



2025 Final Legislative Update

The legislature adjourned *Sine Die* on Friday, April 4, several hours before the typical midnight deadline. While the lieutenant governor and speaker traditionally adjourn their respective chambers at the same time— usually around midnight—on the final legislative day of the session, the Senate adjourned around 9:15 PM, and the House wrapped up around 10:30 PM. The House and Senate approved the \$38 billion Fiscal Year 2026 budget in the morning hours of Legislative Day 40, completing the legislature’s only constitutionally required action item for the session.

Governor Kemp successfully got many of his legislative agenda items across the finish line, including his top priority, tort reform. In his State of the State address during the first week of the session, the governor warned the legislature he would call a special session if they did not pass meaningful, comprehensive tort reform by the end of the 2025 Legislative Session. The two bills that made up the governor’s tort reform package, [Senate Bill 68](#) and [Senate Bill 69](#), were passed by both chambers this year and are currently sitting on Governor Kemp’s desk for his signature.

Speaker Jon Burns and Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones were also both successful in passing many of their legislative priorities this session, including addressing:

- School Safety ([House Bill 268](#))
- Transgender Athletes ([Senate Bill 1](#))
- The Right to IVF ([House Bill 428](#))
- Fentanyl Traffickers ([Senate Bill 79](#))

By the time the legislature adjourned on Friday night, House and Senate members had sent hundreds of bills to Governor Kemp’s desk for consideration. Governor Kemp and his policy team are now undertaking the arduous task of carefully reviewing each bill to determine which bills the governor will sign and which bills he will veto. If the governor takes no action on a bill, the bill becomes law. This year’s bill review period deadline is May 14. Governor Kemp has already signed several pieces of legislation, including:

- The Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget ([House Bill 67](#))
- The ‘Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act,’ or ‘RFRA’ ([Senate Bill 36](#))
- A measure to extend the date by which local governments can opt out of the base year homestead exemption ([House Bill 92](#)).

All legislation from the 2025 session signed by Governor Kemp can be found [here](#).



Governor Kemp vetoed 12 bills after the 2024 session, 14 bills in 2023, three bills in 2022, one bill in 2021, 4 in 2020, and 14 bills after the 2019 session. The governor also has the ability to line-item veto the budget passed by the legislature.

Budget

In the first few hours of Legislative Day 40, the legislature completed its only constitutionally required action item for the session by passing a balanced budget. The House voted 170 to 5 to pass the conference committee report for [House Bill 68](#), and the Senate approved the compromise version of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget 54 to 1. That morning, Governor Kemp announced an additional \$50 million for the revenue estimate, which House Appropriations Chairman Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) were able to include in their budget calculations. Highlights from the FY 2026 budget include:

- \$141 million to fully fund the Promise Scholarship, which would allow 21,000 students to participate
- \$22.7 million for recommendations by the Georgia Council on Literacy, including \$10 million in newly appropriated funds
- \$108.9 million for school security grants at \$47,124 per school, allowing school systems to allocate the grants as they deem necessary
- \$6.9 million to provide reimbursable grants to school systems for “qualified student advocacy specialists” to identify and facilitate appropriate intervention for students at risk for mental health concerns
- Fully funds the Quality Basic Education (QBE) program, totaling \$14.7 billion in state funds. The QBE funding formula has been fully funded seven out of the last eight years.
- Funding for a new program under the Department of Education called Student Support Services, which provides academic and mental health support for students in and outside school, including \$19.6 million for mental health support grants to school systems and \$15.3 million to systems for targeted support to economically disadvantaged students
- An additional one-time appropriation of \$10 million for the Employees’ Retirement System, for a total appropriation of \$36.75 million
- Funding for an additional 150 NOW/COMP waiver slots
- \$7.4 million in new funding for graduate medical education, including \$3 million for 150 new residency slots and \$4 million to establish a grant program to support new and existing residency programs
- A \$200 million increase over the Department of Corrections budget last year, including \$45 million to add more than 700 correctional officers and \$31.1 million to the department for physical, mental, dental, and pharmaceutical services for inmates



- \$300.4 million to provide for enrollment growth and training for an additional 1,291 students and 3,413 teachers

The full Fiscal Year 2026 budget that has been sent to Governor Kemp can be found [here](#).

