



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Senate

[Regulated Industries and Utilities
Government Oversight](#)

HB 377 Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute Buildings and housing; manufactured homes; provisions The purpose of this Code section is to provide the competitive process for local governments to acquire professional services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type or types of professional services required at fair and reasonable fees.

[Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute
Regulated Industries and Utilities](#)

SB 553 Senate Read and Referred Said title is further amended by repealing Chapter 14, relating to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low voltage contractors, and utility contractors, and enacting a new Chapter 14 to read as follows. [Replaces the entire code section workers beware.](#)

03/19/2026 House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

[Technology and Infrastructure Innovation](#)

SB 9 The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SB 9: Appears to depict a real individual's speech or conduct that did not occur in reality; and would appear to a reasonable observer to be authentic. [Stop AI use in election.](#)

01/28/2026 Senate Disagreed House Amend or Sub

SB 458: The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to

- (a) Home inspectors shall be licensed by the board beginning January 1, 2028.
- (b) The residential contractor division shall have jurisdiction and authority over home inspectors.

[SB 195](#)

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to pharmacies, so as to provide that pharmacists are authorized to dispense preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure prophylaxis under certain conditions; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical practice, so as to provide for the approval or development of a training program for pharmacists by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy; to require pharmacists to complete such training program before dispensing preexposure prophylaxis or postexposure prophylaxis; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Before and after medication to prevent HIV. **House Passed/Adopted by Substitute**

[HB 140](#)

Cap the amount of funds derived from court fines or forfeiture action that local governments may use as part of their yearly budgets; to provide that any funds collected in excess of such cap shall escheat (real property) to the state; to supersede any conflicting home rule powers of local governments; to provide for applicability; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[HB 522](#)

Relating to general provisions regarding health, so as to prohibit certain healthcare providers and facilities from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the vaccine status of the potential recipient; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Refusal of COVID vaccine is not the sole determining factor as to whether someone can get a transplant. **House Committee Favorably Reported**

[HB 110](#)

Provide certain protections for current military members and related persons; to prohibit pawnbrokers from making title pawns with covered borrowers; to provide a penalty for violations; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **House Committee Favorably Reported**

[HB 985](#)

Georgia veterans cemeteries, so as to revise the terms of eligibility for persons to be buried in Georgia veterans cemeteries; to provide for a definition; to require an affidavit in certain circumstances; to provide for applicability; to provide for fees; to provide for the Veterans Service Board to have certain discretion; to provide for related matters; to provide for legislative findings; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senate Read and Referred

[HR 251](#)

A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that all probate judges shall be elected in nonpartisan elections; to provide for related matters; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 676](#)



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Relating to mechanics and materialmen relative to liens, so as to provide for a fine for any frivolous mechanic lien filed; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 987](#)

Voluntary Portable Benefit Plan Act for independent contractors. This aims to provide benefits for independent contractors. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 991](#)

Healthcare for part time and contractor workers. Allows a classification of a 1099. Typically, are nurses. **House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[HB 295](#)

Property owners to seek relief in counties where local governments don't enforce local ordinances and state law. If frivolous lawsuit, make them responsible for attorney fees. Objections lie in the use of broad terms.

House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute

[HB 350](#)

To authorize the placement of newborn safety devices; to provide for definitions; to provide for limited liability; to provide for transport of newborns to nearest medical facility; to provide for specifications for newborn safety devices; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 1015](#)

Relating to the Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund regarding workers' compensation, so as to revise certain funded levels of such fund; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Raise the limit to adequately fund it. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 960](#)

Relating to the number of judges of superior courts, so as to provide for a twelfth judge of the superior courts of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Gwinnett county is a democratic stronghold. Possible court pack issue. **Senate Read and Referred**

Example of small business benefiting from Ga law:



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

[HB 131](#) - Streamlines the time of advertising for placing a lien on items in a storage unit that due to lack of payment on unit. **House Date Signed by Governor**

[HB 934](#) - provide for the enforcement of unsigned rental agreements under certain circumstances, allow for electronic execution and delivery of rental agreements, and establish procedures for occupants to vacate and remove personal property from self-storage facilities when the rental agreement is terminated or not renewed. The bill also grants owners the ability to place reasonable restrictions on occupant access and dispose of any remaining personal property after the notice period. Overall, the bill aims to streamline the management of self-service storage facilities and the enforcement of rental agreements. **House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute**

[SB 162](#)

Fast tracking certifications for healthcare providers. State medical board to regulate standalone ketamine clinics. This change aims to expedite hospital credentialing, helping to alleviate workforce shortages in healthcare.

House Passed/Adopted by Substitute

[HB 957](#)

Imported vehicles older than 25 years allowed on local roads (mini trucks).

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 1022](#)

Motor vehicles; prohibit electric tinting, to provide for penalties; to prohibit the use of digital license plates; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 944](#)

Motor vehicles; federal regulations regarding safe operation of commercial motor carriers and commercial vehicles; update reference date.

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 629](#)

Stop the bleed kit. Provided free of charge. Removes the requirement for a physician present for use of the kits.

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 717](#)

Medical Practice Act; regulation of the administration of psychedelic-assisted treatment and therapy; to provide definitions, standards, establishment of rules and regulations, licensure of clinics; to provide for statutory construction; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **House Passed/Adopted by Substitute**



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

[HB 948](#)

More disclosure when someone is foreclosing. How to get the funds back.

