



FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

LEGISLATIVE DAY 38 OF 40

Hello Partners! Welcome back to the [Night Owl](#) 🦉, your nightly recap of need-to-know information and intel on what's happening under the Gold Dome.

Friday offered a familiar lesson in whose concerns get fast-tracked and whose get pushed aside. Senate Republicans advanced House Bill 960, but not before using a classic zombie bill maneuver to do it. What began as a bill about adding a superior court judge in Gwinnett County was stripped and replaced with a sweeping elections overhaul, reviving it in the session's final stretch as a vehicle for major voting changes. The new version would require Georgia to move quickly to hand-marked paper ballots ahead of the midterms, expand recounts in close statewide and federal races, and increase pressure on counties as lawmakers race to meet the state's QR-code deadline.

Democrats argue the rushed push is less about solving real problems for voters and more about indulging years of election misinformation that followed Donald Trump's 2020 loss in Georgia. And that is what makes the zombie bill tactic especially telling: instead of openly building support for a major elections rewrite, lawmakers used a late-session procedural resurrection to move it forward fast. While Georgians are still waiting on action around affordability, health care, wages, and housing, legislative energy is again being poured into election changes that risk confusion for voters and added strain for election workers.

At the same time, lawmakers kept moving Senate Bill 482, a measure supporters say is aimed at preventing the exploitation of mugshots and graphic police video. But the bill would require many booking-photo requests to be made in person, individually, and with notarized paperwork, while carving out exceptions for credentialed members of the Georgia Press Association and Georgia Association of Broadcasters. Free speech and transparency advocates warn that the setup could disadvantage nonprofit outlets, independent journalists, and digital-first newsrooms that communities increasingly rely on for watchdog reporting.

Taken together, Friday's actions offered a clear snapshot of the closing mood: a zombie bill to rewrite election rules, new barriers to public access to police records, and more power flowing toward institutions rather than everyday people. More scrutiny for voters, more hurdles for watchdogs, and fewer signs that lawmakers are prioritizing the kitchen-table issues Georgians are actually living with every day.

We hope you enjoy [The Night Owl](#). Please let us know if you have any suggestions for additional content!

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Is the Night Owl helpful to your work? Consider [buying us a coffee](#) to show your support.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DAY

[SENATE FLOOR SESSION LD 38](#) [HOUSE FLOOR SESSION LD 38](#)

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

- [Adjournment Resolution](#)
- [Senate Rules](#)
- [House Rules](#)
- Committee Chairs and Office Assignments will be updated once available!
- [PGA Legislative Resources](#)
- Please let us know about any 2026 lobby/advocacy days and events [here](#).

IMPORTANT LINKS, RESOURCES, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Need access to one of our resources or want to share an event you're hosting? Get access or share any events using [this link](#). **Our resources include:**
 - The Night Owl Newsletter
 - 2026 Legislative Calendar
 - This calendar includes legislative information and advocacy days
 - The "GA Rapid Response" Signal chat
 - Press Clips (Tuesday & Thursday)
 - Bill Tracking
 - If you want bills to be included in The Night Owl or our coalition-wide tracker, **please [submit them by clicking here!](#)**
 - Bill Analysis Sign-up: We **need volunteers to help analyze bills** throughout the legislative session. Many of our partners are on the ground at the Capitol lobbying for the issues we all care deeply about, and they need your help! If you love reading legislation, putting together summaries, and highlighting important points about what bills say, this project is for you! Some of you may already be doing this anyway. Please share your knowledge with us so we can assist our partners in being the strongest advocates they can be.
- Join Photo Circle and share any legislative session photos [here](#).
- Open to uplifting rapid-response posts and calls to action on your personal social media accounts? [Share your personal social media handles here](#).

- Use [this link](#) to follow updates on the Fulton County Election Office FBI raid.
- Find updates on recent happenings in legislation affecting education using GCEJ's [legislative tracker](#) and [action toolkit](#).











