court judges of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit shall be increased by \$21,489.00. Please review the bill in its entirety for full details on all compensation changes for all judicial officers.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 721 – Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)

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

HB 721 changes the compensation of judges of the State Court of Cobb County. The Chief Judge of the State Court of Cobb County shall receive as additional compensation \$10,473.61 per year increased from \$10,168.55 per year. Judges of Division 1 of the State Court of Cobb County shall be \$200,752.77 per year increased from \$194,905.60 per year.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: May 3, 2023

[SB 314 – State Court of Rockdale County; compensation of the judges of said court; revise provisions](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia)

SB 314 revises provisions relating to compensation of state court judge in Rockdale County to 93.5% of superior court judge compensation. The Rockdale County Chief State Court Judge shall receive an additional \$3,000 supplement annually.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

CRIMINAL

[HB 88 – Coleman-Baker Act; enact](#)

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

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

HB 88 requires the head of an agency to review a cold case murder when requested in writing, to determine if a full reinvestigation would result in probative investigative leads or a likely perpetrator, and to follow specific procedures if a reinvestigation is conducted. The bill also establishes that the Carl Vinson Institute of Government will establish and maintain a case tracking system available to the public.

Signed by the Governor: April 28, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 139 – Criminal procedure; restrictions of disclosure of personal information of nonsworn employees; provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Jackson)

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

HB 139 restricts disclosure of the home address, date of birth, and home telephone number of a non-sworn employee of a law enforcement agency in criminal cases in which the prosecuting attorney is required to disclose the witnesses who will testify at trial. The prosecuting attorney will instead disclose the employee's current work location/phone number.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 188 – Georgia Dangerous Sexual Predator Prevention Act; enact](#)

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

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

HB 188, or Mariam's Law," expands restrictions for convicted sex offenders and requires sex offenders who have not received a risk level assessment to be fitted with an ankle monitor. Please refer to the legislation AS PASSED for full details on all the restrictions and requirements.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2023

Effective Date: May 4, 2023

[HB 219 – Civil practices; alternative procedure for designation of official legal organ; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Scott Hilton (R – Peachtree Corners)

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

HB 219 adds venue for prosecution involving transfer or movement of digital money or currency to be in any county where the accused exercises control over the money, any county where the act was performed, or any county where an alleged victim lives.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 227 – Crimes and offenses; offense of criminal interference with critical infrastructure; provide](#)

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

HB 227 clarifies that the offense of criminal damage to property in the first degree can be committed through electronic means against critical infrastructure or any vital public service. The bill also increases imprisonment from one to 10 years to two to 20 years.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 332 – Controlled substances; Schedules I, IV, and V; provide certain provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Butch Parrish (R – Swainsboro)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

HB 332 amends Chapter 13 of Title 16 to provide for certain provisions relating to Schedule I controlled substances, Schedule IV controlled substances, and Schedule V controlled substances. The bill provides certain provisions relating to the definition of dangerous drugs. Please refer to the legislation AS PASSED for full details.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

CRIMINAL *continued*

[HB 383 – Safer Hospitals Act; enact](#)

House Author: Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

Hb 383, or the “Safer Hospitals Act,” enhances penalties for aggravated assault or aggravated battery committed against any healthcare worker located on a hospital campus. The bill also allows for P.O.S.T. certified peace officers employed by hospitals to serve with law enforcement authority on hospital campuses.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 42 – Human Trafficking Hotline Information; model notice requirements; increase the fine for failure to comply](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Mike Hodges (R – Brunswick)

House Sponsor: Rep. Will Wade (R – Dawsonville)

SB 42 increases the fine for failure to comply with model notice requirements for human trafficking hotline information in businesses from \$500 to \$1000. Upon further failure to comply within 30 days the bill states the fine now has a minimum of \$1,000 with a maximum of \$5,000.