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 934](#)

Proposes the movement of the Securities Division from the Office of the Georgia Secretary of State to the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. Stemmed from First Liberty Building and Loan, which is under investigation as a Ponzi scheme. Moving the investigation to a different department could prove to be a setback on the investigation itself. **House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[HB 1009](#)

No cellphones in high schools. Thirty-three states nationwide.

Senate Read and Referred

[HB 1023](#)

Weapons detection systems in all schools, with state grants for funding. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 1215](#)

Middle Judicial Circuit- adding a third judge. **Senate Read and Referred**

[SB 74](#)

Georgia Senate Bill 74 aims to remove legal protections for librarians, making them potentially criminally liable for allowing minors to access materials deemed harmful under state obscenity laws. The bill has faced opposition for being seen as a form of censorship, particularly against LGBTQ-related content. "Bad" material is removed and re-catalogued in an appropriate section. Librarians are held accountable through existing laws for allowing "inappropriate" material in libraries. *Amended to state that the library exemption from selling harmful materials to minors will not apply if the library fails to comply with the governing authority's decisions regarding reconsideration requests or complaints about materials harmful to minors.* **House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute**

[HB 1063](#)

Requires electric utilities and new data centers to agree on contract terms that shield other power customers from costs of data center construction and operation. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 310](#)



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Participating student teachers would receive up to \$5,000 to help offset costs of student teaching. Additionally, they would be eligible to receive a \$2,500 signing grant upon completing their student teaching if they work in a Georgia school. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 1061](#)

Seventeen-year-olds are in judge in juvenile court, but still are tried as adults! unanimously passed the House. **Unanimously passed the House**

[HB 943](#)

Five-year pilot program. Autism children to be screened diagnosed early and identified with the disease. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 1133](#)

Put solar panels in closed landfills instead of taking up valuable farmland. **Senate Read and Referred**


[HB 1001](#)

Income tax: reduce rate of tax -- (H Ways & Means, S Finance) Reduce rate to 4.99 %. **Senate Read and Referred**

[HB 675](#)


Relating to offenses against public order and safety, so as to provide for criminal offenses related to material support of terrorism; to provide for penalties; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for the creation of guidelines for law enforcement investigations; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. The purpose of said bill is to be more preempted in pursuing terrorism in a state, rather than relying only on the federal government. **House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute**

JUDICIARY COMMITTEES IN SENATE; HOUSE JUDICIARY (CIVIL), HOUSE NON-CIVIL, HOUSE JUVENILE

[HB 421](#)  Senate Read 2nd Time 4/19/2026. Interstate Sexual Predator Prevention Act. Any child under 16 Solicit, entice, molest. Include traveling to meet from another state.

[HB 447](#)  Senate Favorably Reported 3/20/2026. CRIMES OF GIFT CARD FORGERY & FRAUD. Conviction-imprisonment 1-10 yrs, fine up to \$5,000.

[HB 535](#) SENATE PASSED & ADOPTED 3/16/2026. Penal institutions credit for time served regarding probation revocation sentencing re: any sentence imposed pursuant to a revocation of probation, a person shall be given full credit for time served for each day served in confinement since the date of the commission of the violation, excluding any time tolled pursuant to OCGA §42-8-36

[HB 1196](#)  SENATE PASSED & ADOPTED 3/16/2026. Crimes; offense of criminal trespass involving a wild animal. Include current or historical to area, kept in aquariums, safaris, animal sanctuaries, domestic animals, livestock.



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report


03/23/26

Guilty if use of: item or substance in solid liquid gaseous form, can be consumed, inhaled or absorbed, electronics, biological materials, rock, sticks, etc. Conviction: 1st Degree-felony, prison 1 to 10 yrs; 2nd degree, misdemeanor, prison 12 mths or less; 3rd degree, misdemeanor, prison 12 mths., plus fine, penalty restitution for damage, etc.

[HB 1283](#) Senate Read 2nd Time 3/20/2026. Family Justice Center Act; enact. relating to family violence and discovery, respectively, so as to authorize the **creation and funding** of Family Justice Centers. Promote multi service center with approach to assist victims of family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Members from county, DA, law enforcement, social services, etc.


[HB 1329](#) SENATE PASSED & ADOPTED 3/20/2026. Controlled substances; Schedule I; provide certain provisions. ADD Schedule 1 drugs: alkyl, halide, cyano, or acety; plus many others.

[HB 1409](#) Domestic relations; revise mandated reporting of child abuse, Senate Read 2nd time 3/20/2026. Includes web platforms to securely create & maintain reports; include reporting from firefighters; phone & written reports to DFCS & DHS.


[HB 1574](#) House 2nd Readers 3/20/2026. MOTOR VEHICLES convictions of homicide by vehicle **under influence of alcohol or drugs**. ADDS RESTITUTION TO PENALTIES. Court shall order convicted person causing death to make restitution providing financial assistance for each minor child of victim until child reaches 18 or graduates from high school. Amounts outlined in proposed revised Code section. [SB 27](#)  House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. DOXXING Stalking offense of doxxing; penalties; protective order. Add Doxxing: 1st offense misdemeanor; 2nd + - felony 1-2 yrs prison &/or both \$5,000; Aggravated Doxxing : felony: 1st- prison 1-5 yrs &/or both \$5,000; 2nd + 5-10 yrs &/or both \$10,000

[SB 268](#)  House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Crime - Offenses against public order-interference with 1st Responders; Misdemeanor to harass, impede, interfere.