CTAs

















- GHLAR and Project South: Tell Legislators to OPPOSE SB 442! Use [this link](#) to contact your Representatives and read [their fact sheet](#) here.
- CCGA: Protect Georgia's Elections: Tell your State Representative to Vote NO on HB 960. Contact your Representative [here](#) or contact aparra@commoncause.org for more information.
- CCGA: Tell your State Representative: Vote NO on HB 1567. Use [this link](#) to contact your Representative.
- PSL Atlanta: Join the anti-war contingent at the Atlanta No Kings protest on **March 28 at 10:00 AM** to demand: End the U.S. war on Iran! End the blockade on Cuba! Read and share [this post here](#) to join them.
- Reproductive Freedom for All: Add your name today to commit to fighting for reproductive freedom. Use [this form](#) to sign up.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- GYJC will have a Youth at the Capitol day **every Thursday** during session. For more information, please contact Melody Oliphant (melody@georgiayouthjustice.org).
- BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance) is hosting Black Maternal Health Advocacy Day starting on **March 25th at 8:30 AM**. Use [this link](#) to sign up and contact Stephanie Aristide for more information (policy@bmmainc.org).
- Join Indivisible's rally at the Atlanta ICE field office to demand the release of Rodney Taylor on **March 26th from 9:00 to 10:30 AM**. Find details and register using [this link](#).
- BMMA, Inc. is hosting a Black Maternal Health Walk & Community Fair on April 11th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Find info and sign up [here](#).

BILL KEY

	ISSUE		STATUS
	Education		Support
	Reproductive Rights		Do not support
	LGBTQIA+		Moving quickly
	COVID-19		Recent Activity
	Healthcare		Not likely to move

	Voting Rights/Elections/Democracy		Time to take action!
	Criminal Justice/Public Safety		Bad bill
	Housing		Wonderful bill
	Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion		Bipartisan Support
	Environment		Zombie Bill
	Religion		
	Marijuana		
	Economy/Labor/Employment		
	First Amendment		
	Immigration		
	Foreign Affairs		


FAVORABILITY OR DISAPPROVAL ON THE LEGISLATION LISTED BELOW HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY OUR COALITION'S PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FROM THEIR LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES. IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL INSIGHT ON ANY LEGISLATION INCLUDED BELOW OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO [Nicole Henderson](#). IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL BILLS YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN OUR BILL MONITORING THAT AREN'T LISTED, PLEASE [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#).


BILL TRACKING

Bills highlighted in blue have been updated or recently added.


Bill	Key	What's the deal?	Tracking
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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



HB 1138		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Increasing Access to Contraceptives Act" proposes to authorize pharmacists to provide contraceptives, require insurers to cover longer prescriptions, and protect physicians from civil liability, criminal charges, and professional discipline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new version removes the protection from civil liability for pharmacists who dispense/administer contraceptives and 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read Second Time
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		for practitioners who issue standing prescription drug orders.	
HB 1275		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend developments in stem cell therapies to not involve stem cells from abortions. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read Second Time



LGBTQIA+

HB 54		<p>HB 54 as amended on 2/10/26 by the Georgia State Senate would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End coverage of HRT and gender-affirming surgery for GA public sector workers, children and dependents covered on plans. Abolish best-practice medical care for trans youth. Brand Georgia as one of the least LGBTQ-tolerant states in America. Increase rates of suicide among transgender children. Drive skilled workers out of the Georgia job market. Instigate economic blowback from private-sector interests who do not wish to be associated with hate. <p><i>Language courtesy of UCW-GA</i></p>	Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub As Amended
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ENVIRONMENT







SB 410		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill targets large load customers and similar high-demand electricity users (peak demand of 100 megawatts or more) by requiring cost-protective utility contracts and eliminating their sales tax exemptions on equipment purchases when entering new agreements. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 House Second Readers
SB 240		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would designate April as Georgia Native Plant Month. 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/16







SR 800		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would create a Joint Study Committee on the Generational Sustainability of Family Farms. 	House Committee Favorably Reported
HB 1159		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill exempts from Georgia state income taxation all payments received under two specific USDA agricultural assistance programs (Farmer Bridge Assistance and Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers) for the 2025 crop year, provided farmers met specific reporting deadlines. The exemption applies to individuals, corporations, and partnerships. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
HB 320		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes mandating the recycling of solar panels in Georgia and prohibiting their disposal in landfills. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/25 Senate Read Second Time
HB 1266		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend Georgia's watercraft operation regulations, specifically regarding restrictions on certain motor vessels to be operated on the Ogeechee River. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
HB 154		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This eliminates clock changes and secures permanent "summer time" hours in Georgia, using the Atlantic time zone as a workaround until federal law permits states to adopt year-round daylight saving time directly. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/23
HB 51		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill amends Georgia code to expand the authority of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to include natural gas facilities alongside existing water, sewerage, and solid waste services specifically in areas currently unserved by private gas companies. 	Senate Recommitted
HB 1133		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill enables GEFA to finance and support solar energy projects on closed landfills, treating them as environmental facilities, while providing liability protections for authority personnel involved in such projects. 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Read Second Time
HB 641		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill creates a consumer protection measure ensuring that electric suppliers have clear, documented procedures for handling service 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6







