



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
February 19, 2025**

**2025 Legislative  
Session Update**

# Legislative Session Overview

- The House of Representatives passed the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget ([HB 67](#)) on Thursday, February 6. The bill now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
  - \$5.75 million for statewide NextGen 911 funding was included in the House Version.
- House Appropriations Subcommittees will begin reviewing the Fiscal Year 2026 ([HB 68](#)) budget.
  - Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities presentation on **Thursday, February 20 at 3 p.m. in 506 CLOB.**

# Fulton County Delegation Updates

- The Joint Fulton County Delegation held a meeting on **Thursday, February 13**. State and Magistrate Court representatives were invited to present during this meeting.
- The next meetings will be in **CAP 216 at 3 p.m. on:**
  - **Friday, February 21**
  - **Friday, February 28:** Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will present.
- An updated meeting schedule has been shared with the BOC and Legislative Liaisons.

Resources for Superior Court Judges & Judicial Officers

Resources for State Court Judges

Support for State Funding for Behavioral Health Resources

Online Publication of Legal Notices

Transit Board Representation

Amendment to Fulton County Housing Authority

Resident Commissioner Requirements

Support for Legislative Proposals for Child Attorneys

Clarification of Purchasing Powers for Constitutional Officers

Premises Liability Reform

Next Generation 911

Support for Medicaid Expansion

Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates

Authorize Digital Court Reporting

Raise Highschool Dropout Age (Youth Commission)



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**2025**

**State Legislative  
Agenda**

# Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

Fulton County seeks approval of local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge. Increasing the authority of judicial officers, who currently handle only family law cases, will create greater efficiency with the case management process.

**STATUS:** [House Bill 482](#) by Rep. Trey Kelley will be assigned to committee on **Wednesday, February 19.**

# Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Additional State Court Judges

Fulton County seeks the allocation of two additional State Court judges, increasing the Court from 10 to 12 judges.

- Lobbying Team is securing delegation sponsors.
- County Attorney's office is on standby for legal notices.

**STATUS:** Legal Ad will run today on **Wednesday, February 19** and bill sponsored by Rep. Deborah Silcox will be introduced this week.

# Primary Policy Priority: Ongoing State Investment – Behavioral Health

Fulton County seeks ongoing state funding for Behavioral Health beds, as recommended in the 2023 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) bed study. This includes:

- Additional funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers
  - Monitoring DBHDD proposed budget.
- Increased availability of mental health beds for justice-involved individuals.
  - Monitoring proposed budget for DBHDD and Georgia Department of Corrections.

Presenting to Delegation on February 28

# Premises Liability Reform

**Senate Bill 68: Comprehensive Tort Reform Package that includes Reevaluating the Standard for Negligent Security Liability ([Premises Liability](#)):**

- **Sponsors:** Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Walker III of the 20th and others
- **Status:** Senate Judiciary Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute
- **Summary:**
  - Ensures businesses are held accountable only for what they directly control.
  - Holds property owners liable for failing to keep their property safe for customers and the public.
  - Protects businesses from liability simply for operating and employing Georgians in communities.
  - Security contractors are not liable beyond the owner's/occupier's liability.

# Policy Position: Raise High School Drop Out Age (Youth Commission)

The Fulton County Youth Commission supports legislation to raise the high school dropout age by revising *O.C.G.A. §20-2-690.1* to require school attendance for students between their 16th and 17th birthdays.

- Youth Commission Day at the Capitol is on **Wednesday, February 19**, hosted by Liberty County.
- The Fulton County Board of Education Delegation on **Wednesday, February 19**:
  - Will host a mock hearing at 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Capitol Room 216
  - [House Resolution 275](#) will be introduced to show support.

# Policy Position: Next Generation 911

## House Bill 423: [Next Generation 911 Implementation and Oversight](#)

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Wade of the 9th, Donatucci of the 105th, Reeves of the 99th, Silcox of the 53rd, Hilton of the 48th and others
- **Committee:** House Public Safety and Homeland Security
- **Status:** First hearing on Wednesday, February 19
- **Summary:**
  - Revises Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (GECA)'s duties for oversight of Next Generation 911 standards. New responsibilities include: grant management, system performance monitoring, training coordination and emergency response interoperability.
  - Mandates Next Generation 911 system standards for new 911 systems, requiring GECA approval.
  - Expands GECA's board directors to include cybersecurity and GIS experts. The Executive Director is designated as the state's 911 administrator with authority over staffing and operational decisions.