[SB 383](#) Senate Passed & Adopted 3/18/2026. Child Abuse; **ESTABLISH local child fatality review committees**; modify the review. **Each County to establish a review committee** to review all child fatalities including infant death syndrome, identify intervention precautions.

[SB 443](#)  House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Offenses Against Public Order; the punishment for the offense of obstructing highways, streets, sidewalks, or other public passages. Guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor - fine, penalty, or restitution.

[SB 470](#) **House Passed by Sub 3/19/2026 – Senate Passed & Adopted 2/26/2029**. "Emergency & Public Safety Signal Protection Act". **prohibit** the possession, use, operation, manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution, or import **of signal jammers**.

[SB 499](#)  Hous Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; prohibition on possessing a silencer. Eliminates prohibiting possession of silencer from the Code

SB 547

[SB 547](#)  House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Pimping & Pandering; modified penalties. Guilty of felony 1-10 yrs imprisonment punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 25 years and by a fine not to exceed \$100,000.



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

[SB 542](#) 🏠 House Favorably Reported 3/20/2026. Sexual Offenses; clergy members to be charged with certain improper sexual contact offenses. This Bill adds clergy members, pastoral counselors, employees, etc. Felony conviction; various levels of fine and imprisonment.

[SB 552](#) 🐱 🐶 03/19/2026 Withdrawn from General Calendar and recommitted to Judiciary by Rules Committee **Crossed**. Called True Patriotism and Universal Student Access (TPUSA) Act. THIS COULD GIVE UN-AMERICAN, FOREIGN STUDENT GROUPS, ANTI CHRISTIAN GROUPS, SATANIC GROUPS ABILITY TO CAPABILITY TO engage in political or philosophical expression; authorize of partisan and nonpartisan student groups and gatherings, provide for school disclaimers of sponsorship, prohibit discrimination based on the content of student speech within a limited open forum, provide maintenance of order and discipline.

[SB 570](#) 🏠 House PASSED & ADOPTED 3/19/2026. “Georgia Human Trafficking Prevention Training Act”. rights, duties, liabilities of innkeepers, so as to provide required human trafficking training program for inns, short-term rentals, retention of records.

[SB 587](#) 🏠 House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Offenses Against Public Health and Morals; the **establishment of an animal cruelty database**; provide purpose & funding; require Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia to create, administer, and maintain such database; to provide for minimum requirements; provide for reporting and forms by 1/1/2027. List full names of convicted or pled G or nolo. Access at no cost.

[SB 594](#) 🏠 House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. **Internet and E-mail Fraud**; the criminal offense of digital identity fraud. Conviction felony 1- 20 yrs imprisonment, fine of \$1,000-500,000.

[SB 604](#) House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Crimes and Offenses; the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction with district attorneys to conduct criminal prosecutions of violent crimes, **illegal immigration offenses, and fentanyl offenses**. DA may request assistance from AG.

[SB 605](#) House Favorably Reported 3/19/2026. Prosecuting Attorneys; additional grounds for discipline of a district attorney or solicitor-general or for his or her removal or involuntary retirement from office.

From House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

HB117 - All food service establishments that serve foreign imported shrimp shall conspicuously display on their menus a disclosure by each menu item containing shrimp stating 'FOREIGN IMPORTED,' or on placards visible to the public 'FOREIGN IMPORTED SHRIMP.' This Code section **shall not apply** to a food service establishment **operated by a state agency**. Passed both Houses. Gunter and Gooch both voted Yes. Senate Rules Committee will have hearing on 03/18/2026.

HB158 - All businesses that do not have the owner’s name as a part of the business name shall register with the Clerk of the Superior Court the names and addresses of any of the owners and this shall be published in the local legal organ. Passed the House. Gunter Voted Yes. This Bill is on the Agenda for the Senate Oversight Committee hearing on 03/19/2026.



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

HB449 – The Public Service Commission shall regulate and oversee rate charges for water services provided by private companies. Passed the House. Gunter voted Yes. The Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities will hold a hearing on 03/29/2026. No Agenda for this hearing yet.

HB947 – Allows the State to monitor program performance, investigate complaints, and refer violations to federal authorities of the SNAP Food Program. Passed the House on 03/27/2026. Gunter voted Yes. This is not on the Agenda for the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on 03/18/2026.

HB1182 – Storage of prohibited soil enrichment supplements shall be greater than 100 feet of any other property. House A&C Committee passed. Gunter voted Yes. Senate read and referred to Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee on 02/19/2026.

HB1195 – Allows veterinarians and veterinary technicians to use telemedicine technology. Passed House A&C Committee on 03/03/2026. Gunter voted Yes. Read 2nd time in Senate A&C on 03/16/2026.

HB1408 - A licensed veterinary technician working under a licensed veterinarian's direct supervision, may administer an antirabies vaccination to any animal that the state requires to be vaccinated. House passed on 03/03/2026. Gunter voted Yes. Senate read 2nd time on 03/16/2026. Not on the Agenda for Senate A&C Committee hearing 03/18/2026.

From the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee

HB980 - Created the Georgia-Ireland Trade Commission. Passed the House on 02/06/2026. Gunter voting status was “Excused.” Sent to Senate EC&T Committee. No further action thus far.