		shutoffs for customers with life-threatening medical conditions, providing those vulnerable customers with transparency about their protections before service is discontinued.	Senate Read Second Time
HB 115		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide notice of vessel registration and allocates funding for removal, storage, and disposal of abandoned vessels. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
SB 21		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to authorize long-term contracts for sale of electric power and county execution of contracts that specify the rate, fees, and changes to be collected by electric, natural gas, or water utility services from utility customers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was previously a bill to remove protections for local governments and officials who adopt sanctuary policies or refuse to honor immigration detainees. SUB LC 47 4306S switches to a focus on data centers above immigration on 3/25. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute House Withdrawn, Recommitted






EDUCATION

SB 74		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries are no longer automatically exempt from laws prohibiting distribution of harmful materials to minors, but librarians who proactively work to restrict minors' access to such materials have a legal defense available to them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCEJ Action Toolkit (2026) GLMA Talking Points 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 2/9
HB 1009		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands Georgia's personal electronic device ban from K-8 to include high school students (grades 9-12). 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Passed/ Adopted
HB 1107		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill, known as the “Excellent Teacher Preparation Act”, proposes to require the Professional Standards Commission to annually evaluate and report the performance of each education preparation provider in the state, 	Senate Read Second Time

		creating a more consistent and transparent system for assessing how well future educators are being prepared.	
SB 446		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to permanently integrate Georgia into a federal tax credit scholarship program for contributions to student scholarship organizations. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted House Postponed 3/25
HB 1123		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require public schools that offer after-school programs for kindergarten, primary, and upper elementary students to provide equal access to after-school programs to pre-K students. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
SB 497		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 497 proposes to expand the Parents’ Bill of Rights. This bill would create a mandatory notification system that notifies parents when students receive “noninstructional services” from school employees such as counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers, and require that all non-instructional services must be kept in students’ education records. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted House Second Readers
SB 513		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to create attendance review teams and instate consequences for students with chronically unexcused absences, such as ineligibility to receive an instruction permit or driver’s license. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/25
SB 523		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require the Department of Education to require K-12 schools to introduce antisemitism to religion based discrimination and authorize withholding state funding from schools who do not comply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fact Sheet from Project South 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/18 Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/25
HB 1379		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would require The University of Georgia, the Technical College system of Georgia, and 	Senate Passed/ Adopted






		<p>other local and public state schools to provide semiannual reports of funding received from foreign sources.</p>	
SB 425		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require any Georgia school that receives state funding and serves elementary students (grades 3-5) to teach cursive handwriting to students no later than third grade. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/25</p>
HB 310		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes the creation of two new grant programs to recruit teachers in Georgia by providing financial support to student teachers and new teachers. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 372		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill expands and extends a program allowing Georgia public schools to rehire retired teachers with 30+ years of service, making it easier to address teacher shortages in critical subject areas while providing more flexibility and job security. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 385		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to amend the eligibility requirements for the HOPE scholarship to allow students pursuing their graduate degree within the 18 months after completing their baccalaureate degree to use the full hours of their HOPE scholarship eligibility. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
HB 971		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Basic Education Act proposes to increase educational opportunities for homeschooled and private school students by allowing them to access career and technical education courses in a wider geographic area and expanding the types of courses available to them. 	<p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 1023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to mandate weapon detection systems in Georgia public schools. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p>