Tort Reform

Governor Kemp was very clear that his number one legislative priority for this session was the successful passage of comprehensive tort reform. Last session the legislature passed [House Bill 1114](#), the 'Data Analysis for Tort Reform Act,' to allow the Insurance Commissioner to collect data to determine the impact of tort lawsuits and tort related risk on insurance premiums. Governor Kemp also spent time between the 2024 and 2025 sessions on a statewide roundtable listening tour to hear from business leaders about the impact of Georgia's legal environment.

Flanked by dozens of small business leaders from across the state, legislators, and other state leaders, Governor Kemp announced details of his tort reform package in a press conference at the end of January. He said the legislation, which would be carried by President Pro Tempore John Kennedy (R-Macon), would level the playing field in Georgia's courtrooms, ban hostile foreign powers from taking advantage of consumers and legal proceedings, stabilize insurance costs for businesses and consumers, and increase transparency and fairness.

The two measures were the subject of countless hours of debate and testimony in the Senate Judiciary Committee and the newly created House Rules Subcommittee on Lawsuit Reform.

[Senate Bill 68](#) addresses several areas of tort law including premises liability, phantom damages, anchoring, bifurcated trials, admissible seatbelt evidence, double recovery of attorney's fees, plaintiff dismissal during trial, and motion to dismiss timing.

Although Governor Kemp warned legislators against amendments that would water down the bill's intent, interested parties agreed to several minor changes to the bill as a compromise.

Several of the compromises included allowing the court to determine whether someone was wearing his or her seatbelt in a car accident is relevant to a case; clarifying an exception for sex trafficking victims under the premises liability section; ensuring bifurcated trials are held back to back and with the same judge; and creating an exception for trial bifurcation if the case involves a minor suing for a sexual offense, or if the amount in controversy is less than \$150,000.

The House passed the measure by a razor-thin margin of 91 to 82. The vote was mostly along party lines, but three Democrats voted for the measure, eight Republicans voted against it, and several members were excused for the vote. The Senate then voted 34 to 21 on the 'agree' motion to accept the changes made by the House, sending it to Governor Kemp's desk.



[Senate Bill 69](#), the 'Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act,' cleared its final legislative hurdle during the last week of the session when the House voted 120 to 42 to approve a change made to the bill on the Senate floor. The measure focuses on third-party litigation funding, a contingency arrangement between a non-party financier and a party, or potential party, to a lawsuit in exchange for a property interest in the judgment of the case. It would require these third-party financiers to register with the Department of Banking and Finance and clearly lays out what they can and cannot do. The legislation also sets penalties if financiers violate the provisions of the bill.

The floor amendment by Senator Bo Hatchett (R-Cornelia) adjusts the effective date of the seatbelt admissibility provisions and the third-party litigation funding discovery provisions of Senate Bill 69 to ensure the bill would not impact pending litigation.

Both bills are now sitting on Governor Kemp's desk, awaiting his signature.

Social Issues

[Senate Bill 36](#), the 'Religious Freedom Restoration Act,' or 'RFRA,' was one of the handful of social-related measures that made it to Governor Kemp's desk this session. The measure by Senator Ed Setzler (R-Acworth) would restrict state and local governments from burdening a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability. The bill includes language from the federal RFRA law that does not currently apply at the state or local levels. The measure was passed 96 to 70 by the House during the final week of the session. The legislation went into effect on April 4 when Governor Kemp signed it into law.