HB998 – Authorizes certain Tier 2 local exchange companies to elect to become subject to rate of return regulation; to extend the period of time certain distributions can be made from the Universal Access Fund; to require certain information from local exchange companies seeking reimbursement from the fund; to require the total amount of distributions not to exceed \$50 million in the aggregate during any single fund year; to provide annual monetary limitations on certain distributions; to require annual reports on the Universal Access Fund; to provide for contents of such report; to provide for a definition. Senate passed and adopted on 03/18/2026. Gooch and Gunter both said YES.

From the House Game Fish and Parks Committee

HB115 – Fifteen pages of Rules and Regulations dealing with abandoned watercraft. Senate passed and adopted on 03/10/2026. Gooch and Gunter both said Yes.



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

HB432 – Lower pricing for turkey permits. Gunter voted Yes. Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee Favorably Reported on 02/20/2026.

HB443 – Lower pricing for migratory fishing license. Gooch and Gunter voted Yes. House agreed to Senate Amendment on 01/28/2026.

From the House Rural Development Committee

HB51 – Puts natural gas facilities under Georgia Environmental Finance Authority along with solid waste facilities. Gunter voted Yes. Committed to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee on 01/12/2026 after 2nd Reading. No further action since then.

From Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

SB435 – Renamed the "Georgia Development Authority" to the "Georgia Agricultural Development Authority. House passed and Adopted on 03/16/2026. Gooch and Gunter both voted Yes.

SB551 - This is a one page Bill that for some **unidentified reason** is exempting eggs from the standards, labeling, and adulteration of food laws by deleting the current laws concerning eggs. House Passed and Adopted on 03/18/2026. Gooch and Gunter both voted Yes.

From Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee

SB463 – An attempt to reduce large corporate and foreign control of single-family housing, and in return may increase housing availability and affordability for individual buyers. Sent to House Judiciary Committee (**Why? The House has an ED&T Committee.**) House 2nd Reader on 03/06/2026. Gooch voted Yes.

House Committee Governmental Affairs

HB 244-3/16/26 House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub;3/10/26 Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute Senate Vote #702-Summary of changes: relating to financial audits of local governments, revise GA Code to require local governments with \$2.5 million or more in expenditures to audit annually. State Auditor may grant exemptions for unusual circumstances. Local governments with less than \$2.5 million in expenditures can submit audits within special purpose framework administered by State Auditor. Local governments with \$1 million or less in expenditures can audit every 5th year. County officers shall be required to cooperate with local governments in filing audit reports and if not, will be penalized.

HB 521- 3/16/2026 Senate Recommitted to State & Local Governmental Operations Committee; 2/19/26 Senate Rules Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute-Summary of changes- relating to annexations and deannexations by municipalities, requires that annexations are contingent upon approval of the county in which the subject property is located. Specifies that in any county in which an



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

airport is owned or operated either by the county or a local authority which is adjacent to 9,000 acres or more of property currently or formerly owned by a municipality, any proposed annexation must be approved by the county government too.

HB 1129-3/19/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

3/6/26 Senate Read & Referred; 3/4/26 House Passed/Adopted Modified Structured Rule House

Vote #637- Summary of changes: revise GA code to establish enterprise zones (urban redevelopment >\$400 million investment) and restrict exemption from sales tax rules and regulations for enterprise zones and only the Governor can approve sales tax exemptions. After 7/1/31, no local government can designate or redesignate a geographic area as an enterprise zone unless the enterprise zone was already set up or in the process of being set up prior to 7/1/31.

HB 1133-3/19/26 Senate Read 2nd time; 3/18/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported;3/6/26

Senate Read & Referred; 3/4/26 House Passed/Adopted Modified structured rule House Vote #638-

Summary of changes: Amend the GA code section to promote building solar facilities on closed landfills.

HB 1546-3/16/26 1st reader- Summary of changes: relating to local authorities retaining legal services, add **NEW Code section** putting limitations on local governments' retaining a private attorney on a contingent fee basis for civil litigation. Removes local control of hiring private counsel by putting it in the Georgia Attorney General's approval & control.

Senate Committee Education and Youth

HB 907- 3/19/26 Senate Read 2nd time;3/18/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported; 2/12/26

Senate read and referred; Completion Special Schools Act; Summary of changes: revise GA code section regarding completion special school (provides nontraditional education programs and services for students who are eligible to attend a traditional public school but are more likely to succeed in a nontraditional setting) to require by June 1 and December 1 each year, the completion special school provide the local school system with an updated description of programs available for students and detailed instructions and guidance for the registration of students in grades nine through 12 to attend one or more classes in a completion special school.

HB 971-3/19/26 Senate Read 2nd time; 3/18/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported; 2/25/26

Senate Read & Referred; 2/24/26 House Passed/Adopted House Education Committee House Vote

#547;Summary of changes: relating to enrolling home study and private school students in college and career courses, revise the code to give those students access to RESA services and college courses in the students' local area.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

HB 1030-3/18/26 Senate Read 2nd time;3/16/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute; 2/26/26 Senate Read & Referred; 2/25/26 House Passed/Adopted by Substitute from House Education Committee House Vote #560;Math Matters Act-Summary of Changes: relating to the Quality Basic Education Act, adds **NEW CODE section** called Math Matters Act adopting basic standards and requirements for local school systems to teach math and advanced math concepts to students. Specifically beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, local BOEs to require at least 60 minutes daily or 300 minutes weekly of core math instructional time for students in grades four and five and State BOE to develop enhanced standards for remaining upper grades.

