



# **Legislative Recap and Looking Ahead to 2026**

## **October 1st, 2025**



## **Yosha P. Dotson, MSW**

The Founder, Policy Strategist and Consultant for LegisLogic, A Governmental Affairs Firm headquartered in GA. Mrs. Dotson specializes in critical areas such as human services, health/healthcare, public safety, and workforce and equity amongst others. She has a special interest in teaching communities that have flet pushed to the margins how to engage in policy.

# 2025 Georgia ACT Legislative Platform

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- Defend the State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- Advocate for Establishing the Permanent Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Oppose the Criminalization of Homelessness
- Advocate for More Funding for the State Housing Trust Fund and State Housing Voucher Program
- Strengthen Housing Assistance for the Youth and Those Aging out of Foster Care
- Strengthen Tenant Rights
- Advocate and Support the Housing Needs of Key Groups (including but not Limited to Rural Housing, Workforce Housing and Senior Housing)
- Support Homeownership and Other Self-Sufficiency Programs

# 2025 Georgia ACT Legislative Platform

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- Support Incentives for Nonprofit Developers to Build and Preserve Affordable Housing
- Support Sealing Eviction Records within Reasonable Limits
- Support Expanded Homestead Exemption for Low-Income Homeowners
- Repeal the State Ban on Rental Registries
- Support Heir Property Protections
- Advocate for Transparency in Rates and Fees

# State Updates

- The governor has signed all the bills we support that have passed. ([Click here to see all the bills the governor signed this year](#)). The governor [vetoed on seven bills](#) this year, and none of them are in our Radar.
- [HB 399](#): Support
  - requires residential landlords who own or operate 25 or more single-family or duplex rental properties in Georgia to employ at least one in-state staff member responsible for managing tenant communications, including maintenance requests and other property-related issues.
  - Passed. Governor signed. Act 315.
- [SB 35](#): Support
  - SB 35 would mandate that insurance companies provide homeowners with an extended notice period before their homeowners' insurance policy is nonrenewed. This change would afford policyholders additional time to prepare for and react to nonrenewal decisions.
  - Passed. Governor signed. Act 277.

# State Updates

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- [HB 136](#): Support
  - The bill amends Georgia's income tax code to expand tax credits for contributions to foster child support organizations, including wraparound and mentorship services for justice-involved youth, extends the credits to certain insurance companies, and establishes conditions, reporting requirements, and processes for certifying and decertifying qualified organizations.
  - Passed. Governor signed. Act 182.
- SB 85: Support
  - Creates the 'Georgia Foster Care Scholarship Act.' The act provides grants to eligible students who are current or former foster care children. The total award amount per semester is not to exceed the costs of the eligible student's tuition, room, board, meal plan, and books associated with matriculation at an eligible postsecondary institution, minus any amount covered by federal or other state grants or scholarships. The maximum award per year will not exceed \$30,000. Eligible students will remain eligible for such awards until one of the following events occurs: the student earns a bachelor's degree, a maximum number of hours has been attempted, or the student has received the scholarship for 10 years. The act is subject to appropriations.
  - Passed. Governor signed. Act 120.

# State Updates

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- [HB 223](#): Support
  - HB 223 would provide tax relief for individuals and businesses impacted by Hurricane Helene. The bill excludes disaster relief or assistance grant payments for agricultural losses from taxable net income to ensure recipients are not financially penalized for receiving aid. Additionally, it establishes refundable income tax credits for timber producers who suffered casualty losses due to the hurricane, helping them recover from significant financial setbacks.
  - Passed. Governor Signed. Act 70.
- [HB 495](#): Support
  - House Bill 495 transfers the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation from the University System of Georgia to the Department of Agriculture. The bill establishes the Georgia Rural Development Council to provide guidance and oversight for the center's work. The center is tasked with promoting rural economic development through research, leadership training, industry-specific support, and collaboration with nonprofits and educational institutions. It will also assume the responsibilities of the Centers of Innovation Agribusiness and may establish satellite offices to support local communities. The center must submit a 10-year strategic plan annually to the General Assembly.
  - Passed. Governor signed. Act 311.

# Focus on 2026

Watching any bills that might come out of the study committees – Transition Age Youth Support

Implementation of School Safety Bill (HB 268) & Tort Reform

Support Several Bills: HB 134 Manufacturers Bill ; HB 165 Non-Profit Exemption ; HR 656 Study Committee on expanding homeownership opportunities (Rural Dev Comm)

Defense/Watching Several Bills (Be prepared for Calls to Action on bills like SB 184; HB 183; HB61)

# Focus on 2026

## GaACT Policy Priorities

### Support Legislation:

Incentives for Nonprofit Developers to Build and Preserve Affordable Housing

Support Funding for the Foster Care Scholarship Act

Creation of the Interagency Council on Homelessness

Short Term Emergency Rental Assistance Funds (DCA)

# Next Gen Young Leaders Program



## YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Leave **confident** with knowledge of **affordable housing, policy, and community advocacy**.

### About



- Young Adults 18-24 in Georgia
- 4 sessions: October – November
- Interactive flexible sessions

### Highlights



- \$500 stipend for completing all sessions
- Career mentorship
- Practical, hands-on projects
- Skill-building for advocacy roles
- Network with policy experts



**Apply Now!**  
(limited spots)



Georgia ACT will provide apprenticeships, work-based learning, or an internship opportunity to **outstanding participants** in the program.

