



**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2012 General Assembly - Legislative Report
January 23, 2012**

- The 2012 General Assembly convened on January 9. This is the second year of a two year session which means that any bill that did not pass last session is still eligible to be passed. Any bills that do not pass this session will be dead and must be reintroduced next session.
 - **Budget – Shelter Funding FY 2012 Amended & FY 2013:** Good news! Governor Deal has recommended that shelter funding remain the same for the current and next year's budget. After the cuts of the past few sessions, this is welcome news. But the more exciting development is that Governor Deal has recommended that all of the TANF funds for domestic violence be replaced with state funds. DHS Commissioner Clyde Reese testified to the joint Appropriations Committees that concerns have been raised as to the appropriateness of using TANF funds for domestic violence, so they have decided to replace these funds with state dollars. If the Legislature adopts the Governor's recommendations, domestic violence funding will be on very solid ground.
 - **Advocate & spousal privilege:** Rep. Edward Lindsey introduced HB 711 which combines the prosecutor's bill to eliminate the spousal privilege in domestic violence cases with GCADV's bill to create advocate privilege. The bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and will be heard in subcommittee on Jan. 24. We are excited that our bill is moving forward quickly.
 - **Arrest for bond & bail condition violations:** HB 342 was introduced last session by Rep. Doug McKillip to give law enforcement the authority to arrest defendants if they violate special conditions of bond or probation. This bill will be heard in a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Non Civil Committee on Jan. 24.
 - **Stop Violence Against Women Day** is Feb. 2 from 8 am until 1 pm. Please plan to attend! We will gather at Central Presbyterian for breakfast and a legislative training and then head across the street to the Capitol to lobby our legislators. The day will conclude with a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda at noon.
 - **Schedule:** The legislature has adopted a schedule that takes us through day 31 on March 12. The schedule is available here: http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2011_12/fulltext/hr1140.htm.
- Action item:**
- Contact members of the House Judiciary Committee and urge them to pass HB 711. It is especially important to make these calls if a legislator from your community is on this Committee. Members of the committee and their contact information is available here: <http://www.house.ga.gov/Committees/en-US/committee.aspx?Committee=106&Session=21>