



**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2017 General Assembly - Legislative Report
January 27, 2017**

- The 2017 General Assembly convened on January 9. This is the first year of a two-year session. After convening four days during the first week, the Legislature recessed for budget hearings last week. The Legislature returned to Atlanta on January 23 and was in session through January 26. Legislators return on January 30 for days 9 through 12 of the 40 day session.
- **Budget – Funding for state-certified domestic violence centers FY 2017 Amended & FY 2018:** The Governor has released his proposed FY 2017 Amended and FY 2018 budgets, both of which include level state funding for state-certified domestic violence centers and state-funded sexual assault centers.

On January 26, the House passed its FY 2017 Amended appropriations bill – including the level domestic violence and sexual assault funding proposed by the Governor – and sent it along to the Senate for further deliberation by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The House Appropriations Committee will now begin deliberating on the Governor’s FY 2018 budget proposal. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will likely form a conference committee to negotiate and draw up a final set of recommendations for each budget.

Budget documents can be viewed [here](#).
- **Firearms and domestic violence:** GCADV is working with potential bill sponsors to introduce legislation that would make it a felony crime for domestic violence perpetrators to possess a firearm or ammunition while they are subject to a Family Violence Protective Order or is they are convicted of a qualifying family violence-related misdemeanor. The legislation would also require that domestic violence perpetrators who are subject to this prohibition to relinquish their firearms to local law enforcement. Stay tuned for future updates.
- **Sexual assault on college campuses:** [HB 51](#) proposes to drastically limit the ability of colleges and universities to adjudicate sexual assault on campus, among other crimes. It also requires that all felony-level cases be forwarded over to the local criminal justice system. A substitute bill has been drafted that addresses some but not all of the concerns of the advocacy community. A hearing by the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee will be held on February 1 at 4 p.m. in Room 403 of the Capitol.
- **Flexible sick leave – the Family Care Act:** This act requires employers that offer sick leave to allow employees to use that leave time flexibly in order to care for sick children, spouses, and other family members. The bill has not yet been filed, but it is anticipated that it will be filed within the next week or so. Senator Butch Miller (Gainesville) is serving as the primary sponsor.
- **“Upskirting”:** [HB 9](#) seeks to prohibit any individual to use or install a device for the purpose of videotaping, filming, photographing, or video recording under or through such person’s clothing, for the purpose of viewing the body of or the undergarments worn by such person, under circumstances in which such person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. This bill would also make the dissemination of such material is unlawful. HB 9 has been assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee.
- **Stop Violence Against Women Day** will be held on February 8 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Please plan to attend! We will gather at Central Presbyterian Church on Washington Street across the street from the Georgia State Capitol for breakfast and a legislative briefing/training and then head across the street to lobby our legislators.