			Senate Read Second Time
HB 1193		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to revise the “Georgia Early Literacy and Dyslexia Act” by creating new requirements emphasizing evidence-based reading instruction, early intervention, systematic assessment, and coordinated state-wide literacy efforts. 	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/25</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
SB 472		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes new criteria for state oversight of local school systems by creating new requirements for suspension and contractions, limiting distribution of state funding, and enhancing auditing practices. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26</p> <p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/25</p> <p>Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27</p>
SB 471		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to eliminate school boards from requiring students or staff to wear face masks by including a requirement that the requirement that any school mask mandate must include a parental exemption option. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
HB 1220		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands access to private school scholarships for military families and students with disabilities, removes scholarship caps for students with disabilities, and mandates transparency about which schools can serve students with specific conditions. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 1284		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes exceptions to standard graduation requirements, allowing terminally ill high school students to receive their diplomas before passing away, regardless of whether they've completed all required credits. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p>
HB 1302		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to restructure the Office of Student Achievement as the Office of Education 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p>

		and Workforce Strategy and centralizes education and workforce development coordination, eliminate the Alliance of Education Agency Heads, improve data sharing, and better align education programs with workforce needs.	
HB 1402		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would require school provided vision and hearing screenings for all public school students in pre-K through third grade. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read and Referred
HB 962		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes changes to Georgia's education savings plan by making contribution limits more adaptable to changing education costs, and allowing Georgia taxpayers to claim deductions for contributions to out-of-state 529 plans, not just Georgia's plan. 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Read and Referred
SB 589		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Quality Basic Education Act" expands Pre-K eligibility to include both 4- and 5-year-olds (rather than just one age group), ensures fair treatment across age groups in seat allocation, and limits participation to one year per child. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/25
SB 540		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Online Safety Bill Act" proposes to require disclosure from operators and establish operator protocol for AI chatbot responses to sexual content, self-harm, and suicidal idealations. This would also require age verification to access AI chatbots. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/25 Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27
HB 1413		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to create a "Dedicating Resources to Educationally Advance More Students" (DREAMS) scholarship for 	Senate Read Second Time 3/25





		undergraduate students at University System of Georgia institutions and Technical College System upon eligibility, new scholarships for students enrolled in University System of Georgia medical schools upon eligibility, and expand the minimum lottery shortfall reserve requirement within the Lottery for Education Account from 50% to 100%.	
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HOUSING




SB 463		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes regulations on business enterprises to prevent them from owning an interest in more than 500 single-family residential properties and prevents foreign businesses from owning an interest in any single-family residential property that can serve as a rental property. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3 House Second Readers
HB 1166		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would allow property owners to build or place less than 400 sq feet dwellings on residentially-zoned property without needing zoning approval, while still maintaining safety codes, environmental regulations, historic preservation rules, and flood insurance requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fact sheet from 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 Senate Read and Referred
HB 1396		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to require privately funded homeless service organizations operating near schools, parks, and childcare facilities in the Atlanta metro area to participate in the state's homeless data tracking system, with noncriminal penalties for noncompliance. 	Senate Read Second Time Senate Passed/ Adopted as Amended 3/27
HB 1087		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes the “Disabled Veteran Home Modification Act” which removes financial barriers for disabled veterans seeking to make their homes accessible while maintaining regulatory oversight processes. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1567		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to either consolidate the City of Quitman into a unified government with Brooks County, or dissolve the City of Quitman completely if Quitman voters decline or the process fails. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTA from Common Cause GA 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute

<p>SB 630</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to repeal the 1965 act that incorporated the City of Hiram to dissolve Hiram and transfer all governmental responsibilities to Paulding County. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>
<p>SB 629</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to repeal the 1895 act that incorporated the Town of Braswell to dissolve Braswell and transfer all governmental responsibilities to Paulding County and Polk County. 	<p>Senate Read and Referred</p>




HEALTHCARE






<p>SB 427</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address physician shortages in rural Georgia by creating a supervised pathway for qualified international physicians to practice and eventually obtain full licensure. The program only becomes effective if **specifically funded** through state appropriations and automatically repeals if funding is not maintained. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/20</p> <p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/18</p> <p>Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27</p>
<p>SB 462</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 462, also known as the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act," amends Georgia code to provide insurance coverage, reimbursement rates, or financing options for certain out-of-network ambulance rides. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted 2/18</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/20</p>
<p>HB 334</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sickle Cell Protection Act would require the Department of Community to annually review Medicaid coverage for sickle cell disease treatments, gather public input from disease experts, and report findings to the General Assembly yearly. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p>
<p>HB 1368</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes state oversight of community mental health services by making executive directors state employees appointed by the 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read</p>








