



**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2020 General Assembly - Legislative Report
January 31, 2020**

- The 2020 General Assembly convened on January 13. This is the second year of the two-year session. After convening four days during the first week, the Legislature recessed for budget hearings during the week of January 20-25. On January 16, the Governor gave his State of the State address and unveiled his much awaited budget proposals for amended state fiscal year 2020 and state fiscal year 2021.
- **Budget – Funding for state-certified domestic violence centers FY 2020 Amended & FY 2021**
The Governor’s Amended FY 2020 and FY2021 budgets both included level funding for domestic and sexual violence programs. As the Governor has recommended 4% cuts to the FY2020 budget and 6% to the FY2021 budget, GCADV will continue to follow how the House and Senate will recommend implementing these requests across the state budget in their respective budget proposal bills. Proposals must pass both legislative chambers and be signed by the Governor before becoming final.

Budget documents can be viewed at <https://opb.georgia.gov/document/governors-budget-reports/afy-2020-and-fy-2021-governors-budget-report/download>.

- **Firearms and domestic violence:** GCADV is continuing to advocate on behalf of this issue. No new legislation has been introduced to similarly align state law with federal law which prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor or who are the subject of a final order of protection from owning or possessing a firearm.
- **Expansion of “Family Violence” definition to include dating relationships:** GCADV is continuing to advocate for expansion of the definition of “family violence” to include dating relationships. Though no specific bill has yet been introduced, advocacy efforts have generated interest amongst legislators to lead this effort during this year’s session. Stay tuned for future updates.
- **Expansion of weapons carry license reciprocity to non- Georgia residents – [HB 787](#)** seeks to expand weapons carry license reciprocity and provide that individuals who are not residents of the state are authorized to carry a weapon in Georgia if licensed to carry in another state. Representative Mandi Ballinger (Cherokee) is serving as the primary sponsor.



- **Economic Justice-** Both [HB 804](#) and [HB 805](#) would have economic justice implications for survivors. HB 804 would prevent employers from being able to exercise wage discrimination against persons with a disability. HB 805 would raise the current minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour. Representative Carl Gillard (Garden City) is serving as the primary sponsor for both bills.
- **Medicaid expansion-** [HB 813](#) would provide for a Medicaid expansion program to provide healthcare coverage for individuals, ages birth to 64, who are uninsured. Representative Donna McLeod (Lawrenceville) is serving as the primary sponsor.
- **Statute of limitations on sexual assault-** [SB 287](#) would revise the statute of limitations on the offenses of rape, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated sexual battery. Additionally the bill would allow the prosecution for these offenses to be initiated at any time. Senator Harold Jones II (Augusta) is serving as primary sponsor.
- **Stop Violence Against Women Day 2020** will take place on February 4th at Central Presbyterian Church. Over 200 citizens and domestic and sexual violence advocates are anticipated from across the state to reach out to their legislators regarding public policy issues impacting domestic and sexual assault violence survivors.