HB 1107- 3/16/26 Senate Read 2nd time: 3/12/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported; 3/3/26 Senate Read & Referred; 2/26/26House Passed/Adopted By Substitute House Vote #578;Excellent Teacher Preparation Act-Summary of changes: relating to Education Preparation Providers in Georgia, adds **NEW CODE** to require the Professional Standards Commission to evaluate the performance of EPPs & publicly publish the results.

HB 1164-3/16/26 Senate Read 2nd time; 3/12/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported; 3/4/26 Senate Read & Referred; 2/26/26 House Passed/Adopted by Substitute House Vote #572-Summary of changes: relating to the State BOE inspection committees, revise GA Code to require the State BOE to appoint an audit committee to oversee local school systems' fiscal condition.

HB 1284-3/18/26 Senate Read 2nd time; 3/16/26 Senate Committee Favorably Reported; 3/6/26 Senate Read & Referred; 3/4/26 House Passed/Adopted By Substitute House Vote #606 from House Education Committee-Summary of changes: relating to high school diplomas, adds **NEW CODE section** to allow local BOEs to award high school diplomas to students, regardless of credit earned, who have been diagnosed with a terminal health condition and are receiving end of life care.

HB 1293-3/19/26 Senate Passed/Adopted Senate Vote #747; 3/9/26 Senate Read & Referred; 3/6/26 House Passed/Adopted by Substitute House Vote #651 from House Higher Education Committee-Summary of changes: relating to the Dual Achievement educational program, amends GA Code to change the program from a pilot program to a standard program. Authorizes the State BOE to develop eligibility requirements for enrollment and funding formula for budget requests.

Senate Bill 498, was advanced by the House Appropriations Subcommittee. SB 498 responds to charter schools' frequent difficulty in paying for capital projects. By creating the Georgia Charter School Facilities Authority, the bill would give charter schools access to revolving loans and other financing tools for construction, renovation and repairs.

As for some workforce-related bills

House Bill 987 Senate passed on Friday. The Voluntary Portable Benefit Plan Act, sponsored by Rep. Todd Jones, would create a legal framework for independent contractors to gain access to pre-tax benefits like health and retirement accounts while remaining self-employed.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

House passed

Senate Bill 427 This legislation, which would create a pathway to practice for internationally licensed physicians, now heads back to the Senate for final passage.

Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities

House Bill 1254, advanced a broad occupational-licensing consolidation bill sponsored by Rep. Matt Reeves. It would move regulation of several professions away from standalone licensing boards and place more of that authority under the Secretary of State.

House Bill 1247, a. This legislation would require Georgia courts to make rulings without defaulting to a state agency's preferred interpretation when ambiguity exists between a regulated party and the agency's interpretation of the law. The amended version of the bill also added additional language that would require Georgia agencies to periodically review their rules and regulations, including their impact, cost and effectiveness.

Senate Bill 447. advanced this legislation would accelerate and clarify the local permitting process for building homes.

[HB 1386](#) [Local government; county development authorities for certain counties shall not operate within certain municipalities; provide](#)

HB 1368 Pending in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee • Violates the principle of local self-governance — decisions should be made closest to the people they affect.

- Concentrates power in one unelected bureaucrat with no meaningful checks or balances.
- State-mandated "unified bylaws" eliminate local flexibility and impose one-size-fits-all governance.
- This is the same centralization playbook seen in California — Georgia must not follow that path.

 **Georgia Senate Insurance & Labor Committee Report**

Week of March 23–27, 2026

 **Monday, March 23, 2026**

Insurance & Labor Subcommittee Meeting

Time: 6:00 AM

Location: Georgia State Capitol



Weekly Watch report
Bills Discussed

03/23/26

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/sponsors/HB250/2025>

Better Small Business Employee Benefits Act

Sponsor: Darlene Taylor

What it does:

- Expands benefit options for small business employees
- Addresses employer-sponsored benefit structures
- Affects how smaller companies provide insurance coverage

Why it matters:

- Could impact small business insurance mandates
- May increase or modify employer benefit responsibilities

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1274/2025>

(Additional insurance-related bill discussed in subcommittee)

Focus area:

- Insurance and employee benefit regulation
- Further details expected after full committee review

 **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

No Insurance Committee meeting
(Other Senate committees met this day.)

 **Thursday, March 26, 2026**

Full Insurance & Labor Committee Meeting

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Mezzanine 1, State Capitol



Weekly Watch report
Expected to review bills previously heard in subcommittee.

03/23/26

⚠ Key Takeaways for Grassroots & Policy Watchers

- **Small business insurance changes** are a major focus this week.
- Multiple bills affecting **employee benefits and employer mandates** are advancing.
- Subcommittee activity indicates these bills are **moving forward**, not stalled.
- Full committee meetings later in the week typically determine whether bills advance to Rules Committee.

📊 Legislative Status Summary

Bill	Topic	Stage
HB 250	Small business employee benefits	Subcommittee review
HB 1274	Insurance/benefit regulation	Subcommittee review
Additional bills	Expected	Pending full committee hearing

🔍 What to Watch Closely This Week

These are the **high-attention areas** likely to affect citizens and businesses:

- Health insurance coverage mandates
- Employer benefit requirements
- Workers' compensation policy changes
- Small business insurance regulations

These areas directly impact:

- Small business owners
- Employees
- Healthcare costs
- Insurance premiums



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Georgia Senate Insurance and Labor Committee

Hearings Scheduled:

- **March 23, 2026 — 6:00 AM**
- **March 24, 2026 — 3:00 PM**
- **March 26, 2026 — 4:00 PM**

These hearings mean **bills are about to move forward or out of committee.**

MOST IMPORTANT BILLS MOVING THIS WEEK

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1263/2025>

— Increase Insurance Commissioner Penalties

Status:

- Passed House
- **Now in Senate Insurance & Labor hearing pipeline**
- **Hearing scheduled this week**

What it does

- Increase fines the Insurance Commissioner can issue.
- Expands enforcement power against insurers.