		<p>commissioner, while maintaining local governing boards with reduced autonomy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mirrors SB 535 	and Referred
SB 440		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This bill proposes changes to Georgia public health statutes, including the Prescription Drug Modeling Program, removing certain marriage license requirements (AIDS/HIV brochures, sickle-cell testing, family planning manuals), amongst other things. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repeals the Cancer Advisory Committee ○ Repeals certain reporting requirements for the use of auto-injectable epinephrine ○ Repeals the “Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education Act ○ Repeals the Georgia Commission for Saving the Care ○ Eliminates option taxpayer contributions to stem cell research ○ Repeals the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program ○ Eliminates annual reporting requirement on infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted As Amended 2/20</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/20</p>
SB 395		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The bill allows state licensing boards to access Low THC Oil Patient Registry data when investigating or taking disciplinary action against licensed professionals. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/24</p> <p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/23</p> <p>Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27</p>
HB 961		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This bill proposes to expand the "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act” to mandate insurance coverage for emergency ambulance transport and creates protections such as minimum reimbursement rates, caps on patient cost sharing, protects patients from balance billing, 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred</p>







		and requires that insurers pay ambulance providers directly within 30 days of the claim.	
HB 1238		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill proposes to expand Medicaid coverage to support families caring for children with complex behavioral health needs by providing financial reimbursement for respite care, potentially preventing more costly out-of-home placements or residential treatment. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1296		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to establish the “Breakthrough Treatments for Georgia Heroes Suicide Prevention Pilot Program,” creating a state-funded research and treatment program for mental health therapies specifically for Georgia veterans and first responders. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read and Referred
HB 1393		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill creates a broad immunity from antitrust laws for rural hospital authorities in Georgia, allowing them to coordinate and collaborate in ways that would otherwise violate federal and state competition laws. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read and Referred


CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 398		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates new criminal offenses related to “virtual peeping”, specifically targeting the nonconsensual use of generative artificial intelligence to create realistic images of real people. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted by Substitute 2/20 House Second Readers
SB 443		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill transforms obstruction of public passages from a relatively minor offense into a potentially serious crime with substantial criminal penalties and civil liability, particularly when the obstruction causes injury or property damage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTA from GLAHR, Project South, 50501GA, and Necessary Trouble Georgia 	House Passed/ Adopted
HB 295		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes creating a new legal mechanism that allows property owners to seek 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4



		<p>compensation from local governments if they decline to enforce laws specifically targeting homeless encampments and sanctuary city populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CTA from GLAHR 	Senate Read and Referred
HB 1061		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HB 1061, the Mandi Ballinger Act, proposes to raise the juvenile justice age in Georgia from 17 to 18 years old, meaning that 17-year-old children will be included in the juvenile justice system. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted by Substitute 2/20</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 1075		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This bill proposes to increase the penalty for sexual offense violations when the offender has a previous conviction for human trafficking to felony-level punishment rather than potentially lesser misdemeanor penalties. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 1142		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This bill proposes to create a domestic violence offender registry for repeat offenders and modify pretrial diversion program requirements to ensure that offenders seeking pretrial diversion must agree that any subsequent domestic violence conviction will subject them to inclusion in the new registry. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
HB 1329		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HB 1329 proposes to amend Georgia code to create a new definition for dangerous drugs and Schedule 1 controlled substances. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p>
SB 500		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This bill expands Georgia's Board of Health Care Workforce to include a new definition of healthcare professionals and add new licensing boards. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/23</p> <p>Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27</p>

<p>SB 399</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mason Sells AED proposes changes to cardiac emergency response by ensuring 911 operators know where AEDs are located and can provide real-time guidance to callers, while reducing regulatory barriers and standardizing training requirements. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p>
<p>SB 470</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Emergency and Public Safety Signal Protection Act” proposes the complete prohibition on possession, manufacturing, use, and distribution of signal jammers. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/19</p> <p>Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/27</p>
<p>SB 441</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to state oversight and regulation of local government investment pools by requiring State Depository Board approval for new multi-government investment arrangements, while preserving the existing state-run pool and exempting certain other pools from this amendment. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted 3/23</p>
<p>SB 418</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes a new civil cause of action for "deepfake" pornography and similar unauthorized sexual image manipulation, with special protections for minors and accommodation for criminal prosecutions. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
<p>HB 421</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Interstate Sexual Predator Prevention Act” proposes to criminalize interstate travel to Georgia with the intent to sexually exploit minors. 	<p>Senate Read Second Time</p>
<p>HB 1097</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill amends Georgia's background check requirements for mental health facilities and care providers by mandating background checks, establishing clear disqualification criteria, and imposing penalties for noncompliance. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/20</p>
<p>SB 572</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes new qualifications for candidates running for sheriff in Georgia by requiring them to already be certified peace officers at the time they qualify as candidates. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House</p>