Another bill to make it to Governor Kemp's desk was [Senate Bill 185](#) by Senator Randy Robertson (R-Cataula), which would prohibit the use of state funds for sex reassignment surgeries, hormone replacement therapies, and other treatments related to gender transition for state inmates. After a lengthy debate on the House floor, the measure passed 100 to 2, with most Democrats opting to walk off of the floor during the vote. Three Democrats voted with Republicans for the measure, and two Democrats remained on the floor to vote against it.

Protecting girls' sports was a legislative priority for both Speaker Jon Burns and Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones this session. Both chambers were pushing legislation to address transgender athletes. Ultimately, provisions from both bills ([House Bill 267](#)) by Representative Josh Bonner (R-Fayetteville) and [Senate Bill 1](#) by Senator Greg Dolezal (R-Cumming)) ended up passing in Senate Bill 1. The measure seeks to regulate participation in school and college sports based on biological sex and would prohibit self-identification of sex for sports participation. The bill would mandate that sports teams are designated as male, female, or co-ed, and would prohibit males from participating on female teams and females from participating on male teams unless female teams are not offered. It would also require multiple-occupancy restrooms,



changing areas, and sleeping quarters to be designated for only males or females. The legislation establishes a private cause of action, which would allow students to sue school systems if the provisions of the proposed legislation are violated. The measure is now sitting on Governor Kemp's desk.

Senator Blake Tillery's (R-Vidalia) [Senate Bill 39](#) was among the bills that did not make it to Governor Kemp's desk. The proposed legislation would prohibit the coverage of expenses associated with gender-affirming care under the State Health Benefit Plan, or with the use of any state funds. The measure was passed out of the House Health Committee but was not called up for a floor vote in the final days of the session.

Another measure that did not make it all the way through the legislative process was [Senate Bill 30](#) by Senator Ben Watson (R-Savannah). The version of the bill passed by the Senate would prohibit the prescription and administration of puberty-blocking medications for minors related to gender dysphoria. The substitute version passed by the House Public and Community Health Committee would allow the prescription and administration of puberty blockers for minors if the minor is diagnosed with gender dysphoria by two behavioral health professionals, the minor's parents or guardians provide written consent, and the minor undergoes quarterly psychological counseling throughout the treatment. The bill would have allowed minors being treated with puberty blockers before July 1, 2025 to continue treatment without the requirements included in the bill. The measure would also allow a parent or guardian to bring civil action against a physician if the provisions of the bill are violated. After passing out of committee, the measure was never placed on a Rules calendar to receive a vote on the House floor.

Debate on [House Bill 127](#) kept the Senate on the floor until after midnight on Legislative Day 39, though the measure did not make it all the way across the finish line this session. In the final weeks of the session Representative Brent Cox's (R-Dawsonville) [House Bill 127](#) was stripped and replaced with language from Senator Marty Harbin's (R-Tyrone) [Senate Bill 120](#), which would prohibit public schools, local education agencies, public colleges and universities, and the Technical College System of Georgia from promoting, supporting, or maintaining any programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. The substitute version of the measure ended up passing the Senate 33 to 21, but it was not called back up by the House for an 'agree' motion.

Tax Relief

[House Bill 111](#), which was a legislative priority for Governor Kemp this session, would accelerate the reduction in the state income tax from 5.39 percent to 5.19 percent for 2025. As part of previously passed legislation, the state income tax rate will decrease 0.1 percent each year until



it reaches 4.99 percent. The bill, which was carried by Governor's Floor Leader Soo Hong (R-Lawrenceville), was approved by both the House and Senate this session and has been sent to Governor Kemp.

[House Bill 112](#), which was also a priority for Governor Kemp this session, would provide for a one-time tax credit for all Georgia taxpayers who filed returns in 2023 and 2024. Single taxpayers would receive \$250, married taxpayers filing jointly would receive \$500, and taxpayers filing as heads of household would receive a \$375 tax rebate. The bill, which was carried by Governor's Floor Leader Lauren McDonald (R-Cumming), received unanimous legislative approval and has been sent to the governor's desk.