Why these matters

- Major regulatory expansion.
- Could increase costs passed to consumers.
- Often supported by regulatory agencies.

Stage:

 Engrossed (50% complete — already passed House)

 **Possible committee vote soon**

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1344/2025>



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

— **Insurance Enforcement & Motor Vehicle Rules**

Status:

- Passed House
- **Hearing scheduled this week**

What it does

- Strengthens insurance enforcement authority.
- Clarifies regulations affecting auto insurance.

Why it matters

- Direct impact on insurance oversight.
- Could affect vehicle insurance compliance statewide.

 **Stage:**

- Engrossed (50%)
- Committee action likely soon

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1263/2025>

— **Insurance Fee & Tax Refund Changes**

Status:

- Passed House
- **Scheduled for Senate committee hearing**

What it does

- Allows refunds of certain insurance-related taxes/fees.

Why to watch

- Affects insurance company finances.
- Could impact state revenue.




MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

 **Stage:**

 Engrossed

 Committee vote possible

 **NEWER SENATE BILLS STILL IN COMMITTEE (NOT OUT YET)**

These are **still early-stage but important.**

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB602/2025>

— Prior Authorization Reform

Status:

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026
- In committee


What it does

- Changes how health insurers approve medical procedures.
- Adjusts utilization review requirements.

Why important

- Healthcare access issue.
- Insurance industry heavily involved.

 **Stage:**

 1st Reading complete

 Awaiting hearing

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB603/2025>

— Insurance Transparency Reform

Status:

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026
- In committee



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

What it does

- Increases reporting transparency requirements.
- Expands accountability requirements.

 **Stage:**

 1st Reading

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB585/2025S> <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB585/2025B> 585

— Property Insurance Disclosure Requirements

Status:

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026

What it does

- Requires insurers to disclose more underwriting information.

 **Stage:**

 Early stage

★ VERY IMPORTANT — THESE ARE ALSO STILL ACTIVE

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB505/2025>

— Auto Insurance Geographic Rating Ban

What it does

- Stops insurers from using geographic zones to set rates.

 **Stage:**

 Still in committee pipeline

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/SB528/id/3367210>

— Prosthetic & Orthotic Coverage Mandate

What it does




MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

- Requires coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices.

 **Stage:**

 Early committee

WHAT ACTUALLY MOVED THIS WEEK

Most important new movement:

- House bills **HB 1263, HB 1344** scheduled for hearings
- Committee meetings scheduled **March 23–26**
- Several Senate bills introduced late February still waiting hearings
- Crossover pressure pushing faster movement

This is **one of the key movement weeks** for this committee.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT (VERY IMPORTANT)

Next 7 days likely include:

- Committee votes on House bills
- Substitute language added
- Bills moving to Senate floor
- Fast action before crossover deadlines

WEEKLY WAR REPORT

Georgia Senate Insurance & Labor Committee

 **302-B CLOB — Atlanta**

 **Active Hearing Date:** March 23, 2026 (6:00 AM)

This week is a **MAJOR movement week** — several House bills are scheduled for hearings and possible votes out of committee.

BILLS VERY LIKELY TO MOVE OUT THIS WEEK




Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

These are **the most important bills scheduled for hearings** and closest to leaving committee.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1263/2025>

— Insurance Fees & Tax Refund Changes

 **HIGH PRIORITY — Hearing Scheduled**

Current Status


- Passed House
- **Scheduled hearing: March 23, 2026**
- In Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
- **Stage:** Engrossed (50%)

What it Does

- Allows insurance companies to claim **refunds on certain premium fees and taxes**.
- Requires claims within **3 years** of payment.

Why It Matters

- Directly affects insurance revenue structure.
- Could reduce state fee collections from insurers.


 Bill details:

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1263/2025>

Source confirms refund provisions under Title 33 insurance law.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1344/2025>

— Insurance & Motor Vehicle Enforcement

 **HIGH PRIORITY — Hearing Scheduled**

Current Status

- Passed House
- **Scheduled for March 23 hearing**



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26


- Stage: Engrossed

What it Does

- Strengthens enforcement powers of the Insurance Commissioner.
- Updates motor vehicle insurance enforcement rules.


Why It Matters

- Could increase enforcement authority statewide.
- Affects drivers, insurers, and compliance rules.

 Hearing confirmed on committee calendar.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB250/2025>

— Professional Employer Organization Regulation

 **HIGH PRIORITY** — Long-running bill

Current Status


- Passed House
- Scheduled for committee hearing
- Stage: Engrossed (50%)

What it Does

- Regulates professional employer organizations (PEOs).
- Changes registration and oversight rules.

Why It Matters

- Affects employer outsourcing and HR services.
- Business compliance impact.

 Listed among active hearing items.

 **IMPORTANT SENATE BILLS STILL WAITING HEARING**



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

These haven't moved out yet — but could get hearings **very soon**.