Signed by the Governor: April 11, 2023

Effective Date: April 11, 2023

[SB 44 – Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act; mandatory minimum penalties for violations; provide](#)

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Soo Hong (R – Lawrenceville)

SB 44 clarifies that it is unlawful for a person to indirectly through another person: cause, encourage, solicit, recruit, or coerce another to become a member of a criminal street gang; to participate in a criminal street gang; or to participate in criminal gang activity. The bill also provides several new definitions and proscribes sentencing on a variety of charges. Please review the bill in its entirety for complete details.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: April 26, 2023

[SB 47 – Offenses Against Public Health and Morals; vaping in restricted areas is a misdemeanor punishable by fine; provide](#)

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Sharon Cooper (R – Marietta)

SB47 amends Code Section 31-12A-2 to add vaping in restricted areas as a misdemeanor punishable by fines.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[SB 68 – Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations; offense of dogfighting as racketeering activity; include](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Rick Williams (R – Milledgeville)

House Sponsor: Rep. Ken Vance (R – Milledgeville)

SB 68 adds offenses under the statute outlawing dogfighting to the list of statutes that are eligible to be prosecuted under the racketeering influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) framework.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[SB 155 – Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; provisions relating to harming a law enforcement animal; revise](#)

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Dale Washburn (R – Macon)

SB 155 creates the offense of aggravated harming of a public safety animal or search and rescue animal when they know or should have known that an animal is a public safety animal or search and rescue animal, and when they intentionally commit, conspire, or attempt to commit an act that causes the death of the animal or injures to the animal in a manner that affects its ability to perform as a public safety animal or search and rescue animal. The penalty for this conviction is at least two years and no more than 10 years imprisonment, a fine up to \$50,000, or both.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: April 26, 2023

CIVIL

[HB 91 – Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; notices to beneficiaries regarding issuance of letters testamentary; require](#)

House Author: Rep. Will Wade (R – Dawsonville)

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

HB 91 requires personal representatives to send notices to beneficiaries regarding the issuance of letters testamentary or letters of administration relating to probate; the failure to comply results in the revocation of such letters. The bill also provides for trust beneficiary representation and revises a definition regarding Uniform Transfer on Death Security Registration.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 182 – Property; curing defective deeds and other instruments; revise provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

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

In 2015, the General Assembly removed the ability to acknowledge a deed during its execution. In April 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit held in *In re Lindstrom* that the clause in the code's Savings Statute (O.C.G.A. § 44-2-18) that affects the Recording Statute (O.C.G.A. § 44-2-15) cannot be used in connection with those deeds that contain an acknowledgement rather than any other defective attestation. This proposed amendment would allow an attestation or an acknowledgement to be cured. The court in *In re Lindstrom* invited the General Assembly to bring the recording statute and the savings statute in tandem by including language that applies to acknowledgments.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2023

Effective Date: May 4, 2023

[HB 254 -- Civil practices; alternative procedure for designation of official legal organ; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. David Jenkins (R – Grantville)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown)

HB 254 establishes that advertisement as pertaining to judicial sales have an alternative procedure for the designation of the official procedure for the designation

of the official legal organ. The bill also provides an additional manner of publishing certain legal notices by counties and municipalities as applicable to governmental entities.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 374 - Local government; municipal deannexation; repeal certain provisions](#)

House Author: Rep. Brad Thomas (R – Holly Springs)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Shawn Still (R – Johns Creek)

HB 374 prohibits deannexations that result in the formation of unincorporated islands or non-contiguous areas within the municipality. The bill establishes the "Landscape Equipment and Agricultural Fairness (LEAF) Act" which prohibits local prohibitions or regulations that distinguish or create differing standards for gasoline-powered leaf blowers from any other gasoline-powered, electric, or other type of leaf blower. The bill also prohibits governmental entities from adopting any restrictions on the connection or reconnection of any utility service or sales of certain fuels based on the type of source of energy or fuel delivered or the appliance used by the customer.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 148 – Nonprofit Corporations; comprehensively revise, simplify, and modernize said chapter](#)

Senate Author: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

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

SB 148 provides comprehensive revisions to the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, including updates, clarifications, and modernizations. For full information on the revisions, please refer to the bill in its entirety.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

COURTS

[HB 77 – Dougherty Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide for a fourth judge](#)

House Author: Rep. Gerald Greene (R – Cuthbert)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D – Dawson)

HB 77 adds a fourth superior court judgeship in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit.