			Committee Favorably Reported
SB 468		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes changes to the sexual offender risk review board by requiring enhanced monitoring of homeless sexual offenders, requiring sexual offenders to report international travel 21 days in advance, establishing stricter risk classification standards, and stable housing accountability programs to screen applicants for sexual offender status. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/3 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute
HB 1076		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to make obstruction of law enforcement a felony when a motor vehicle is used as the means of obstruction. 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Read Second Time
HB 1187		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Trey’s Law” would prohibit the use of nondisclosure agreements to conceal information about childhood sexual abuse and would void any confidentiality provisions that prohibit discussing such abuse. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read and Referred
HB 967		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies upgrade their patrol vehicles with bullet-resistant protective features. 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Read and Referred
HB 1432		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes stronger legislative oversight of the Georgia Public Defender Council by establishing clear vacancy-filling procedures for the oversight committee and making it a criminal offense for the council or director to refuse cooperation with the committee. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4 Senate Read Second Time
SB 587		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill creates a public registry of animal cruelty offenders to help protect animals from being adopted or placed with individuals who have histories of animal abuse. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted As Amended House

			Postponed
SB 547		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill increases penalties for pimping and pandering in Georgia by making all violations felony offenses punishable by 1-10 years imprisonment, eliminating the current structure where only first offenses are misdemeanors and subsequent offenses are felonies. 	<p>Senate Passed/Adopted</p> <p>House Passed/Adopted</p>




IMMIGRATION







SB 116		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill relates to DNA sampling, collection, and analysis, so as to require the collection of DNA samples from any individual in a detention facility charged with a misdemeanor or felony who is subject to an immigration detainer notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill expands mandatory DNA collection to include individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are charged (not convicted) with misdemeanors or felonies Are subject to immigration detainer notices Are held in detention facilities (including newly-added county jails and municipal facilities) CTA from GLAHR 	<p>Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute 2/24</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported</p>
SB 442		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill imposes stricter requirements on noncitizen commercial driver's license holders in Georgia by: (1) automatically revoking their CDLs when their visa expires or after 5 years; (2) requiring them to retake full knowledge and skills driving tests at every renewal, unlike citizen CDL holders who don't face this requirement; and (3) making conforming technical changes to related statutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fact sheet from Project South Action alert from GHLAR 	<p>Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute 3/6</p> <p>House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>








VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTIONS/ DEMOCRACY

SR 563		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urges the Georgia Secretary of State to immediately and fully comply with a request from the U.S. Department of Justice to securely produce Georgia’s voter registration list. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
SB 392		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Waste Reduction Act of 2026” changes Georgia’s budgeting process by requiring the state to use zero-based budgeting when developing the budget and justify their funding from scratch. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted House Second Readers
HB 963		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to restrict foreign nationals from contributing to, controlling, or participating in Georgia ballot measure campaigns and protect donor privacy. 	House Passed/ Adopted Senate Read Second Time
SB 214		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill moves Georgia from a touchscreen/EBM-based voting system to a paper ballot-centric system where voters hand-mark ballots and provide access to electronic markers solely for accessibility purposes. 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/18

ECONOMY

HB 947		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 947, the Georgia SNAP Healthier Choices Act of 2026, would prohibit the purchase of certain food and beverage items with SNAP benefits. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 Senate Read and Referred
HB 1001		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to reduce Georgia’s flat tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99% in 2026 by providing an immediate tax cut and bypassing the conditional, step-down approach currently in law. 	Senate Read Second Time
HB 1116		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1116 is a technical corrections bill that updates Georgia’s tax and education funding laws to ensure accurate calculation of school funding and local government revenues. It allows tax digests to be accepted despite errors in newspaper publication and excludes certain 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 Senate Read and Referred

