



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Office of Legislative Affairs
and Communications

Georgia General Assembly

Session update

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Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.
- Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect.
- Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.



2017 General Assembly Session

- 40-Day session began on Jan. 9
 - Current adjournment resolution schedules Day 40 on March 30.
- Year one of Biennial
 - Bills not achieving full passage by Day 40 are still “live” in 2018
- Earlier deadline for “Crossover Day”
 - The deadline for bills to achieve passage by at least one chamber has been moved from Day 30 to Day 28.
 - Day 28 currently set for March 3.



2017 General Assembly Session

The Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications is currently tracking approximately 60 bills and resolutions in the House and Senate.

These include:

- House Bills 43 and 44 (budget)
- House Bill 124, sponsored by Rep. David Clark
- House Bill 250, sponsored by Rep. Mandi Ballinger
- House Bill 221, sponsored by Rep. Chuck Efstration



Agency-initiated legislation

House Bill 75

- *Sponsor:* Rep. Wendell Willard
- *Status:* Adopted by House; awaiting Senate consideration
- *Summary:* Closes a loophole in current law, protecting information from release if it is provided to DFCS case managers by law enforcement in investigations of a child's death or serious injury.



Agency-initiated legislation

House Bill 86

- *Sponsor:* Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver
- *Status:* House Committee Favorably Reported; Awaiting floor vote
- *Summary:* Adds “sex trafficking” to the definition of child abuse. Bill seeks to fulfill a requirement in federal law and to ensure continued federal funding through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).



Agency-initiated legislation

Senate Bill 168

- *Sponsor:* Sen. Butch Miller
- *Status:* Introduced in Senate
- *Summary:* Expands access to Georgia's child abuse registry, allowing other governments to receive information to vet potential foster and adoptive parents and investigate child abuse. Bill also allows private adoption agencies to receive information from child abuse records (pre-registry) and enables the Division to share information with other agencies that work with families.



Agency-initiated legislation

House Bill XXX

- *Sponsor:* Rep. Katie Dempsey
- *Status:* Introduced in House
- *Summary:* Clean up legislation from *HB 568*, passed in 2015. Bill changes the term “movant” to “party.” The change is necessary to implement the full intent of *HB 568*, and to allow adults court-ordered to pay child support request a paternity test if they have not previously had access.



Questions

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