



**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2018 General Assembly Legislative Report
March 14, 2018**

General Updates:

- The 2018 General Assembly convened on January 8. This is the first year of a two-year session. The Legislature adopted a schedule which ends the session at 40 days on March 29. As of the date of this report, the assembly has convened for 34 days.
- Crossover Day occurred on February 28. Crossover Day 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.

Bill	Brief Description	Status
HB 541 (Rep. Mathiak, 73rd)	Will reduce the high number of domestic violence fatalities in Georgia, by replicating in state law the federal law prohibiting those convicted of family violence misdemeanors and those subject to family violence protective orders from possessing firearms.	On Tuesday Feb. 27, HB 541 was heard in front of the House Public Safety/Homeland Security committee with no vote. Our new lead sponsor, Rep. Mathiak, as well as DA Sherry Boston and DeKalb Co. Peace Officer provided testimony. Since there was no vote held before Crossover day, HB 541 will likely not pass during this session. We will be reintroducing the bill next session. Stay tuned for advocacy updates in the off season.
HB 745 (Rep. Holcomb, 81st)	Will offer certain protections to victims of family violence who are bound by lease agreements and may remain in unsafe housing to avoid financial penalties that damage their credit and rental history.	Did not pass out of the full House prior to Crossover Day.
HB 834 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd)	Similar to HB 745 with the inclusion of providing an immediate family member the ability to terminate a victim's lease early in the circumstance of death or incapacitation,	Passed out of the House Rules Committee and House Floor with a unanimous vote on Crossover Day. It has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and has a hearing with a vote today. GCADV supports this

	extending TPO service from 30 days to 45 days, and clarifying security deposit procedure.	bill as it will enhance housing protections for survivors of domestic violence.
HB 657 (Rep. Petrea, 166th)	Will make it unlawful to provide a person on probation as a felony first offender or to have been convicted of a felony a firearm.	Adopted and passed by the House chamber. It has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary committee where it has been read as of February 20.
HB 837 (Rep. Oliver, 82nd)	Will facilitate statewide uniformity in policies and procedures concerning law enforcement contact with victims of sexual assault and sexual assault evidence kit notifications.	Did not pass out of the full House chamber prior to Crossover day.
HB 762 (Rep. Cantrell, 22nd)	Will provide sexual abuse and assault awareness education in kindergarten through grade 9 as a part of the Quality Basic Education Act.	Did not pass out of the full House chamber prior to Crossover day.
HB 786 (Rep. Frye 118th)	Will expand insurance prohibitions on discrimination against victims of family violence to include victims of sexual assault.	Did not pass out of the full House chamber prior to Crossover day.
SB 407 (Sen. Strickland, 17th)	Will provide comprehensive criminal justice system reform for offenders.	Adopted and passed by the full Senate chamber. Has been assigned to the House Judiciary Civil Committee and read twice. In this bill, domestic violence relevance includes the scheduling of bail or release from custody shall be set by a judge on an individual basis and a schedule of bails will not be utilized.
SB 452 (Sen. Stone, 23rd)	Will require a peace officer to take certain actions upon verification that a suspect is an undocumented person as well as require certain actions by the Department of Corrections, sheriffs, municipal custodial officers, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and the Department of Community Service.	Adopted and passed out of the full Senate chamber. Has been assigned to the House Public Safety/Homeland Security committee. Has yet to be heard in front of full committee. GCADV opposes this bill as it will prevent immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence and trafficking from coming forward to report their abuse and cooperate with law enforcement.