



Watch report

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HB 133 Student Character Development Act; enact

4/4/2025 House withdrawn, recommitted

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated

Allows school districts to permit students with parental consent attend a 'Released time course' that entails religious moral instruction during the school day. The person or organization will maintain attendance records and make those available to the school district. Transportation is provided by parent or with consent from the parent. No school funds are to be used and they can't be held on school property unless there is an equal access use policy to other groups. The student will be held responsible for missed work. Background check is to be done on the individuals providing program. While in the programs students are not to be counted absent. As far as academic credit it will only be provided based on secular criteria and qualifications of the instructor.

HB 198 Education; use of school facilities by certain youth groups; provide

2/27/2025 House withdrawn, recommitted

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 (20-2-12) of the Official Code of Georgia

This bill defines the term 'patriotic society' in Title 36 to include Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Instructs schools to allow and not prohibit the use of school facilities for use by patriotic society groups. If denied the Principal is to include in writing a reason for the denial.

HB 200 State Board of Education; establish a three-year pilot immersive writing program for eligible public elementary schools



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1/12/2026 Senate Recommitted

This bill amends some language for playground requirements providing all schools built after 2027 shall meet these requirements. Provides for areas of "ability appropriate" areas, minimum sizes, access, fencing, and 20 percent minimum is shaded. Also requiring specific types of equipment is included. Wheel chair and other provisions for other exceptionalities will be provided for. 20-2-335 providing for a pilot immersive writing program grades 2 to 5. This will provide funding to integrate into existing curricula areas. Funding shall be up to 2 million dollars each year for each school for up to 3 years. The State board of Education shall establish the requirements and criteria to select participating schools. The State will monitor and evaluate the cooperation.

HB 221 Education; equal athletic opportunities for public school students; provide

2/5/2025 House second readers

Part 14 of article 6 of chapter 2

This states that school systems provide equal opportunities of sports and levels of competition, providing comparable faculties, equipment and funds. All provision should be equal or they shall be noncompliant. If there is no such interest by the other sex, determined by a student survey then they are not required to provide the other opportunity. Schools have to designate one person to coordinate these efforts. Schools will have a method of complaint to file and then the school will need to address and prepare corrective measures. Gives students methods to report and receive compensation if found.

HB 267 Riley Gaines Act

2/28/2025 Senate read and referred

Amended part 3 of Article 15 of Chapter 20

This act provides for separate changing and restroom for males and females in schools. Outlines areas and arrangements will be specific to "sex". This bill changes the wording from "Gender" to "sex" and defines sex and disallows students for "self-stipulation" the determination is made by medical / school records. Explains that opposite sex members may assist small children in those areas and that family



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members may attend to opposite sex members as needed. Stipulates sleeping on overnight trips shall be by biological sex only. This also provides that a reasonable accommodation be made for ones that are unwilling or unable to use a multiple occupancy area. Female and male are defined specifically.

This provides for teams for males, females, or coed.

20-1-54 provides that institutions do not permit any male to compete or take a roster spot on any team designated for women. Information relies on birth certificate at the time of birth. This prohibits any visual inspection to confirm a student's biological sex. Allows for anyone deprived opportunity a means of to apply for damages, and forbids unequal discrimination but this allows to distinguish between the sexes.

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

HB 1063 Electric utilities; protect residential and retail electricity customers from costs associated with data center construction and operation. **House First Readers**

HB 998 Public utilities; authorize certain Tier 2 local exchange companies to elect to become subject to rate of return regulation **House Committee Favorably Reported** **Changes rates Changes from 20 years to six.**

HB 641 Public utilities; require electric supplier to hold the proposed discontinuation of electrical service to a residential customer who suffers from a serious illness in abeyance for a certain period of time. **House Second Readers** **Open to abuse**

HB 578 Public utilities; \$1.50 increase in monthly 9-1-1 charge assessed by local governments; provide **House Second Readers** **Doubles 911 access cost on phone bills**

HB 507, 402, 389, 249 Solar energy bills. Allows solar panels placement.

Regulated Industries

HB 251 Nurses; certified registered nurse anesthetist to order and administer anesthesia and an anesthesia plan under certain conditions; provide **House Second Readers**
Doctors shall not be liable for an act or omission of a certified registered nurse Anesthetist.