<https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB602/2025>

Prior Authorization Reform

MEDIUM-HIGH PRIORITY

Status

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026
- Still in committee

What it Does

- Changes how insurance companies approve medical procedures.
- Alters utilization review rules.

Why Watch

- Healthcare industry involvement.
- Patient access vs insurer cost controls.

 Listed as active committee bill.

<https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB603/2025>

Insurance Transparency Requirements

MEDIUM PRIORITY

Status

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026
- Pending hearing

What it Does

- Requires expanded transparency and reporting.
- Targets insurance industry accountability.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

 Confirmed active in committee.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB585/2025>

Property Insurance Disclosure Rules

MEDIUM PRIORITY

Status

- Introduced Feb 26, 2026
- Awaiting committee action

What it Does

- Requires insurers to disclose underwriting details.

Why Watch

- Impacts property insurance market.

 Active pending legislation.

NEWER POLICY BILLS (WATCH — NOT SCHEDULED YET)

These are still early but politically important.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/SB505/2025>

Insurance Rate Regulation

Major policy bill

What it Does

- Requires approval before certain insurance rate changes.
- Expands regulatory oversight.

 Still in committee pipeline.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/SB518/id/3365757> Alopecia Coverage Mandate




Weekly Watch report
Mandate Expansion

03/23/26

What it Does

- Requires insurance coverage for alopecia treatment.

 Active early-stage bill.


 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/SB528/id/3367210>

Orthotic & Prosthetic Coverage

Coverage mandate

What it Does

- Requires state plans to cover prosthetic devices.

 Pending hearing stage.

WHAT ACTUALLY CHANGED THIS WEEK

Confirmed movement:

- Hearings scheduled for **March 23**
- House bills advancing toward committee vote
- Senate bills stacking for hearings
- Insurance enforcement bills gaining traction

All confirmed on the Senate committee pending bill list.

NEXT 7 DAYS — WHAT TO EXPECT

Based on current flow:

Very Likely

- Committee votes on House bills
- Substitute language introduced
- Bills reported out of committee



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

- Movement to Senate floor

Possible

- Surprise amendments
- Fast-tracked votes before deadlines

POLITICAL PRIORITY WATCH

If you only track **5 bills this week**, track these:

1. **HB 1263** — Insurance tax refund authority
2. **HB 1344** — Insurance enforcement expansion
3. **HB 250** — Employer regulation
4. **SB 602** — Prior authorization reform
5. **SB 505** — Insurance rate control policy

These are the ones **closest to real movement**.

GEORGIA HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

PRIORITY ALERT — BILLS MOVING NOW

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1262/2025>

Insurance Code Enforcement Penalties

TOP BILL — ALREADY PASSED HOUSE

What it does

- Raises penalties for insurance law violations.
- Expands enforcement authority.



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

- Applies to:
 - Mental-health parity laws
 - Surprise billing enforcement
 - Insurance compliance violations

Status

- Passed House
-  Now moved to **Senate Insurance & Labor Committee**
-  HIGH PRIORITY WATCH

Why it matters

- Expands regulatory authority.
- May impact insurance companies statewide.
- Could affect insurance availability and costs.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/HB1420/id/3370957>



Homeowner Insurance Protections

HIGH WATCH

What it does

- Changes homeowner insurance underwriting protections.
- Addresses policyholder treatment and possible rate practices.

Status

-  In **House Insurance Committee**
-  Hearing activity expected or ongoing.

Why it matters

- Direct homeowner impact.
- Could affect premiums and coverage access.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26



 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1419/2025>

Auto Claims Processing Reform

What it does

- Requires insurers to process claims faster.
- Sets claim handling deadlines.

Status

-  Referred to House Insurance Committee
-  Awaiting further committee action.

Why it matters

- Impacts auto insurance claims handling statewide.
-


 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1421/2025>

Repair Shop Steering Ban

What it does

- Prevents insurers from directing drivers to specific repair shops.

Status

-  Active in House Insurance Committee.

Why it matters

- Supported by auto repair industry.
 - Opposed by many insurers.
-



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

● ACTIVE COMMITTEE BILLS (STILL ALIVE)

<https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1033/2025>

Alzheimer's Coverage Mandate

- Requires insurance to cover Alzheimer's testing.
 - ☐ Still in committee.
 - ⚠ Insurance mandate expansion.
-

HB 1194 — Rideshare Insurance Coverage

- Clarifies coverage timing for rideshare drivers.
 - ☐ Active in committee.
-

<https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1319/2025>

— Auto Safety Discount Bill

- Requires insurance discounts for vehicles with safety features.
 - ☐ Still pending.
-

☑ PASSED HOUSE — NOW IN SENATE

These are no longer in House Insurance but still matter.

<https://legiscan.com/GA/text/HB951/id/3311009>

— Prosthetic Coverage Mandate

Status



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

- Passed House
- In Senate now.

Impact

- Expands mandatory coverage requirements.
-

HB 1262 (Listed above — Major Bill)

HOLDOVER / LONGER-TERM WATCH BILLS

These have been around longer but still relevant.

<https://legiscan.com/GA/text/HB606/id/3139346>

— FAIR Plan Property Insurance Reform

Focus

- Property insurance risk distribution changes.

Status

- Still active but slower movement.