School Safety and Education

Addressing school safety was a top legislative priority for both chambers this session following the tragic loss of four Georgians during a school shooting at Apalachee High School last September. During the final week of session, the legislature approved the House's comprehensive school safety measure, [House Bill 268](#). The legislation, sponsored by Representative Holt Persinger (R-Winder) would:

- Require all relevant student records, including education and disciplinary records, to be shared with the receiving school in a given time frame when a student transfers between school districts
- Allow the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to establish a statewide alert system to report and monitor incidents of safety threats made against schools
- Require schools to adopt threat assessment plans to provide a structured, multidisciplinary process to identify, assess and mitigate potential threats to schools while supporting the safety and well-being of students and school personnel
- Require all public schools to implement a mobile panic alert system
- Create "qualified student advocacy specialist" positions and grants to fund these positions for local school systems
- Require that students in grades 6-12 receive an hour of suicide awareness and prevention training, as well as one hour of youth violence prevention training annually
- Require all high-needs schools to implement positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS)
- Increase penalties for terroristic acts and require schools to suspend and provide counseling to students who make credible threats

Provisions of [Senate Bill 17](#), 'Ricky and Alyssa's Law,' were also added to House Bill 268. The Senate measure, by Senator Jason Anavitarte (R-Dallas), would require mobile panic alert



systems in all Georgia public schools and would require accurate mapping of school facilities that can be shared with law enforcement for improved emergency response.

House Bill 268 has been sent to Governor Kemp and his team for consideration.

[Senate Bill 123](#) by President Pro Tempore John Kennedy (R-Macon), which seeks to address chronic absenteeism in schools, also made it to Governor Kemp's desk. This measure ensures students cannot be expelled solely for missing school and mandates a more localized and individualized approach to reviewing chronic absenteeism cases, requiring local boards of education to adopt policies that identify and support students who are chronically absent. It would require School Climate Committees to develop a comprehensive framework to improve student attendance and create local attendance review teams to assess individual student attendance cases. The School Climate Committees would be required to report their progress to the Georgia General Assembly.

[House Bill 340](#), the 'Distraction-Free Education Act,' has also been sent to Governor Kemp's desk. The measure by Representative Scott Hilton (R-Peachtree Corners) would prohibit students from kindergarten through eighth grade from accessing personal electronic devices during the school day. Local school systems would be required to develop and implement policies to address electronic device storage, emergency communication protocols, and consequences for violations.

[Senate Bill 93](#) by Senator RaShaun Kemp (D-Atlanta) cleared its final legislative hurdle during the last week of the session. The bipartisan measure, which aims to improve student literacy, would task the Professional Standards Commission with establishing rules requiring evidence-based reading instruction aligned with the science of reading. The rules adopted by the Professional Standards Commission would provide teachers with better strategies to assist English language learners and students with disabilities. They would also help teachers identify students with reading deficiencies early in their education and give them new approaches to differentiate instruction based on student needs. The measure has been sent to Governor Kemp's desk for his consideration.

Gun-Related Legislation

The original version of [House Bill 79](#), the 'Firearm Safe Handling and Secure Storage Tax Credit Act' by Representative Mark Newton (R-Augusta) would allow a taxpayer to claim a tax credit of up to \$300 for eligible expenses related to firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices. The version of the bill that came out of the Senate Finance Committee removed the tax credit for firearm safe storage devices, but retained the proposed tax credit for safe handling instructional courses. The substitute also included language from [Senate Bill 47](#), by Senator Jason Anavitarte (R-Dallas), which would allow a 4-day tax exemption



on the sale of firearms, gun safes, ammo, and other accessories. Senator Anavitarte's original bill proposed an 11-day tax exemption period.

The measure was slated for a vote on the Senate floor in the final days of the session, but it was tabled and never brought back up for consideration.