		tax-exempt property values from school funding formulas under the Quality Basic Education Act.	
SB 465		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 465 proposes to disqualify large-scale businesses that employ undocumented immigrants from claiming certain tax credits for those projects. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/6 House Second Readers
HB 1118		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to provide 120 hours of paid maternal birth leave to state government and local education agency employees within the 3 weeks following childbirth. 	Senate Passed/ Adopted
SB 59		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands eligibility for conservation use property tax assessment by allowing property owners to lease their land to certain qualified business entities and still maintain preferential tax treatment. The entities must be citizen-owned and primarily engaged in agricultural/timber production, or have significant ownership stake by someone who independently qualifies for the assessment. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/26 Senate Agreed House Amend or Sub 3/12
SB 447		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes to streamline and standardize the permit approval process in Georgia by establishing strict timelines and transparency requirements for local governments. 	House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute 3/19
HB 1063		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill would require electric utilities in Georgia to include specific protective contract terms when serving large data centers (100+ megawatts) to ensure that residential and retail electricity customers do not subsidize the costs of data center construction and operation. 	House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 2/17 Senate Read and Referred
HB 1000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill establishes a tax rebate program returning up to \$250-\$500 to individual taxpayers based on their 2024 tax liability and filing status, contingent on filing returns for both 2024 and 2025. 	House Passed/ Adopted House Date Signed by Governor, Act 374

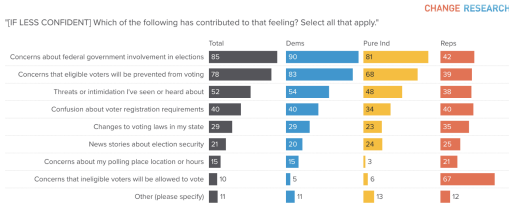
SB 476		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Income Tax Reduction Act of 2026” proposes to reduce individual income tax, corporate income tax, partnership & S-Corporation tax, and create a standard deduction increase while repealing numerous tax credits and exemptions. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
SB 477		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes changes to Georgia’s tax code by accelerating and increasing tax cuts for individuals while establishing fixed, lower rates for businesses, and substantially increases standard deductions. 	<p>Senate Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>House Second Readers</p>
HR 1114		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This resolution proposes to provide property tax relief for homeowners through reduced property tax assessment for homesteads, enhanced veterans' benefits, homeowner's incentive adjustment program, and sales tax changes. 	<p>House Reconsidered</p>
HB 1272		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill proposes a comprehensive regulatory framework for payment stablecoin issuers in Georgia, implementing the federal GENIUS Act (Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act). 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted</p> <p>Senate Read and Referred 3/6</p>
HB 376		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands the historic rehabilitation tax credit program by doubling the annual funding cap and increasing maximum credits for large projects, while simultaneously tightening eligibility (higher minimum expenditure) and slightly reducing the base credit rate for non-residential structures. It incentivizes rehabilitation in rural/smaller counties through bonus credits. 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p> <p>Senate Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/18</p> <p>House Agree Senate Amend or Sub 3/23</p>
HB 1077		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill extends an existing cultural tax exemption from December 31, 2027 to December 31, 2032 to continue supporting nonprofit arts and museum organizations in Georgia. 	<p>Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute</p>
HB 1148		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This bill expands and extends Georgia's conservation property tax credit program by doubling credit amounts, extending the program 5 	<p>House Passed/ Adopted By Substitute 3/4</p>

		years, increasing annual funding, simplifying administration, and removing appraiser penalties.	Senate Read and Referred
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NEWS AND UPDATES

- [After no DHS response, Georgia lawmakers advocate for double amputee's release from immigration detention](#)
- [Georgia's Fulton County heads to court to seek return of 2020 ballots seized by FBI](#)
- [Seven months later, the government still hasn't fixed CDC's shot-up windows](#)
- [Congress appears poised to end stalemate over airport security funding](#)
- [Exclusive: U.S. can only confirm about a third of Iran's missile arsenal destroyed, sources say](#)
- [Iran-linked hackers breach FBI director's personal email, publish excerpts online](#)
- [Trump signature to appear on US currency, ending 165-year tradition](#)
- [House GOP rejects Senate-passed DHS bill, likely extending shutdown](#)
- [South Fulton police officer sexually assaulted woman after arresting her, officials say](#)
- [\\$25 million in fines, \\$0 collected: Questions grow over Georgia mental health parity enforcement](#)

RESEARCH AND POLLING



Voters unsure about election integrity in lieu of the SAVE America Act:

A Change Research poll in March found that a number of Americans feel unsure about the Federal government's transparency in voter practices. When asked about the upcoming Congressional election only 14% of respondents felt confident that their votes would be counted accurately nationwide, with Democrats sitting at 37% not too confident or not confident at all and Republicans at 60%. When asked about their lack of confidence the two highest answers were concerns about federal involvement in elections and fear that eligible voters will be disenfranchised.