Why it matters

- Could affect property insurance market stability.
-

EXPECTED COMMITTEE MOVEMENT THIS WEEK

Most likely:



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

03/23/26

Weekly Watch report

- ✓ Additional hearings
- ✓ Possible committee votes
- ✓ Amendments to auto insurance bills
- ✓ Continued Senate movement on passed bills

Watch for:

- **HB 1420**
- **HB 1419**
- **HB 1421**

These are the **most likely to move next**.

🎯 STRATEGIC WATCH LIST

(If you're prioritizing political attention)

Top 5 Bills:

1. **HB 1262 — Enforcement Expansion** ★ ★ ★
 2. **HB 1420 — Homeowner Protections** ★ ★ ★
 3. **HB 1419 — Auto Claims Reform** ★ ★
 4. **HB 1421 — Repair Steering Ban** ★ ★
 5. **HB 1033 — Alzheimer's Mandate** ★ ★
-

🗳️ COMMITTEE STATUS SNAPSHOT

Committee: Georgia House Insurance

Activity Level: 🗳️ Moderate to Active

Major Theme This Session:

- Insurance regulation
- Homeowner protections
- Auto insurance reform
- Coverage mandate expansion



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Here is your 🌿 **Georgia House Natural Resources & Environment — Weekly War Report (2026)**
Built using the **latest committee bill filings and session activity.**

Georgia House Natural Resources & Environment Committee

Location: Room 228-C State Capitol

Session Status: Late Session Push — heading toward **Sine Die (final days)**

⚠️ **Key Reality:**

Most bills are **still sitting in committee** and could move **very fast with substitutes** before the session ends.

Georgia is in **Year 2 of the 2025-2026 session**, meaning older bills are still alive and eligible to move.

🔗 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1501/2025>

— **NEWEST BILL (March 6, 2026)**

Status:

- ➡️ Just assigned to committee
- ➡️ No hearing yet

What it does:

- Requires new reporting involvement between **local governments and the Environmental Protection Division (EPD)**.
- Changes how environmental matters involving cities and counties are handled.

Why this matters:

- Could expand **state oversight** into local government operations.
- Still early — watch for amendments.

📍 **Stage:**

- ➡️ Introduced → Assigned to committee



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

● <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1383/2025>

— **Air Emissions Limits**

Status:

→ In committee

What it does:

- Establishes **daily emission limits** for **toluene** from industrial sources in the **Tallapoosa River Basin**.

Why it matters:

- Direct industrial regulation bill.
- Could affect manufacturing operations.

📍 **Stage:**

→ Committee review

● <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB1237/2025>

— **Pollution Prevention & Producer Responsibility Act**

Status:

→ Assigned Feb 10, 2026

What it does:

- Creates **producer responsibility rules** for pollution and waste management.
- Likely affects packaging and manufacturers.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

Why it matters:

- Potential **large regulatory expansion** bill.

📍 **Stage:**

➡ In committee

🔗 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/HB1072/id/3339707>

— Environmental Appeals Changes

Status:

➡ Assigned Feb 2, 2026

What it does:

- Modifies how environmental decisions can be **appealed**.
- Impacts how disputes with EPD are handled.

Why it matters:

- Could affect **property rights** and permitting challenges.

📍 **Stage:**

➡ Committee assignment

💧 HIGH-IMPACT HOLDOVER BILLS

These were filed earlier but **still alive and important**.



MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

● <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB611/2025>

— Water Pollution Reporting

Status:

→ Still active in committee

What it does:

- Requires wastewater facilities to collect information from industrial users about pollutants.

Why it matters:

- Major water regulation policy area.
- Could lead to expanded compliance requirements.

📍 Stage:

→ Pending committee action

● <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB561/2025>

— Mining Permit Restrictions

● <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HB562/2025>

— Mining Moratorium

Status:

→ Still pending

What they do:

- Restrict or pause new mining permits.

Why they matter:




MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE WATCH GROUP

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

- High controversy issue tied to environmental and economic interests.

 **Stage:**

 Held in committee


RESOLUTIONS TO WATCH

These can shape policy direction without creating law.

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/bill/HR513/2025>

— Chemical Dispersion Investigation

Status:

 Pending

What it does:

- Encourages investigation into **aircraft chemical dispersion** and environmental impacts.

 **Stage:**

 Committee pending

RECENTLY PASSED / MOVING BILLS (RELATED AREA)

These have moved recently and may impact natural resource policy:



**MOUNTAIN LEGISLATIVE
WATCH GROUP**

Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

 <https://legiscan.com/GA/text/HB956/id/3310940>

— **Solid Waste Trust Fund Changes**

Status:

- Passed House and Senate
- Awaiting Governor action

What it does:

- Expands how waste management funds can be used — including administrative and enforcement purposes.

 **Stage:**

- Sent to Governor

 **CURRENT COMMITTEE BATTLEFIELD (REALISTIC VIEW)**

 **MOST LIKELY TO MOVE FAST**

1. **HB 1501 — New environmental reporting authority**
2. **HB 1383 — Emission regulation**
3. **HB 1237 — Producer responsibility**

These are **fresh 2026 filings**, meaning they are prime candidates for hearings.

 **MOST CONTROVERSIAL**

1. **HB 561 / HB 562 — Mining**
2. **HB 611 — Water regulation**

These tend to generate strong public reaction.



Weekly Watch report

03/23/26

🕒 MOST LIKELY TO GET AMENDED

1. **HB 1237**
2. **HB 1072**
3. **HB 1501**

Late-session amendments are common in these types of bills.