Immigration

This session Senator Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) introduced [Senate Bill 21](#), which would waive sovereign and governmental immunity for local governments, officials, and employees if they violate the state's prohibition on sanctuary cities. It would also require a custodial authority, which includes sheriffs, wardens, chiefs of police, and others, to honor immigration detainer requests issued by the Department of Homeland Security. The measure was voted out of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, but did not receive a vote on the House floor.

During the final week of the session Representative Jesse Petrea (R-Savannah) announced the creation of the Pro-Enforcement Immigration Caucus, a new group dedicated to advancing immigration enforcement efforts, supporting law enforcement agencies, and promoting the rule of law across the state. Other members of the new caucus include Representatives Houston Gaines (R-Athens); Ron Stephens (R-Savannah); Steven Sainz (R-St. Marys); Gary Richardson (R-Evans), Kimberly New (R-Villa Rica), Bethany Ballard (R-Warner Robins), Rey Martinez (R-Loganville), Rob Clifton (R-Evans), and Mike Cameron (R-Rossville), and Senator Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville). The caucus plans to continue to pursue legislative solutions that would improve information sharing, empower law enforcement, and close policy gaps that would allow unlawful activity to go unchecked.

"Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act"

[Senate Bill 79](#), the 'Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act,' was approved by the legislature and has been sent to the governor's desk. The measure by Senator Russ Goodman (R-Cogdell), which was a legislative priority for Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, would establish stiffer criminal penalties for fentanyl-related offenses. The measure would remove fentanyl from Georgia's current statutes relating to possessing, selling, distributing, manufacturing, and trafficking opiates and create a separate schedule of offenses specific to fentanyl and its related substances. The bill would impose harsher penalties for those found guilty of trafficking fentanyl, including higher mandatory minimum prison sentences and larger fines compared to trafficking other illegal drugs.



Gambling

Several measures that sought to legalize gambling in Georgia did not make it out of at least one chamber by the Crossover Day deadline and were not revived later in the session.

Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-Watkinsville) introduced two pieces of legislation that would authorize and regulate sports betting in Georgia. [House Resolution 450](#) proposed an amendment to Georgia's constitution to authorize sports betting in the state. The proposed constitutional amendment would require approval by a majority of Georgia voters. The measure was approved by the House Higher Education Committee earlier this session, but it was never taken up on the House floor.

[House Bill 686](#), the 'Georgia Sports Betting Act,' would set the powers, duties, and rulemaking authority of the Georgia Lottery Corporation for sports betting in Georgia. The bill, also by Representative Wiedower, would impose a 24 percent privilege tax on the adjusted gross income from sports betting and would create the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund for tax revenue. The legislation was also approved by the House Higher Education Committee this session, but it was not called up for a vote on the House floor.

A measure by Senator Carden Summers (R-Cordele) that proposed amending Georgia's constitution to legalize sports betting and casino gaming, [Senate Resolution 131](#), failed in the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee earlier this session.

Childcare Tax Credit

Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones's childcare tax credit legislation received final approval from the legislature on the last day of the session when the Senate agreed to the final version of [House Bill 136](#). The provisions of the bill were formerly in [Senate Bill 89](#), sponsored by Senator Brian Strickland (R-McDonough), who chaired the Senate Study Committee on Access to Affordable Childcare over the interim.

The measure would expand the current tax credit for child and dependent care expenses from a 30 percent match of the federal credit to a 50 percent match. It would also create a new Georgia Child Tax Credit, which would allow taxpayers to claim an income tax credit of \$250 for each child under six years old. It would create a new incentive for employers to cover childcare expenses by allowing an employer to claim a \$1,000 credit in the first year and \$500 in subsequent years for any employee for which the employer covers at least \$1,000 in childcare costs. The bill would also preserve the existing tax credit program for employer-sponsored childcare centers.

The measure has been sent to Governor Kemp's desk for his consideration.



Speed Cameras

Two bills that garnered a great deal of attention under the Gold Dome this session dealing with school zone speed cameras ultimately did not pass.