# House Bill 92: HB 581 Clean-Up

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Blackmon of the 146th, Kelley of the 16th, Williams of the 148th, Erwin of the 32nd, Washburn of the 144th, and others
- **Status:** House of Representatives Passed By Substitute
- **Summary:**
  - **Opt-Out Deadline Extension:** Local governments now have until March 31, 2025 to opt out of HB 581 (2024). An opt-out decision can be rescinded by resolution by March 31, 2025.
  - **Floating Homestead Exemption:** Applies to homestead and up to 5 acres of surrounding land.
  - **Surviving Spouse Clause:** Surviving spouses may continue the exemption without reapplication.
  - **Homestead Exemption Filing Window:** Property owners can file for exemption during the 45-day appeal window, regardless of appeal status.
  - **Rollback Rate Requirement:** Estimated rollback rate must be provided to tax assessors and tax commissioners by March 31.
  - **Failure to Submit Rollback Rate:** If not submitted, a tax estimate will be created using current value and last year's millage rate.
  - **DOR Tax Estimate Form:** Department of Revenue may create a form for jurisdictions wishing to provide a tax estimate.
  - **Effective Date:** The legislation becomes effective upon the Governor's signature.

# House Bill 370: Provisions for School Districts Opting Out of State-Wide Base Year Homestead Exemption

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Gaines of the 120th, Jones of the 47th, Williamson of the 112th, Efstration of the 104th, Kelley of the 16th, and others
- **Committee:** House Ways & Means
- **Summary:** Establishes new requirements for property tax bills including:
  - **School Districts Opting Out of State-Wide Base Year Homestead Exemption**: Display the total reserve funds of the school district on the tax bill (as of January 1 of the tax year).
  - **Notice for Opt-Out Political Subdivisions**: If a county, municipality or school district opts out and does not provide a more beneficial exemption, the tax bill will include a statement in bold print notifying taxpayers. Statement includes the date of the vote and contact information for concerns.
  - **Effective Date**: Applicable to taxable years beginning on January 1, 2025.

# Senate Bill 151: Joint Development Authority of North Fulton Municipalities Act

- **Sponsors:** Senators Beach of the 21st, Albers of the 56th and Still of the 48th
- **Committee:** Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
- **Summary:** Creates the Joint Development Authority of North Fulton Municipalities, to be governed by a seven-member board. Directors are appointed by the governing bodies of the cities within the development area which includes Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell and Sandy Springs. The authority is granted the power to issue bonds, notes and other obligations to finance projects, including the use of bond anticipation notes, and outlines the provisions for their sale, terms and validation. The development area consists of land within Fulton County that falls under the corporate limits of the six cities. Additionally, it clarifies that the bill does not affect existing development authorities in the cities of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell and Sandy Springs.

## **Senate Bill 7: Jails; certain municipal corporations make municipal detention facilities or jails available for use by a sheriff; require**

- **Sponsors:** Senators Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Beach of the 21st, Still of the 48th, Payne of the 54th and others
- **Status:** Senate Public Safety Committee Favorably Reported
- **Summary:** Aims to establish a process for allowing counties access to existing municipal jails under specific conditions, including a fee cap that ensures the charge does not exceed the actual cost incurred by the municipality in operating the detention facility or jail.

# Legislative Calendar (SR 6) & Events at the State Capitol

- February 19: Legislative Day 19
- February 20: Legislative Day 20
- February 21: Legislative Day 21
- February 24-28: Legislative Days 22-25
  - February 25: Committee Work Day
- March 6: Legislative Day 28 (*Crossover Day*)
- April 4: Legislative Day 40 (*Sine Die*)



- Youth Commission Day at the Capitol including the Fulton County Youth Commission Mock Trial on **Wednesday, February 19**
- Fulton Day at the Capitol on **Thursday, February 20**
- ACCG Capital Connection Conference on **Monday, February 24-Tuesday, February 25**

*More events included in weekly written reports*