Technology and Infrastructure Innovation



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HB 1059 Data Center Impact Assessment and Development Moratorium Act of 2026 **House First**

Readers Data Center Impact Assessment Commission. The commission shall be composed of 14 members. Conduct a comprehensive three-year study of the cumulative impacts of data center development in the state of Georgia. [Government determining winners and losers.](#)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Regulated Industries and Utilities

SB 203 "Georgia Homegrown Solar Act of 2025" **Senate Read and Referred**

On or before January 1, 2027, the commission shall establish a program that affords customers the opportunity to participate in community solar projects and which shall reasonably allow for the creation, financing, and accessibility of community solar facilities [More solar farms in your community.](#)

HB 154 - Senate recommitted 1/12/26. include ambulance services as essential service under Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Allows coverage.

HB 522 - House committee favorably reported, 1/29/26. Prohibits discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to their vaccine status.

HB 291 - Recommited 1/26/26. Provides for Certification of Community Healthcare Workers, provides for training programs.

HB 951 - House second readers 1/15/26. Requires insurance coverage for medically necessary orthotic and prosthetic devices and their materials and components. Need for more than one device authorized every three years. Need for more than one type device defined by type of activity by recipient.

SB 30 - Went to House. House withdrawn, recommitted 4/4/25. Prohibits hospitals and related institutions from prescribing or administering hormone therapies and puberty blocking medications for certain purposes to minors. We need to see this bill back!

SB 195 - House Health Committee favorably reported 1/29/26. Authorizes pharmacies, pharmacists to dispense pre exposure prophylaxis and post exposure prophylaxis under certain conditions, concerning HIV.. Bill aims to improve access to HIV preventative medications and to fill gaps in medical care services.



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House Rural Development Committee

HB51 The purpose of this Bill is to amend Chapter 23 of Title 50 of the Official Code so as to add natural gas systems to water, sewage, solid waste, and environmental systems already listed in that Code Chapter.

(This Code Chapter needs more in depth research to see if there is too much government overreach before a determination on this Bill can be made. Recommendation is to Table this Bill.)

HB262 This Bill provides for the Department of Community Health to award grants to rural hospitals for purchasing and installing back-up generators.

(Recommend passage of this Bill.)

House Committee Governmental Affairs

HB 1012-Second reader 1/28/26

Amend Chapter 80 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions of local government, so as to prohibit the construction or development of new data centers for a specified time; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for an exception; to provide for a definition; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Summary of changes-NEW CODE section that the state shall pause new construction of data centers so that the impact of such data centers on the natural resources, environment, and vital areas of this state can be fully understood until March 1, 2027. Defines data center as a facility, campus of facilities, or array of interconnected facilities which houses working servers and that is developed to cool, secure, and connect data associated with applications and services.

HB 1027-First reader 1/28/26

Amend Chapters 1 and 30 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions applicable to counties only and general provisions applicable to municipal corporations only, respectively, so as to authorize certain long-term contracts for the sale of electric power; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **Summary of changes**-adds verbiage No contract for "The sale of electric power which is validated by a superior court pursuant to Code Section 46-3-131 as to its reasonableness and enforceability shall be for a term in excess of 20 years"



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SB 170- 1/28/26 passed Senate by vote

3/6/2025 Tabled in Senate; 3/6/2025 Taken from Table in Senate; 03/31/2025 Modified Structured Rule; House passed adopted by substitute 3/31/25

Amend Chapter 12 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commissions and other agencies, so as to create the Georgia Interagency Council for the Homeless; to provide for the purpose, membership, and duties of such council; to provide for reporting of activities; to provide for compensation; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Summary of changes- **Doesn't fit description of the bill** Current bill version seeks to add new code to Title 31 chapter 2 defining affected rural hospitals and rural counties. And establish a grant program to provide funding to affected rural hospitals for the purpose of acquiring, installing, or both acquiring and installing backup generators to ensure continuity of operation during a state of emergency. Dept of Community Health to establish grant criteria and award grants in consultation with DHS and emergency management.

HB 451-recommitted to Senate and now SB 148-

3/6/2025 Tabled in Senate; 3/6/2025 Taken from Table in Senate; 04/04/2025 Passed House by Rules Committee Substitute; 04/04/2025 Modified Structured Rule; **1/28/2026 Senate Agreed to House Substitute**

Amend Article 11 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public school property and facilities, so as to provide for an outdoor learning spaces pilot program; to provide for a pilot program evaluation and report; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Summary of changes- combined versions from HB 451 that adds new code section to authorize local BOEs to add instruction in hunting safety for grades 6 thru 12 (State BOE to adopt standards for hunting safety instruction to be taught by DNR certified hunter safety instructor) **WITH** verbiage from SB 148 that the DOE is authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, to provide for the development and study of outdoor learning spaces on elementary and secondary school property.



