



Welcome!

End Mass Incarceration Georgia Network

General Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m.



EDUCATION & ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION

SUPPORT JUSTICE REFORM

HB 123 is the result of decades of advocacy by committed organizations, attorneys and community members to align Georgia with the rest of the country to protect people with intellectual disability (“ID”) from facing the death penalty. The bill would lower the standard of proof for establishing ID from “beyond a reasonable doubt” to “preponderance of the evidence” and separate the determination of ID from the guilt phase. *Passed.*

HB 582 was crafted by advocates for domestic violence survivors and is supported at the grassroots level by survivor communities. It would help modernize Georgia law in a couple key areas to better reflect current understandings of domestic violence. These updates would ensure that survivors can provide relevant evidence about their history of abuse, allow courts to be responsive to individual circumstances in sentencing, and create a path to reevaluate excessive sentences for survivors serving long sentences for actions needed for their own survival. This bill is especially needed since between 74-95% of women who are incarcerated have experienced domestic or sexual violence. *Passed.*



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Georgia Justice Project justice reform bills:

SB 207 seeks fair chances for justice-impacted individuals who want to pursue sustainable careers in licensed industries *Passed.*

HB 535 reduces incarceration by fixing how "time served" is counted when people wait in jail for probation revocation hearings. (The bill aims to provide more consistent and fair sentencing practices for individuals whose probation has been revoked.) *Tabled in the Senate.*

HB 162 provides for a true second chance for people sentenced under the First Offender Act. (The bill, which has garnered bipartisan support, proposes sealing criminal records earlier in the judicial process to improve access to jobs, housing, and rehabilitation opportunities. "What HB 162 would do is a pretty simple fix. It would say instead of just restricting the GBI record, we need to both restrict that and seal the court-level records," Wade Askew, Georgia Justice Project Policy Director said.) *Tabled in the Senate.*



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OPPOSE GOING BACKWARDS ON YOUTH JUSTICE REFORM

SB 61 branded as a “school safety bill,” would drastically increase the scope of this law that inserts children into the adult criminal legal system. Not only would SB 61 add "aggravated assault with a firearm" and "terroristic act upon a school" to the list of offenses, but it would also add "attempt" or "conspiracy to commit" any of the designated offenses. *Included in HB 268, which Passed. (aggravated-assault); (criminal attempt)*

HB 268 the “School Safety Bill” is much broader and more comprehensive than SB 61. The bill contains positive provisions—like mandatory suicide prevention training and requiring school safety plans to include provisions addressing behavioral health needs of students and staff—there are aspects of HB 268 that raise concerns about the school-to-prison pipeline. *Passed.*

HB 627 included similar language as SB 61, but the version of HB 627 that passed had removed the objectionable language. *Did not pass. (Passed the House, so could be brought back up in the Senate)*



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DID NOT ADVANCE THROUGH CROSSOVER

SB 120 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - did not pass out of the Senate: Georgia's public schools and colleges would be banned from having any programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.