6 in 10 Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases

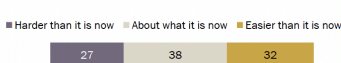
% who say abortion should be ...



% who say it would be ___ to get an abortion in the area where they live



% who say it should be ___ to get an abortion in the area where they live



Americans not as swayed on abortion as you may believe: According to a survey by Pew Research Center, 60% of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared to 38% who say it should be illegal in all or most cases, showing a clear majority of Americans still support legal access to abortion even after the Supreme Court overruled Roe V. Wade. Of the surveyed respondents 84% of Democrats believed that abortion should be legal in all or most cases compared to the 36% of Republicans who agreed. Overall, half (52%) of those surveyed believed that the decision to have an abortion is the sole decision of the pregnant woman.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. TO DO REGARDING IRAN?

TOP ANSWERS



[Back to Top](#)

Americans think the war in Iran isn't a necessity: As the U.S. war with Iran continues many Americans agree that their approval of the war will diminish as it lingers on. Of the respondents of the CBS and YouGov majority 92% responded that it is important to the U.S. to end the war as soon as possible and believe it will make the U.S. economy weaker with 32% of respondents predicting a recession by next year. Overall a slight majority of those polled disagree with the war in Iran with disapproval reaching 60%.

SOCIAL LISTENING & MIS- AND DISINFORMATION TRACKING

- INSTAGRAM: [U.S. votes against UN recognition of slavery as the “gravest crime against humanity”](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Views: 3.9M
 - Likes: 248k
 - Comments: 7,2k
 - Reshares: 44.6k
- FACEBOOK: [Burt Jones challenges Rick Jackson](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Views: 49k
 - Reactions: 1.6k
 - Comments: 484
 - Reshares: 141
- FACEBOOK: [Mike Johnson on Senate vote to pay TSA: “We must fully fund Homeland Security...”](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Views: 45k
 - Reactions: 3.6k
 - Comments: 1.2k
 - Reshares: 447
- REDDIT: [Personal experience- My experience at ATL airport 3/26](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Upvotes: 1.1k
 - Comments: 210
- REDDIT: [Reactions to the use of FLOCK cameras in Georgia](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Upvotes: 531
 - Comments: 89
- REDDIT: [Georgia Supreme Court Election May 19th](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Upvotes: 354
 - Comments: 37
- TRUTH SOCIAL: [Trump on funding ICE and “The Radical Left Democrats”](#)
 - As of 3/27 @ 5:00 PM
 - Likes: 36.4k
 - Comments: 6,569
 - Reshares: 10.4k

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Georgia House Democrats: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

House Budget & Research Offices: [Twitter/X](#)

Georgia State Senate: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

Georgia Senate Democrats: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#)

Georgia Senate Republicans: [Twitter/X](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Facebook](#)

KEY DATES TO WATCH

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				01 New Year's Day 🎉	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12 LD 1	13 LD 2	14 LD 3	15 LD 4	16 LD 5	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 BUDGET WEEK	21 BUDGET WEEK	22 BUDGET WEEK	23	24
25	26 LD 6	27 LD 7	28 LD 8	29 LD 9	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
01	02 LD 10	03 LD 11	04 LD 12	05 LD 13	06 LD 14	07
08	09 LD 15	10 LD 16	11 LD 17	12 LD 18	13	14 💕
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 LD 19	18 LD 20	19 LD 21	20 LD 22	21
22	23 Committee Work Day	24 LD 23	25 LD 24	26 LD 25	27	28

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
01	02 Committee Work Day	03 LD 26	04 LD 27	05 Committee Work Day	06 Crossover Day (LD 28)	07
08	09 LD 29	10 LD 30	11 Committee Work Day	12 LD 31	13	14
15	16 LD 32	17 Committee Work Day	18 LD 33	19 LD 34	20 LD 35	21



22	23 LD 36	24 Committee Work Day	25 LD 37	26 Committee Work Day	27 LD 38	28
29	30	31 LD 39				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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			01	02 Sine Die! 🎉 (LD 40)	03	04
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