[House Bill 225](#) by Representative Dale Washburn (R-Macon) would restrict local governing bodies or law enforcement agencies from entering into or renewing a contract in conjunction with an automated traffic enforcement safety device after July 1, 2027. The bill would phase out the use of school zone speed cameras entirely by July 1, 2028.

While Representative Washburn's bill sought to ban these cameras entirely, [House Bill 651](#) by Representative Alan Powell (R-Hartwell) would have put more restrictions in place when it comes to the operation of school zone speed cameras. House Bill 651 would set standards for warning signs in school zones where speed cameras are used; mandate that funds collected from violations be used for public safety; and require schools to obtain a permit from the Georgia Department of Transportation before a camera could be installed.

The subject matter was the topic of lengthy Public Safety subcommittee hearings, though both measures ended up passing out of the Senate's Standing Rules Committee. The Senate approved Representative Washburn's House Bill 225 by a vote of 46 to 9 on the final day of the session, but it was not brought back up by the House for a final 'agree' motion. The Senate also approved Representative Powell's House Bill 651 by a vote of 51 to 3. The House then voted 140 to 29 to approve the measure with an additional change made by the House. This required a final 'agree' motion by the Senate, but it was not called back up before the Senate adjourned.

Government Efficiency and Transparency

[Senate Bill 28](#), the 'Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025,' by Senator Greg Dolezal (R-Cumming) did not receive the final required vote in the House on Legislative Day 40 before the House adjourned. The measure, which was a priority for Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, had been likened to Georgia's version of DOGE.

The proposed legislation would require all state agencies to complete a top-to-bottom review of all agency rules and regulations every four years. Agencies would be required to account for the economic impact of all proposed rules and provide economic reports to the General Assembly when major rules are proposed that would cost individuals, businesses, and/or local governments more than \$3 million over five years. State agencies would also be directed to reduce compliance and paperwork burdens on small businesses when feasible. Under the proposed legislation, the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislators would also have the ability to request a "Small Business Impact Analysis" for pending legislation. The measure was



approved by the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee, but it never received a vote on the House floor.

[Senate Bill 46](#), the 'Government Serves the People Act,' received legislative approval in the final days of the session when the House voted 128 to 35 to send the measure to Governor Kemp for consideration. The measure seeks to improve government service delivery in Georgia.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Marty Harbin (R-Tyrone), would direct the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) director to appoint a State of Georgia Government Service Delivery Lead within the GTA to improve state government service delivery. That individual would collect and report data, evaluate the quality of service delivery, and advise agency heads on improvements. The measure would also require state agency heads to appoint a lead agency service delivery official to improve service delivery in their agency. Beginning in 2026, the GTA director would be required to submit an annual report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House on current and future efforts to improve service delivery.

Protections for IVF

In his Eggs and Issues breakfast remarks during the first week of the session, Speaker Jon Burns announced that guaranteeing access to in vitro fertilization would be one of his top legislative priorities this session. [House Bill 428](#), sponsored by Representative Lehman Franklin (R-Statesboro), would codify protections for IVF in Georgia by establishing that any future legislation in the Georgia Code cannot prohibit or prevent a person's ability to obtain IVF. The measure, which passed the House unanimously and the Senate with only one dissenting vote, has been sent to Governor Kemp's desk for consideration.

Data Centers

Several measures opposed by the data center industry did not end up making it through the legislative process this session.

Representative John Carson's (R-Marietta) [House Bill 559](#) would eliminate the sales and use tax exemption for data centers at the end of 2026. The tax exemption is currently set to sunset at the end of 2031. The measure never received a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee, and the language from the bill was not added to another measure this session.

[Senate Bill 34](#) by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) passed out of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee earlier this session, but it never received a vote on the Senate floor. The measure would require costs incurred by electric utilities to serve commercial data centers to be recovered from the data centers themselves. The language from Senate Bill 34 was ultimately not attached to other legislation.