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Senate Committee Education and Youth

SB 425 Read and referred 1/28/26

Amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to require all schools that receive state funding with students in any of grades three through five to provide instruction in cursive handwriting to all students by no later than third grade; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Summary of changes-Add new code section verbiage All schools with students in any of grades three through five which receive in any manner funds from the state shall provide instruction in cursive handwriting to students by no later than third grade.

SB 412 2nd reader 1/29/26

Amend Part 4 of Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to sick, personal, and maternity leave for teachers and other school personnel, so as to increase from three to five the number of accumulated sick leave days teachers and other school personnel may take each school year for personal or professional reasons; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **Summary of changes** to Code section 20-2-851-amend max number of accumulated sick, personal and maternity leave days for educators from three to five per school year.

SB 426 Senate read and referred 1/28/26

Amend Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to education, so as to require high school students seeking a high school diploma and individuals seeking a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma to achieve a minimum score of 70 percent on the United States Citizenship Civics Test for the purpose of being eligible to receive a high school diploma or a state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diploma; to provide for multiple attempts; to provide for certification of scores; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. **Summary of changes**-Add new code section 20-1-13 to require students in any of grades nine through 12, as a condition of earning a high school diploma on or after 7-1-27, to achieve a minimum score of 70 percent on the citizenship test. Citizenship test defined as United States Citizenship Civics Test produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Students may take the citizenship test as many times as needed to pass. Compels all local BOEs to establish a process to certify that a student has achieved the minimum required score on the citizenship test in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code section.



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[HB 435](#)

Crimes & offenses: sexual exploitation of children; expand limitations to include DFACS 16-12-100; House Recommitted. **Include DFACS** - Civil forfeiture, penalty

[HB 943](#)

in foster care

Social services; **establish a pilot program** for autism spectrum disorder to children

49-5-29. House 2nd Readers; Includes DFACS - Implement 5 yr pilot program; training re developmental concerns; on or before 7/1/2031 report on implementation & effectiveness of program to Gov, Spkr House, etc.

[SB 9](#) ✨

Ensuring **Accountability for Illegal AI Activities Act**; enact new code section

16-12-3; 16-12-80; 17-10-1

AI GENERATED media includes campaign ads. 21-2-605(a)(1-3) fraudulent election interference; deceptive media (video, audio); share publicly within 90 days of election; solicitation of materials. 1st offense = misdemeanor; 2+ = felony 2-5 yrs fine up to \$50,000.

State Election Board to release findings to public.

[SB 87](#) 🤖

Levy & Sale of Property; execution of full value of debtor's primary residence from levy & sale 44-1 CONFUSING .. states full value; however appears to contradict full value puts limits of up to \$21,500 or with spouse \$43,000 ... Will research further.

[SB 215](#) ✨

State Bar of GA; responsibilities of administrative arm of Supreme Court relative to practice of law In GA Amend 15-19-2 GA Supreme Court takes over attys rules & regs for practice of law; applicants, admittance, enforcement ethical rules, mandate CLE, pursue unauthorized practice of law – no longer under State Bar of GA. disbarment may be heard by jury in attys county of residence.

My opinion: will bog down GA Supreme Court and take longer for prosecution and/or results.



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[HB 107](#) Professions and businesses; issuance of digitally verifiable licenses for military spouses and transitioning military service members; provide

certain

[HB 108](#) Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment Act or SAVE Act; enact

[HB 110](#) Pawnbrokers; certain protections for current military members and related persons; to prevent pawnbrokers from making motor vehicle title loans to members of the military in violation of the Military Lending Act. This bill passed the House committee but awaits passage by the full House and Senate.

[HB 985](#) Veterans affairs; revise terms of eligibility for persons to be buried in Georgia veteran cemeteries

[SB 236](#)"Quality Basic Education Act,"; certain students whose parents or guardians are on active duty are eligible for enrollment in the public school of the attendance zone in which they intend to reside; provide

[HB 291](#) to establish a state-recognized certification pathway for Community Health Workers, helping to strengthen the workforce and expand access to care across Georgia. The bill passed the House last session and must now move through the Senate to advance.

[HB 300](#) to require title pawn operators to treat motor vehicles like any pawned item and take possession of the vehicle, not just the certificate of title, to create a level playing field for lending products such as loans, pawns and title pawns. The bill awaits a hearing in the House committee.

[SB 34](#) to prevent electric companies from passing the costs of commercial data centers onto residential and other customers. The bill passed the Senate committee . , the House now has a bill intended to shield residential and retail electricity customers from costs associated with data center construction and operations.

[HB 500](#) to increase the income eligibility limit for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to help more Georgia families break out of the cycle of poverty. This bill passed the House committee but awaits passage by the full House and Senate.



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[SB 421](#) This would require local governments to disclose their data centers' water and electricity usage.

