

# GA Legislative Update 2024

Election bills so far

Tania Sosa - VoterGA  
February 24, 2024 revision



# SB 189 Count the text portions of ballots for vote tabulation and recounts purposes

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Dolezal of the 27th, Brass of the 28th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Moore of the 53rd and 13 others  
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64471>

provide that the text portions of ballots produced by ballot marking devices shall be counted for vote tabulation and recounts purposes instead of any machine coding

02/08/2024 House Second Readers

02/07/2024. House First Readers

House Committee: [Governmental Affairs](#)

02/06/2024. Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/06/2024. Senate Third Read

02/06/2024. Senate Engrossed

[01/31/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute](#)

[01/29/2024 Senate Recommitted](#)

[01/26/2024 Senate Read Second Time](#)

01/25/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported

02/16/2023 Senate Read and Referred

02/15/2023 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)

## Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/06/2024	<a href="#">Senate Vote #467</a>	30	23	1	2
02/06/2024	<a href="#">Senate Vote #472</a>	31	22	1	2



# HB 986 (=SB 392) Criminalize deep fake interference

Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Jones of the 25th, Jasperse of the 11th, Camp of the 135th, Gunter of the 8th, and 1 other  
HB <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/66172>

Protection against the use of deep fake materials in bad faith to significantly influence elections by reducing certain candidates' chances of being elected or by suppressing voter turnout through mass confusion.

- Materially deceptive media' means a video recording, video file, audio recording, or audio file, still image, or still image file that: (A) Appears to depict a real individual's speech or conduct that did not occur in reality; and (B) Would appear to a reasonable observer to be authentic.
- Creating confusion about the administration of such election.
- Felony punished by imprisonment for not less than two years nor more than five years and by a fine not to exceed \$50,000.00.

02/22/2024. House Passed/Adopted By Substitute

02/22/2024 House Third Readers

02/16/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/29/2024. House Withdrawn, Recommitted

01/24/2024. House Second Readers

01/23/2024 House First Readers

01/22/2024 House Hopper

House Committee: Technology and Infrastructure Innovation

## Votes

Date	Vote No.	Yea	Nay	NV	Exc
02/22/2024	<a href="#">House Vote #528</a>	148	22	5	5



# SB 221 Formerly to revise language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed by persons or entities but now about voter registration

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th, Harbin of the 16th, Anavitarte of the 31st and Gooch of the 51st  
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64652>

- ~~revise the language that must be used on absentee ballot applications distributed by persons or entities making it clear that a ballot application is not a ballot~~
- ~~revise provisions relating to advance voting on certain Saturdays preceding or following legal holidays~~
- ~~revise the latest reporting time for required election night reporting from 10 pm to 11:59 pm~~
- ~~mandate risk limiting audits following all state wide primaries or elections~~
- ~~penalize with a misdemeanor the willful neglect or refusal of a county or municipal election superintendent to call an election where required to do so by a local Act of the General Assembly~~
- Election workers must be citizens of US
- Homeless may register with the county courthouse as permanent mailing address
- Person registered to vote out of state deemed as changed residency
- Provision to establish residency
- At motor vehicles opt out changed to opt in (discussed but not in the bill)
- Grounds for elector challenges include registering to vote elsewhere, missing/incorrect data, NCOA data
- Voting on certain (small) elections by paper ballot for example special elections
- Defines “acts in any other manner to intimidate” poll workers or election officers as conduct that causes reasonable fear for such person's safety or acts in a manner that intimidates any poll officer or election official from faithfully performing his or her duties.

02/22/2024 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

01/08/2024 Senate Recommitted

03/02/2023 Senate Read Second Time

03/01/2023 Senate Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

02/22/2023 Senate Read and Referred

02/21/2023 Senate Hopper

Senate Committee: [Ethics](#)



# **Bills making a comeback from 2023**



# HB 17 Sealing of ballots in secure containers and chain of custody

By: Representatives Powell, Alan 33rd, Leverett, Rob 123rd, DeLoach, Buddy 167th, Smith, Tyler Pau 18th, Jasperse, Rick 11th and Anderson, Victor 10th  
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/63498>

- Provide for the sealing of ballots in secure containers.
- Drop boxes shall be closed in a manner that prevents the insertion of ballots when voting is not being conducted at that location.
- Ballots shall be placed in a locked transfer case upon being removed from the drop box. Such cases shall be sealed with a numbered seal.
- Accepted absentee ballots shall be securely stored in either a sealed container or appropriately secured in an access controlled room that will prevent tampering or unauthorized access prior to the scanning of such ballots.
- At the conclusion of the scanning of ballots, such scanned ballots shall be stored in tamper-resistant containers sealed with numbered seals.
- No voted ballots shall be handled without a poll official being present and without documentation on the chain of custody documentation of who is handling such ballots and when and why such ballots are being handled.
- Provide for chain of custody documentation and procedures.

02/21/2024 House Committee Favorably Reported By Substitute

03/29/2023 House Withdrawn, Recommitted

House Committee: Governmental Affairs



# To be discussed next week...

House Governmental Affairs Committee  
February 26, 3:00 pm  
CLOB 406  
HB 426

Look for bills to show up in the Rules Committee  
February 26, House 9:00 am, Senate TBD  
February 27, House 9:00 am  
February 28, House 11:00 am  
February 29, Senate TBD

Talking points: <https://voterga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/HB426-SB122-Talking-Points.pdf>

**Crossover day is Thursday February 29**

# HB 426 Retention and preservation of ballots and other election documents (= SB 122)

By: Representatives Blackmon, Shaw 146th, Taylor, Darlene 173rd, Jones, Jan 47th, Jasperse, Rick 11th, Ballinger, Mandi 23rd  
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/64443>

- Remove provisions for keeping such ballots and documents under seal.
- Retain and preserve such ballots and other documents for at least 24 months under seal, unless otherwise directed by the superior court, in a manner so as to prevent such ballots or other documents from being altered, amended, damaged, modified, or mutilated, including during any public inspection of such ballots.
- Ballots, numbered lists of voters, and oaths of poll officers shall be subject to public inspection after initial certification.
- Within 90 days of the effective date of this subsection, the State Election Board shall promulgate rules and regulations providing for access for visual reviews of original ballots, copying ballots, and the costs of such record retrieval, inspection, and copying services.

03/29/2023 House Withdrawn, Recommitted

House Committee: Governmental Affairs

Talking points: <https://voterga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/HB426-SB122-Talking-Points.pdf>