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

[HB 80 – Uniform Unsworn Declarations Act; enact](#)

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

HB 80 allows unsworn declarations to have the same effect as sworn declarations in court, administrative, or arbitral proceedings.

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

[HB 176 – Courts; increase amount of court reporters' monthly contingent expense and travel allowance](#)

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

HB 176 increases the monthly contingent expenses and travel allowance of court reporters in superior courts.

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

[HB 186 – Appeal and error; filing of petitions for review in reviewing courts from lower judicatories; revise and exception](#)

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

HB 186 is the clean-up bill to HB 916 (2022/AP), the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act. This bill amends sections of the Code to use the petition for review appellate procedure when appealing from a lower judicatory to a superior state court.

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

[HB 243 – Coweta Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide eighth judge](#)

House Author: Rep. Lynn Smith (R – Newnan)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

HB 243 adds an eighth superior court judgeship in the Coweta Judicial Circuit.

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

[HB 302 – Crimes and offenses; issuance of a temporary or permanent protective order by the court; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Lehman Franklin (R – Statesboro)
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

HB 302 amends Code Section 16-5-94 to add “on a temporary or permanent basis” regarding bringing about a cessation of conduct constituting stalking.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023
Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 350 – Butts County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Jackson)

HB 350 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Magistrate Court of Butts County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023
Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 351 -- Butts County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Clint Crowe (R – Jackson)

HB 351 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Butts County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023
Effective Date: May 1, 2023

COURTS *continued*

[HB 354 -- Pike County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

HB 354 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Pike County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 460 -- Courts; child's right to legal representation in legitimation cases; provide](#)

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

HB 460 provides a child's right to legal representation for those in foster care, legitimation cases, or permanent guardianship cases. HB 460 also provides for a right to legal representation for guardians and respondents in dependency proceedings. The bill also provides for the filing of a complaint in exceptional circumstances during removal proceedings.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 543 – Courts; six-person jury trials in civil actions; revise an exception](#)

House Author: Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

HB 543 increases the exception to six person juries in unique civil actions in state court cases to \$50,000 from \$25,000.

Signed by the Governor: May 4, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[SB 66 – Superior Courts; Atlantic Judicial Circuit; additional judge; provide](#)

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

House Sponsor: Rep. Bill Werkheiser (R – Glennville)

SB 66 creates a fifth superior court judgeship in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[SB 74 – Commerce and Trade, Courts, and Torts; the disclosure of the nature and practices of businesses that provide legal services; require](#)

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

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

SB 74 makes it illegal to misrepresent oneself as an attorney or misrepresent an entity as engaged in providing legal services unless that person is a duly licensed attorney at law in Georgia or unless the entity is entitled to furnish legal services. The bill provides that it is unlawful to represent that a person featured in legal media can offer legal services in Georgia when that person is not a duly licensed attorney at law.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[SB 92 – Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission; create](#)

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

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

SB 92 creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission (PAQC) for oversight of district attorneys and solicitors general. The Commission will have the power to discipline, remove, and cause involuntary retirement of appointed or elected district attorneys or solicitors generals. For full information on the PAQC duties, powers, and procedures, please review the bill in its entirety.

