Daily Legislative Look Ahead
Tuesday, March 30, 2021 (New information is highlighted in yellow.)

Pre-Sine Die Report
The House and Senate start at 10AM.

Summary
This legislative session, there has been a multitude of legislation impacting the civil rights and civil liberties of Georgians. At the ACLU of Georgia, we have been engaging in a wide range of advocacy efforts on bills dealing with voter rights, First Amendment rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and the criminal legal system.

We were successful in stopping and/or amending a variety of regressive bills throughout this legislative session and as we prepare for Sine Die on Wednesday March 31st, we have a handful of bills we will continue to advocate in opposition to or in support of in the final days of the 2021 Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

We are monitoring and actively lobbying on the following bills leading into Sine Die.

Criminal Legal System and Policing Bills
**SB 115** - Anti-police accountability/civilian interactions with police bill
**Sponsored by:** Senator Randy Robertson, et al.

**Summary:**
- Teach students best practices of what to do when stopped by a law enforcement officer.
- Requires DDS and DPS to work together to design and offer a training course to teach civilians what to do when stopped by a law enforcement officer.

**Status:** SENATE PASSED 36-13; House Committee on Motor Vehicles Favorably Reported by Substitute; House Postponed 3/29/2021

**Position:** OPPOSE

**HB479** - Repeals the citizens arrest statute.
**Sponsored by:** Rep. Bert Reeves et al.

**Summary:**
- Repeals the statute allowing for arrest by private persons.

**Status:** HOUSE PASSED 173-0; Senate Committee on Judiciary Favorably Reported; Senate Passed as Amended 52-1

**Position:** SUPPORT

First Amendment Bills
**SB200** - Religious exemptions bill

**Sponsored by:** Senator Jason Anavitarte et al.

- Exemptions religious services from restrictions enacted during public emergencies.
• Exempting worship services from neutral and generally applicable restrictions enacted during public emergencies would harm others and is the type of religious preference that the Constitution forbids. Religious freedom is not a license to endanger other people and the public.

Status: SENATE PASSED 32-17; House Committee on Judiciary Favorably Reported by Substitute.
Position: OPPOSE

SB226 - Book censorship bill
Sponsored by: Senator Jason Anavitarte et al.
• Overrides existing, locally-determined mechanisms for parents to file complaints about school materials that they find objectionable.
• Requires within seven business days of receiving a complaint, that the school principal or his or her designee must review the material at issue and decide whether it ought to be restricted or removed due to being “harmful to minors.”
  o If the school decides not to censor the material at issue, parents can appeal that decision to their local board of education.
• Mandates that if the board of education agrees that the material is not harmful to minors, they must post the material to its website for four years.

Status: SENATE PASSED 32-17; House Committee on Judiciary Favorably Reported by Substitute.
Position: OPPOSE

HB289 - Anti-protest bill (zombie SB 171 bill)
Sponsored by: Senator Randy Robertson et al.
Summary:
• Incentivizes counties and municipalities to crack down on protests or prevent them from occurring in the first place and places restrictions on the right to protest.
• Punishes counties and municipalities from meaningfully reining in the police
• Provides protections for drivers who injure or kill protesters.
• Restricts First Amendment rights to assembly.
• Prohibits anyone convicted of an “unlawful assembly” as defined in the bill from receiving state benefits or qualifying for state employment.

Status: House Passed 162-0; Senate Committee on Public Safety Favorably Reported by Substitute; Senate Rules Calendar for 3/31/2021
Position: OPPOSE