Another data center-related measure introduced this session by Representative Debbie Buckner (R-Junction City) would have required certain "high resource use facilities" to provide disclosures regarding their community impact, energy usage, and water usage before receiving tax breaks or operating permits. "High resource use facility" is defined in the legislation as a facility that has or is expected to have a peak energy load of 30 megawatts or greater. [House Bill 528](#) did not receive a hearing by the Ways and Means Committee this session.

Data Privacy

[Senate Bill 111](#), the 'Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act' by Senator John Albers (R-Roswell) lays out consumers' rights when it comes to their data, including the right to access, correct, delete, and obtain a copy of their data, and to opt out of the sale and the processing of their data for targeted advertising or profiling. Businesses covered under the legislation would be required to limit data collection, implement security measures, and obtain consent for sensitive data. Certain entities and types of data would be excluded from the provisions of the bill, including entities covered by HIPAA or financial regulations. The bill specifies that a violation could not serve as the basis for a private right of action. The measure was approved by the House Technology and Infrastructure Innovation Committee but was then recommitted from the General Calendar to the Judiciary Committee.

Truck Weights

[House Bill 164](#) by Representative Steven Meeks (R-Screven) would remove the sunset from [House Bill 189](#) (2023), which allowed large trucks carrying agricultural and forestry products to weigh up to 88,000 pounds outside of the metro Atlanta nonattainment area. House Bill 164 would explicitly give local law enforcement officers the authority to enforce truck weight limits on county roads and on bridges within county or municipal systems. It would also require local law enforcement officers to be properly trained in commercial motor vehicle weight laws.

Although the truck weights issue was contentious during the 2023 session, the measure to remove the sunset sailed through the legislature this year, passing 164 to 9 in the House and 55 to 1 in the Senate. The legislation has been sent to Governor Kemp for his consideration.

Legislation Not Passed

Notable measures that did not make it across the finish line this session include:

- The 'Red Tape Rollback Act of 2025,' a priority for Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, which was likened to Georgia's version of DOGE ([Senate Bill 28](#))
- A bill that would have severely limited puberty-blocking medications for minors ([Senate Bill 30](#))



- A piece of legislation that would prohibit the coverage of expenses associated with gender-affirming care under the State Health Benefit Plan or with the use of any state funds ([Senate Bill 39](#))
- A measure that would restrict DEI-related initiatives at K-12 public schools and colleges and universities (originally [Senate Bill 120](#), and then later [House Bill 127](#))
- A measure that would have banned school zone speed cameras ([House Bill 225](#))
- Another measure that sought to place restrictions on the operation of school zone speed cameras ([House Bill 651](#))
- A measure that would have expanded Georgia's Promise Scholarship program to foster families ([Senate Bill 152](#)), which was a legislative priority for Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones
- A measure that would have placed a statue of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in the Nathan Deal Judicial Center across from the Capitol ([House Bill 254](#))
- A bill that would have banned cockfighting in Georgia ([Senate Bill 102](#))

Because this is the first year of a two-year term, legislation that did not make it all the way through the legislative process can be considered next session without being reintroduced.

Study Committees

The topics that will be covered by newly created off-session study committees can often provide insight into potential legislation for the next session. Although not every study committee ends up being appointed by the speaker and lieutenant governor, study committees approved by the legislature this session include:

- House:
 - House Study Committee on Reinsurance for Essential Industries ([House Resolution 40](#) by Representative Demetrius Douglas)
 - House Study Committee on Access to Cancer Care ([House Resolution 72](#) by Representative Lee Hawkins)
 - House Study Committee on the Costs and Effects of Smoking ([House Resolution 304](#) by Representative Michelle Au)
 - House Study Committee on Funding for Next Generation 9-1-1 ([House Resolution 429](#) by Representative Chuck Martin)
 - House Study Committee on Georgia's Investment Funds ([House Resolution 557](#) by Representative Dar'shun Kendrick)
 - House Study Committee on the State Board of Registration of Used Motor Vehicle Dealers and Used Motor Vehicle Parts Dealers ([House Resolution 558](#) by Representative John Corbett)



