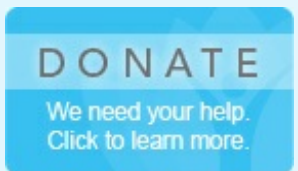




GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



2019 Legislative Report Crossover Day Edition

Crossover Day occurred on March 7, 2019. This is the day by which a piece of legislation must pass its chamber of origin in order to have much chance of passing both chambers by the end of the session.

Budget - Funding for state-certified domestic violence centers FY 2019 Amended & FY 2020

The FY 2019 amended budget passed both chambers with level funding for domestic and sexual violence programs.

The Governor's FY 2020 budget proposal, which has been agreed upon by the House contains a \$390,000 increase in funds for the addition of one state-certified domestic violence shelter and six state-certified sexual assault centers. Budget documents can be viewed [here](#).

Firearms and domestic violence

[SB 150](#) was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee and a substitute version of the bill unanimously passed on March 4. This bill would make it a felony crime for domestic violence perpetrators to possess, transport, or receive a firearm or ammunition while they are subject to a Family Violence Protective Order, if they are on first offender probation, or if they've been convicted of a family violence offense.

Despite passing out of committee, it unfortunately did not advance to the full Senate body for a vote. As this is the first year of a two year session, the bill can be taken up again in the next legislative session.

In addition to SB 150, two other firearms and domestic violence related bills were introduced in the House. Both [HB 20](#) and [HB 58](#) remained in the

House Public Safety Committee where they were assigned. Neither bill gained a hearing.

Strengthening protections for victims of dating violence

[HB 331](#) would have expanded the definition of family violence to also include dating partners. This bill was tabled and remained in the House Judiciary non-civil committee.

Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act

Bills were introduced in the Senate and House which would place restrictions on a women's ability to access abortion care. Both [HB 481](#) and [SB 218](#) would prevent abortion care from occurring once there is a detectable heartbeat and allow exceptions in cases of rape, incest, or when there is threat to the mother's life. While SB 218 did not gain further movement prior to Crossover Day, [HB 481 passed on the house floor.](#)

Sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority

[HB 43](#) and [SB 40](#) both seek to revise the crime of sexual assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority over another person. These bills would close a long standing loophole of sexual misconduct occurring between school officials and students. HB 43 passed out of the House Judiciary Committee but was unable to pass out of the Rules Committee and make it to the Senate floor for a full vote. SB 40 gained no further movement in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Equitable housing, public accommodations, and employment

[HB 19](#), a bill addressing housing discrimination, equal rights of enjoyment/privilege to public accommodations, and prohibiting discrimination in private/public employment remained in the House Judiciary Committee.

Child Support Cooperation Act of 2019

[HB 80](#) would require individuals seeking to receive food stamp benefits (SNAP) to cooperate with child support enforcement officials. This bill remained in the House Judiciary on Crossover Day.

Prohibiting insurance discrimination against victims of sexual assault

[HB 227](#) expands existing law which prohibits

insurance discrimination against victims of family violence to include victims of sexual assault. **The substitute version of this bill passed the House before Crossover Day.**

Raising marriage minimum age

HB 228 changes the minimum age of marriage from 16 to 17 years of age. **The House Juvenile Justice Committee's substitute of this bill passed on the House floor prior to Crossover Day.**

Home invasion and domestic violence

HB 260 expands the existing home invasion statute to include acts of entering with the intent to commit an act of family violence. This bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee but was unable to make it to the House floor for a vote before Crossover Day.

LEP access to public services

HB 363 would provide reasonable access to public services for individuals who have limited English proficiency. This bill remained in the House Government Affairs Committee and received no hearings prior to Crossover Day.

Dignity for incarcerated women

HB 345 prohibits the shackling and restraint of women who are in their second or third trimester of pregnancy. This bill also ensures that no pregnant woman is subject to particular types of physical examinations unless prescribed and performed by a licensed healthcare professional. **This bill passed the House floor unanimously.**

Thank you for being a voice for survivors on these critical issues.

The GCADV Policy Team

GCADV

Collaborate. Advocate. Educate. Empower.

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. (GCADV) brings together member agencies, allied organizations and supportive individuals who are committed to ending domestic violence. Guided by the voices of survivors, we work to create social change by addressing the root causes of this violence. GCADV leads advocacy efforts for responsive public policy and fosters quality, comprehensive prevention and intervention services throughout the state.

