



## POSITIVE BILLS THAT NEED YOUR SUPPORT TODAY



**HB 582: Survivor Justice Act:** Prevents convictions and lengthy sentences for survivors of domestic violence who face prosecution resulting from trying to survive abuse.

**Talking Points:** Between 74-95% of women who are incarcerated have experienced domestic or sexual violence. Society's understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence has evolved greatly in the past decades, but the law has not fully caught up. HB 582 would update the criminal code and sentencing statutes to allow survivors to have the full context of their situation considered at both trial and sentencing.

**Action:** Contact House Judiciary Non-Civil committee about supporting HB 582.

**Leave behind:** Pick up Survivor Justice one pager



**HB 123: Death Penalty Intellectual Disability:** Makes two important changes to Georgia law regarding the determination of intellectual disability in capital cases. First, it changes the standard of proof from beyond a reasonable doubt to preponderance of the evidence. Second, it separates the determination of guilt from the determination of intellectual disability.

**Talking Points:** Georgia law places people with intellectual disabilities at risk of execution more than any other state. Georgia is the only state in the country that forces people to prove ID beyond a reasonable doubt to avoid execution. Georgia is also the only state that asks the jury to simultaneously decide guilt and ID. Perhaps as a result, there has never been a finding of ID in a trial involving intentional murder. HB 123 would bring Georgia in line with other Southern States by separating the determination of intellectual disability from determination of guilt and changing the standard of proof. It does not abolish the death penalty, nor is it retroactive to people who are already sentenced.

**Action:** Contact House Rules Committee about supporting HB 123.

**Leave behind:** Pick up HB 123 explainer

**HB 460: Confidential Attorney-Client Prison Communications:** Addresses the Georgia Supreme Court's decision in *Burns v. State* deciding that Attorney/Client privilege does not include conversations on jail phone calls.

**Talking Points:** HB 460 simply ensures what everyone expects, that conversations between an attorney and her client are private and confidential even if the client is in jail.

**Action:** Contact House Rules Committee about supporting HB 460.

**HB 176: Appeals bill:** Untangles several issues impacting criminal appeals and will ensure finality when finality is expected in criminal cases.

**Talking Points:** HB 176 restores trust in Georgia's criminal courts after *Cook v. State* (2022) worked a cruel inequity by overruling nearly 50 years of precedent that allowed people to access an appeal even when their filing was late or "out-of-time appeals." HB 176 reinstates a person's ability to request post-conviction review by the court.

**Action:** Contact House Rules Committee about supporting HB 176.

**Leave behind:** Pick up HB 176 one pager

**HB 140: End Taxation by Citation:** Limits the fine and fee revenue that a city can rely upon to fund its budget.

**Talking Points:** This bill would prevent cities from using excessive or abusive traffic/court fines and fees practices to fund their budgets. Without this bill, bad actor cities can continue using their police and courts as armed debt collectors, reducing their ability to focus on public safety. Excessive fine and fee practices harm Georgians earning low to moderate incomes the most, stripping wealth out of their communities, and putting them at risk of long-term debt, probation and incarceration tied to an inability to pay off fines and fees.

**Action: Contact House Rules Committee about supporting HB 140.**

**Leave behind:** Pick up GBPI one-pager about excessive reliance on fines and fees in Georgia

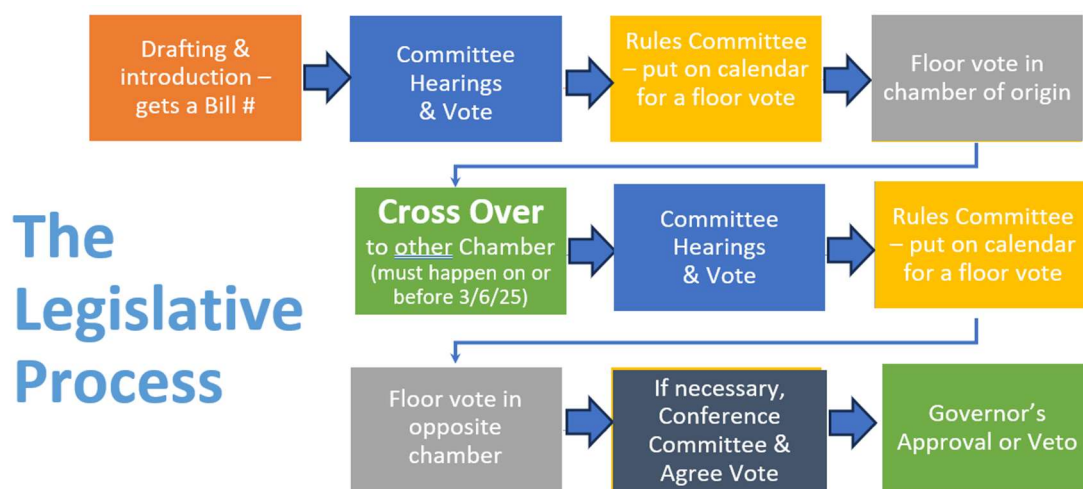


**HB 225 & SB 172: Ending the Use of Speeding Cameras in School Zones** Both bills would end local governments' ability to enter or renew contracts for speeding cameras in school zones. These bills would do the opposite of SB 75, a harmful bill which would expand the use of speeding cameras in school zones and expand fines and fees without taking proactive steps to address child safety concerns.