- House Study Committee on Abandoned Child Placement Following Hospital Discharge ([House Resolution 611](#) by Representative Katie Dempsey)
- House Study Committee on Student Attendance in PreK-12 Education ([House Resolution 711](#) by Representative Chris Erwin)
- House Study Committee on Evaluating Funding for Public Health ([House Resolution 847](#) by Representative Darlene Taylor)
- House Study Committee on Improving Access to Internal Medicine in Rural Areas ([House Resolution 753](#) by Representative Sandy Donatucci)
- House Study Committee on Election Procedures ([House Resolution 885](#) by Representative Victor Anderson)
- House Study Committee on Reducing and Prioritizing Mandates for Public School Administration ([House Resolution 887](#) by Representative Shaw Blackmon)
- Senate:
 - Senate Study Committee on Vulnerable Roadway Users ([Senate Resolution 216](#) by Senator Elena Parent)
 - Senate Study Committee on Combating Chronic Absenteeism in Schools ([Senate Resolution 217](#))
 - Senate Study Committee on Combating Unscrupulous Companion Animal Breeding Practices ([Senate Resolution 255](#) by Senator Carden Summers)
 - Senate Study Committee on Height Restrictions Surrounding Georgia Airports ([Senate Resolution 283](#) by Senator Brandon Beach)
 - Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee ([Senate Resolution 301](#) by Senator Gail Davenport)
 - Senate Study Committee on Additional Services and Resources for Transition Age Youth in Foster Care ([Senate Resolution 310](#) by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick)
 - Senate Study Committee on Recovery Residences ([Senate Resolution 311](#) by Senator Randy Robertson)
 - Senate Study Committee on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism ([Senate Resolution 323](#) by Senator Drew Echols)
 - Senate State FairTax Study Committee ([Senate Resolution 386](#) by Senator Colton Moore)
 - Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Currency ([Senate Resolution 391](#) by Senator John Albers)
 - Senate Study Committee on Improving Family Caregiver Services ([Senate Resolution 393](#) by Senator Harold Jones)



- Senate Study Committee on Franchise Fees ([Senate Resolution 424](#) by Senator Chuck Hufstetler)
- Senate Study Committee on Intoxicating Cannabinoids in Consumable Hemp Products ([Senate Resolution 427](#) by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick)
- Senate Addressing Felony Disenfranchisement in Georgia's Constitution Study Committee ([Senate Resolution 429](#) by Senator Max Burns)
- Senate Impact of Social Media and Artificial Intelligence on Children and Platform Privacy Protection Study Committee ([Senate Resolution 431](#) by Senator Sally Harrell)
- Senate Civil Rights Protections Study Committee ([Senate Resolution 444](#) by Senator Sonya Halpern)
- Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Affordability ([Senate Resolution 474](#) by Senator Nan Orrock)
- Senate Study Committee on Local School System Flexibility Options ([Senate Resolution 476](#) by Senator Sonya Halpern)
- Senate Study Committee on Inclusive Educational Settings for Students with Disabilities ([Senate Resolution 489](#) by Senator Clint Dixon)

Higher Office

Several sitting legislators have already announced that they intend to run for higher office. At this point, no member has announced they will be stepping down from their current seat, but legislators face a prohibition on fundraising during the legislative session.

- Senate Appropriations Chairman Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) has filed paperwork to run for lieutenant governor
- Senate Judiciary Chairman Brian Strickland (R-McDonough) has filed paperwork to run for attorney general
- Senator Sonya Halpern (D-Atlanta) has filed paperwork to run for US House District 6, which is currently held by Lucy McBath
- Senator Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur) has announced he will run for US House District 13, which is currently held by David Scott

Although he is not seeking higher office, Senator Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta) has been tapped by President Trump to serve as U.S. Treasury Secretary. His resignation from his Senate seat will trigger a special session to fill his seat for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term.