Signed by the Governor: May 5, 2023

Effective Date: May 5, 2023

COURTS *continued*

[SB 131 – Permanent Guardianship; service by publication; provide](#)

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

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

SB 131 requires a guardianship petition hearing to be conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. 29-2-18. The bill also makes a conviction of a parent for murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent a mandatory basis for removing a child from the parent who was convicted. This bill contains several notable sections – please review the AS PASSED version in its entirety for full details.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 133 – Juvenile Code; a uniform process to assume custody of children as a result of disposition orders; create](#)

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

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

SB 133 creates a uniform process to assume custody of children as a result of disposition orders and provides reporting requirements. Also, the bill states the court shall conduct a preliminary protective hearing no later than 72 hours after the child is placed with DFCS.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 134 – Evidence; that a child witness be deemed competent to testify without taking the oath; provide](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)

House Sponsor: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

SB 134 allows for a child witness to be deemed competent to testify without taking an oath in all proceedings involving termination of parental rights under Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 15.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 135 – Paternity; Uniform Parentage Act of 2017; align evidentiary medical and genetic testing](#)

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

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

SB 135 aligns evidentiary medical and genetic testing with the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017. Results of genetic testing ordered by the court in a record and signed under penalty of perjury by a designee of the testing laboratory are self-authenticating and shall be admissible into evidence.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: May 2, 2023

[SB 272 – Courts; supplement the duties of administrative judges; Criminal Case Data Exchange Board; reestablish](#)

Senate Author: Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon)

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

SB 272 re-establishes the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board and administratively attaches it to the JC/AOC. The board must fulfill multiple duties including participating in the review and improvement of the state's criminal case data exchange and management systems as well as making recommendations for the improvement of data sharing for the benefit of the public, employers, and law enforcement. For full information on the bill, please review the version AS PASSED.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC

[HB 35 -- Georgia Ports Authority; provide for powers; expand arrest authority of officers](#)

House Author: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R – Rincon)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah)

HB 35 amends Chapter 2 of Title 52 to provide Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) employees designated as security personnel and peace officers the responsibility of preserving and protecting GPA properties or projects with limited powers and duties.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 120 – Motor vehicles; standards for issuance of limited driving permits for certain offenders; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

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

HB 120 creates standards for issuance of limited driving permits for individuals convicted of driving under the influence of a controlled substance or marijuana and those in non-compliance with a child support order. The bill also provides conditions for revocations of the limited driving permit.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

[HB 121 – Waters, ports and watercraft; wakesurfing and wakeboarding; provide restrictions and requirements](#)

House Author: Rep. Victor Anderson (R – Cornelia)

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

HB 121 places restrictions on wakeboarding and wake surfing. Except in certain circumstances, no person is to engage in either of these two defined activities between sunset and sunrise, within 200 feet of a shoreline or structure located on the water, or without wearing a personal flotation device approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. The bill also further defines multipurpose off-highway vehicles and regarding license plates for such vehicles. It requires multipurpose off-highway vehicles manufactured after January 1, 2000, to be registered and issued a title.

Signed by the Governor: May 2, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 142 – Education; establishment of unified campus police forces through agreements by colleges and universities; provide](#)

House Author: Rep. Mesha Mainor (D – Atlanta)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

HB 142 establishes unified campus police forces through agreements by colleges and universities. Officers of these forces have the same police powers as any local government officers with jurisdiction over such campuses and within 500 yards of property of an education facility.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 183 – Motor vehicles; temporary license plates and operating permits; revise terminology](#)

House Author: Rep. Matt Barton (R – Calhoun)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Payne (R – Dalton)

HB 183 provides for the issuance of temporary operating permits in lieu of temporary license plates in specified instances. The bill also prohibits a hold on the title of a vehicle for an unpaid citation.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 242 – Georgia Driver's Education Commission; violation of traffic laws or ordinances under Joshua's Law; provide additional penalty](#)

House Author: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R – Rincon)

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

HB 242 reinstates the additional penalty of three percent over the original fine violation of traffic laws or ordinances under "Joshua's Law."