**Talking Points:** School zone safety is best achieved by preventing speeding *before* it happens, which requires investing in road infrastructure, road design, and traffic control devices (such as speedbumps, increased signage, and driver feedback signs). Financial penalties charged weeks after the incident -- as happens with cameras-- do not proactively stop speeding in school zones and do not adequately protect children and pedestrians. Ending school zone cameras removes harmful financial penalties that place unfair burdens on low-income Georgians. Expanding school zone cameras transfers wealth from already-underinvested communities to law enforcement, while neglecting to invest in the root of school zone speeding—inadequate road infrastructure in high-speed school zone areas.

**Action: Contact House Rules Committee about supporting HB 225. Feel free to also mention support for SB 172 and opposition to HB 75.**

## How a Bill Becomes a Law



## NEGATIVE BILLS THAT NEED YOUR ACTION TODAY



**HB 268: School Discipline bill:** would create a state-wide behavioral threat assessment management system, including a School and Student Safety Database to collect and integrate data about potential student threats.

**Talking Points:** increases the risk of profiling students of color, students with disabilities, and students experiencing poverty by expanding the information required to be shared by DJJ and DFCS with schools; and by creating a system for anonymous reporting conflating disciplinary issues with actual school safety concerns.

**Action: Contact House Education Committee with opposition to HB 268.**

**SB 61: School Hardening & Criminalization bill:** Expansive bill that goes well beyond protecting children and will criminalize them by increasing the chance they will be prosecuted as adults even without harming a single person.

**Talking Points:** A comprehensive approach to violence prevention is what GA's schools need, not new crimes and expanded sentencing laws that are sure to cut children's education paths short and prevent them becoming productive community members. Extending SB 440 so that children are prosecuted as adults for mere threats is wrong and will cause much, much more harm than those words ever could.

**Action: Contact Senate Judiciary Committee with opposition to SB 61.**

**SB 7: Municipal Jail Use by Sheriffs:** would require Atlanta to allow the Fulton County Sheriff to use its jail, and it fails to address the root causes of the issues plaguing the Fulton County Jail.

**Talking Points:** The bill could exacerbate existing problems rather than solve them. Currently, the Fulton County Jail is under scrutiny following a damning report from the Department of Justice (DOJ), which unveiled severe constitutional violations and unsafe conditions. These issues include inadequate staffing, unsanitary living conditions, and insufficient medical care, all of which contribute to a dangerous environment for both people incarcerated and staff. The DOJ has highlighted staffing shortages as a central issue. Without adequate personnel, transferring incarcerated people to other agencies or maintaining the Atlanta Detention Center under SB 7 would be infeasible. A comprehensive approach that tackles abusive practices, considers staff shortages and addresses facility hazards is crucial. Without such measures, SB 7 will certainly perpetuate the very problems it purports to solve, leaving those incarcerated pretrial in danger.

**Action: Contact Senate Rules committee with opposition to SB 7.**

**Leave behind:** Pick up SCHR's SB 7 one pager



**OTHER BILLS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE  
MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> TALK JUSTICE TUESDAY  
REGISTER AT JUSTICEREFORMPARTNERSHIP.ORG/TJT  
TO LEARN ACTION STEPS THEN**

**HB 162: First Offender Act Modernization:** Will ensure FOA works as intended so a one-time mistake does not cause a lifetime of barriers. **SUPPORT.** Already crossed over to the Senate.

**SB 207: Occupational Licensing Reform & Record Restriction:** Will give people who have an arrest or conviction record a fair chance at pursuing careers in licensed industries. **SUPPORT.** Expected to cross over to the House.

**SB 79: Fentanyl bill** -- Targets the possession and trafficking of Fentanyl by carving out a new crime with penalties that are harsher than those for cocaine, a similarly categorized drug. SB 79 not only attempts to address concerns about the manufacture and sale of Fentanyl, but it targets mere users who would be better served with supportive rehabilitative services than time in Georgia's prisons. **OPPOSE.** Expected to cross over to the House.

**SB 21: Cooperation with ICE:** Would force local governments to cooperate with ICE and open up local officials to liability if they adopt any sanctuary city policies. **OPPOSE.** Already crossed over to the House.

**JUSTICE DAY CAPITOL VISITS FEEDBACK FORM:  
Please tell us which lawmakers you spoke to  
and how it went:**

<https://bit.ly/JDLegisFeedback>

