



**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
2020 General Assembly - Legislative Report  
March 3, 2020**

- **Budget – Funding for state-certified domestic violence centers FY 2020 Amended & FY 2021**  
On February 19, 2020 the House passed HB 792, the amended fiscal year 2020 budget. Funding for domestic and sexual violence programs was sustained at current levels. The bill is now in the Senate where it is being heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.  
  
HB 792 can be viewed at [http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2020\\_FiscalYear/Amended\\_FY\\_2020\\_Bill\\_House\\_Version.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/budget/Documents/2020_FiscalYear/Amended_FY_2020_Bill_House_Version.pdf).
- **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. Stay tuned to our social media platforms for advocacy opportunities around this issue.
- **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. A substitute version of the bill recently passed out of the House Public Safety & Homeland Security committee and will now move to the Rules Committee. 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. Both bills have been assigned to the Labor & Industry Committee and have received no further action to date. 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, age's birth to 64, who are uninsured. The bill has been assigned to the Special Committee on Access to Quality Healthcare and has received no action to date. Representative Donna McLeod (Lawrenceville) is serving as the primary sponsor.
- **Commercial vehicle operation and trafficking-** [HB 823](#) would provide a lifetime disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle by persons convicted of trafficking individuals for labor or sexual servitude. A substitute version of this bill passed out of the House Motor Vehicle Committee and on the House floor. The bill will now move to the Senate for consideration. Representative Houston Gaines (Athens) serves as lead sponsor for the original bill.
- **Reporting of pet ownership-** [HB 886](#) would require licensed veterinarians or veterinary techs to confirm a pet's owners through microchip scan and report when the microchip owner information differs from the information of the individual presenting the pet for treatment. This bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs. No further action has been taken to date. Representative Andy Welch (McDonough) is serving as lead sponsor on the bill.



- **Revision of school model bullying policy-** [HB 892](#) directs the Georgia Department of Education to revise the current model policy on bullying. The bill is assigned to the House Education Committee and proposes that the revised policy include requirements for school principals or principle designees to investigate any report of suspected bullying, determine whether the incident should be reported to certain officials, include a procedure for referrals to counseling for students who are bullying and for those who have been victims of bullying, and a requirement that teachers and other school employees receive training on bullying identification and prevention annually. Representative Beth Moore (Peachtree Corners) is serving as lead sponsor on the bill.
- **Statute of limitations on sexual assault-** [SB 287](#) and [HB 1069](#) would revise the statute of limitations on the offenses of rape, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated sexual battery. Both bills would allow the prosecution for these offenses to be initiated at any time. SB 287 was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it received a second hearing and passed out of committee unanimously. The bill now moves on to the Senate Rules Committee. HB 1069 was assigned to the House Judiciary Non-civil Committee where no further action has been taken to date. Senator Harold Jones II (Augusta) is serving as primary sponsor of SB 287 and Representative Scott Holcomb (Atlanta) is serving as the primary sponsor of HB 1069.
- **Senate Domestic Violence Courts Study Committee-** [SR 769](#) would create the Senate Domestic Violence Courts Study Committee. This resolution would create a special study committee dedicated to taking an in-depth look at the conditions, needs, and issues for which the development of domestic violence courts could provide consistent accountability responses and supports for victims. Senator Jesse Stone (Waynesboro) serves as lead sponsor for the resolution.