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC *continued*

[HB 268 – Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; motor vehicle related crime prevention initiatives; establish grant program](#)

House Author: Rep. John Corbett (R – Lake Park)

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

HB 268 establishes a grant program to provide froms from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to local law enforcement agencies and multi-jurisdictional task forces for the prevention, reduction, investigation, and prosecution of motor vehicle crimes. The bill also establishes the Georgia Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Advisory Board, its required membership, and the board's assigned duties.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 529 – Insurance; minimum amounts of uninsured and underinsured coverage to be maintained by transportation network and taxi service companies; provide](#)

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

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker III (R – Dublin)

HB 529 reduces the minimum amounts of uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage to be maintained by transportation network companies from \$1,000,000 to a minimum limit of \$300,000 for bodily injuries or death of all persons in any one accident with a maximum of \$100,000 for bodily injuries or death of one person and \$25,000 for loss of or damage to property of others, excluding cargo, in any one accident.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[SB 11 – “Georgia Fights Terrorism Act”; enact](#)

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

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

SB 11 gives the GBI jurisdiction in cases involving the identification, investigation, arrest, and prosecution of violators of state laws concerning terrorism.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[SB 215 -- Public Records; personal information of public employees; protect from public disclosure](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan)

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

SB 215 requires local governments to remove, upon request, certain personally identifiable information of law enforcement officers from certain property records and require said form to be available by January 1, 2024.

Signed by the Governor: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: April 26, 2023

[SR 32 – Attorney General; negotiate with the State of Alabama terms of a reciprocal immunity agreement for officials; urge](#)

Senate Author: Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus)

SR 32 urges the Attorney General to negotiate terms of a reciprocal immunity agreement with Alabama for officials of either state in carrying out official duties in the territorial limits of the other state.

LOCAL

[HB 125 – Harris County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Vance Smith (R – Pine Mountain)

HB 125 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Harris County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: April 28, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 265 – Rockdale Judicial Circuit; Superior Court judges, change amount of salary supplement¹](#)

House Author: Rep. Doreen Carter (D – Lithonia)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia)

HB 265 provides an addition in the supplemental salary for the judges of the Superior Court of the Rockdale Judicial Circuit of \$30,000 with an added \$3,000 to the chief judge of the Superior Court from the funds of Rockdale County.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 272 – Carrollton, City of; Municipal Court; charge technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. David Huddleston (R – Roopville)

HB 272 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Municipal Court of the City of Carrollton and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 532 – Pike County; Magistrate Court; chief judge; provide nonpartisan elections](#)

House Author: Rep. Beth Camp (R – Concord)

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone)

HB 532 provides that future elections for the office of chief judge of the Magistrate Court of Pike County shall be nonpartisan.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 539 – Wilkes County; Probate Court judge also serve as chief magistrate judge of Magistrate Court; provide](#)

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

HB 539 provides that the judge of the Probate Court of Wilkes County will also serve as the chief magistrate judge of the Magistrate Court of Wilkes County.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 569 – Bryan County; State Court; judge shall serve in a full-time capacity; provide](#)

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

HB 569 provides that the judge of the State Court of Bryan County will serve in a full-time capacity. The bill also authorizes the appointment of judges pro tempore and judges pro hac vice to discharge the duties of the judge temporarily.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 615 – Coweta County; State Court; add additional judge](#)

House Author: Rep. Lynn Smith (R – Newnan)

HB 615 provides an additional State Court of Coweta County judgeship. The new judgeship shall initially be filled through appointment by the Governor for a term running from July 1, 2024, until December 31, 2026. An election shall be held during the general primary in 2026, then quadrennially thereafter.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

¹ This bill is also listed in the Compensation/Retirement section of this document.