[HB 1063](#) requires utilities to structure contracts and cost recovery so that data centers bear incremental infrastructure expenses.

[HB 1012](#) outright bans the construction of new data centers until March of 2027.

[HB 1078](#) require periodic review and automatic sunset of state agency rules, forcing agencies to justify why each regulation remains necessary

[HB 903](#) Administrative Procedure Act procedural safeguards more broadly across the executive branch, increasing transparency and limiting agency discretion in rulemaking.

[HB 1062](#) require the Georgia Department of Education to publish applicable federal guidance and related documents, making them readily available to the public and to the General Assembly. It also would mandate annual reporting from the State School Superintendent to legislative committees

[HB 1116](#) would exempt homesteads from local property taxes by allowing local governments and school systems to levy additional sales taxes

Higher Education

House bill 56

Georgia Public Safety Memorial grant - children and spouses of killed or disabled law enforcement individuals. Recent funds. 3.8 million dollars in reserve. Volunteering positions needs amending, especially for off duty. Volunteers are now covered.

House bill 172

Need more large animal vets. More forgiveness of loans for training for large animal vets. Need (want) to serve in rural communities. Accountability that they are practicing on large animals.

Amended – with substitute – loan amount increases to \$90,000, with loan time period increased to four, which allows them to set up a practice.[House bill 217](#)

Work with technical colleges to get High school diplomas for drop out and kicked out students at 16 years old. One million dollars per pilot sight. Eligible for the Hope grant. Total of 2,320 students using program. Located all over Georgia. Increase program into southern Georgia.



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[House bill 150](#)

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Requires transparencies for foreign countries of concern of any funding to the Georgia school system. The higher education system to track and report the type of funding, it's source and it's amount and purpose. Does not prohibit the funds, just transparency of all foreign adversaries. Biggest funder is China. Stealing of intellectual property is of concern. Undermining our democracy is of concern. Promoting national security.

Dr. Joseph Sutherland

AI: Will it affect my life. Will it replace my job. Is my privacy at stake. Is AI sentient. How will it affect education. What is being done to regulate it.

Integration is paramount. Need AI Strategy. Add to the work environment not take away the job. Opportunity for education.

Dual enrollment program:

Twenty percent increase in students, with eighty four percent increase in expenditures. 80% are core courses.

86% of student pursue 2nd year of college. 60% GPA is 3.0 at graduation.

Student becomes enrolled through extensive process: 1) participation, 2) completion of application, 3) Acceptance, 4) Satisfactory progress. Extensive application process. High school responsibility. On-line progress of application process. Out of state students can participate -military, underserved areas, teachers who live on the border.

[House bill 88](#)

Biomedical research technicians in rural area, cap the recipients. Enrolled for 5 years. \$150,000 tagged for, approved for rural counties, be a resident of GA.

[House bill 419](#)

Allow opioid antagonists to be on college campuses.



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[House bill 716](#)

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Georgia Student Finance Authority: establish a needs-based grant program to combat food insecurity among postsecondary students. Higher than average food insecurity situation (29%). Students awarded funds as part of financial aid package. Is year round. Covers the highest meal plan. Funds should be allowed for food purchases outside the school.

[House bill 206](#)

To remove provisions making students convicted of certain drug offenses ineligible for loans, scholarships, and grants; to provide that students shall not be deemed ineligible for HOPE scholarships or grants based solely on certain convictions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Is a restriction. Substitute bill to provide financial aid to students who have not received it on the first day of school in Georgia. Funding after attending ten days. Gap funding.

[House bill 602](#)

So as to provide for the denial of state funds for loans, grants, and scholarships for any student who is convicted of a criminal offense or who is determined by the postsecondary educational institution at which such student is enrolled to have violated a postsecondary educational institution's code of conduct for students when such conviction or determination is a result of a student engaging in materially and substantially disruptive conduct on such postsecondary educational institution's campus; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Definition of Disruptive Conduct: It defines "materially and substantially disruptive conduct" as actions that significantly hinder others, such as violence, property damage, or blocking access to facilities.

Jewish students are being harassed when attending school. Disrupting classes about Israel from being taught.

Bill is said to be an overreach, what is stated in the bill is not happening. Vague language is couched.

Difference between private compared to public schools as facing the same constitutional constraints. The former as to moral constraints and the later as to legal constraints.

Restriction on free speech. Some stated that they protested in support of Black Lives Matters. Can't do that if billed is passed.

The stated reason against the bill is that "protest is disruptive." Although disruptive behavior when targeting another can be dangerous. When disruption is present between a protester and an innocent bystander going about their business. **Bill has not been signed into law as of yet.**



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