LOCAL *continued*

[HB 645 – Sylvester, City of; municipal court; levy and collect a technology fee](#)

House Author: Rep. Bill Yearta (R – Sylvester)

HB 645 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Municipal Court of the city of Sylvester and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: May 3, 2023

[HB 681 – Quitman County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 681 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Quitman County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 682 – Seminole County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 682 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Seminole County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 683 – Seminole County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 683 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Magistrate Court of Seminole County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 685 – Early County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of a technology fee](#)

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

HB 685 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Magistrate Court of Early County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 686 – Early County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 686 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Early County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 688 – Miller County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 688 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Magistrate Court of Miller County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 689 – Miller County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 689 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Miller County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

LOCAL *continued*

[HB 690 – Baker County; Magistrate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 690 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Magistrate Court of Baker County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 691 – Baker County; Probate Court; authorize assessment and collection of technology fee](#)

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

HB 691 authorizes the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Baker County and provides for the maintenance of the technology fee funds.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

[HB 694 – DeKalb County; certain judges, judicial and county officers; revise compensation](#)²

House Author: Rep. Billy Mitchell (D – Stone Mountain)

HB 694 amends the compensation of certain judges, judicial officers, and county officers in DeKalb County. As amended, beginning July 1, 2023, the salary supplement provided by DeKalb County to the superior court judges of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit shall be increased by \$21,489.00. Please review the bill in its entirety for full details on all compensation changes for all judges officers.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: July 1, 2023

[HB 721 – Cobb County; State Court; change compensation of judges](#)²

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

HB 721 changes the compensation of judges of the State Court of Cobb County. The Chief Judge of the State Court of Cobb County shall receive as additional compensation \$10,473.61 per year increased from \$10,168.55 per year. Judges of Division 1 of the State Court of Cobb County shall be \$200,752.77 per year increased from \$194,905.60 per year.

Signed by the Governor: May 3, 2023

Effective Date: May 3, 2023

[SB 314 – State Court of Rockdale County; compensation of the judges of said court; revise provisions](#)²

Senate Author: Sen. Tonya Anderson (D – Lithonia)

SB 314 revises provisions relating to compensation of state court judge in Rockdale County to 93.5% of superior court judge compensation. The Rockdale County Chief State Court Judge shall receive an additional \$3,000 supplement annually.

Signed by the Governor: May 1, 2023

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

² This bill is also listed in the “Compensation/Retirement” section of this document.

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

[2023 Vetoed Legislation](#)

[HB 541 – Motor vehicles; proper procedure for passing postal service vehicle; provide](#)

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

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

HB 541 requires drivers to move over for a stationary vehicle or postal service vehicle displaying flashing yellow, amber, white, or red lights.

2023 STUDY COMMITTEES

[House Working Group on Public Safety](#)

The goal of this Working Group, created by Speaker Jon Burns, is to study the current compensation and benefits of state law enforcement officers and recommend ways to attract and retain a skilled workforce.

Chair: Rep. Bill Hitchens (R – Rincon)

Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R – Canton)

Rep. J Collins (R – Villa Rica)

Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R – Armuchee)

Rep. Brian Prince (D – Augusta)

To review tracked bills affecting the judiciary, look up a bill by topic or number, or access bill summaries, visit our Judicial Council/AOC Legislative Tracking Database page at legislation.georgiacourts.gov.

During the legislative session, the AOC Capitol Team provides a Weekly Legislative Report, which can also be accessed from that page.

The screenshot shows the Georgia AOC Legislative Tracking Database website. At the top left is the Georgia AOC logo. At the top right are the links "JC/AOC Legislative Tracking Database" and "Login". Below the logo is a red circle around a button that says "Click here for the Weekly Legislative Report". Below this is a link "View all tracked bills (Total 224 bills)". A "Bill search" bar is present. Below the search bar are three columns: "Search By Bill Number" (with a text input "Eg: HB 0002 or SB 0980" and a "Go" button), "By Legislative Issue" (with a dropdown menu showing "Budget (5)", "Civil (27)", "Court Administration (43)", and "Court Technology (23)"), and "By Tracking level" (with a dropdown menu showing "Key Bill" and "Monitoring"). To the right of the website screenshot is a tilted image of the "WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT" document. The document features the Georgia State Capitol dome and the text "March 3, 2023 | Week 8 | Legislative Days 24 - 27". It includes sections for "Appropriations", "Judicial Council Initiative - Clean-up Bill", "Judgeship Bills", and "Notable This Week".

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