



Georgia Right to Life
Advancing Personhood
The Paramount Right to Life

2016 Legislative Report

Georgia Right to Life Priority Legislation

- [HR 1091, the Personhood Amendment](#), authored by [Representative Brad Raffensperger](#), is our flagship piece of legislation and represents the ultimate policy objective of GRTL. The Personhood Amendment would add language to the State Constitution that recognizes personhood beginning at the moment of fertilization. It would require two-thirds majority vote in both chambers to pass and then would have to be ratified by voters on the next General Election ballot.
 - DIED in House Judiciary Committee
- [HB 713](#) authored by [Representative Brad Raffensperger](#), allows a woman to prevent legitimation of parental rights of her rapist if a child was conceived during the assault. Often times, rapists will file for parental rights of the child conceived as a result of rape and use the case to force a woman to drop her rape charges against him. This bill would free women from the grip of their assaulter and help keep children safe from predators.
 - DIED in House Rules Committee
- [SB 331](#), authored by [Senator Bruce Thompson](#), allows a woman to prevent legitimation of parental rights of her rapist if a child was conceived during the assault. Often times, rapists will file for parental rights of the child conceived as a result of rape and use the case to force a woman to drop her rape charges against him. This bill would free women from the grip of their assaulter and help keep children safe from predators.
 - PASSED both chambers.
- [SB 305](#), authored by [Senator Renee Unterman](#), is an oversight bill that requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide 60 days notice to all members of the House and Senate Health & Human Services Committees prior to making any changes to the [Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment \(POLST\)](#) form. GRTL worked extensively to amend the current POLST law last

- year to prevent its use for physician-assisted suicide. This bill continues to protect the vulnerable, elderly, and infirm in Georgia.
- PASSED both chambers
 - [HB 287, the Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act](#), authored by [Representative Tom Kirby](#), is a key piece of GRTL legislation that protects children in their most vulnerable state. This bill would prevent embryos from being created and used for human research, which results in the destruction of a child for scientific purposes.
 - DIED in House Judiciary Committee

Georgia Right to Life-Supported Legislation

- [HB 770](#), authored by [Representative Chuck Efstration](#), expands Georgia's laws on sexual trafficking to include mentally disabled adults in the victim class of the sexually exploited as well as allow the prosecution of sex traffickers based on the cases built by undercover law enforcement officers before a victim is trafficked.
 - PASSED both chambers.
- [SB 129, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(RFRA\)](#), authored by [Senator Josh McKoon](#), is the Senate's legislation that would require courts to use a two-part test when handling religious liberty cases. The first part is determining whether the state has a compelling interest in interfering with the religious expression in question. The second part is determining whether the court is limiting that religious expression in the least restrictive means possible. This legislation is imperative to ensure that Georgians' religious liberty is treated as a first-tier right, along with freedom of press and speech.
 - DIED in House Judiciary; certain provisions added HB 757.
- [HB 837, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(RFRA\)](#), authored by [Representative Ed Setzler](#), is the House's legislation that would require courts to use a two-part test when handling religious liberty cases. The first part is determining whether the state has a compelling interest in interfering with the religious expression in question. The second part is determining whether the court is limiting that religious expression in the least restrictive means possible. This legislation is imperative to ensure that Georgians' religious liberty is treated as a first-tier right, along with freedom of press and speech.
 - Failed to receive committee assignment.

- [SB 284, the First Amendment Defense Act \(FADA\)](#), authored by [Senator Greg Kirk](#), ensures that private citizens, Christian schools and adoption agencies, pastors, and churches cannot be discriminated against based on the exercise of their belief in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman and the exclusivity of sexual behavior within that marriage.
 - DIED in Senate Rules Committee; limited provisions added to HB 757
- [HB 757, the Free Exercise Protection Act](#), authored by [Representative Kevin Tanner](#), would allow for pastors to speak on the sanctity of marriage inside their churches without state interference, contained certain provisions from SB 129 and SB 284.
 - PASSED both chambers, vetoed by Governor Deal.

Georgia Right to Life-Monitored Legislation

- [SB 308](#), authored by [Senator Renee Unterman](#), would create a state grant for [pregnancy resource centers \(PRCs\)](#) to receive state funding that could be used to expand their facility, make repairs, purchase ultrasound machines, etc. The bill would prohibit PRCs from using any state funding for religious purposes.
 - PASSED both chambers.
- [HB 555](#), authored by [Representative Joyce Chandler](#), is a bill that requires juvenile courts to report how many minors have requested waivers for parental notification to obtain an abortion.
 - Gutted by House, repaired by Senate, then gutted in House before final passage.

Georgia Right to Life-Opposed Legislation

- [HB 762](#), authored by [Representative Wendell Willard](#), would prevent abortionists from selling aborted fetal tissue. The bill, however, does not prohibit procurement companies to sell aborted baby body parts. The procurement companies are responsible for obtaining, storing, and transporting aborted baby parts. That means that babies can be killed for money in abortion, then donated to a third-party company who will then make money by selling the baby's body parts to biotech companies, research facilities, and universities for medical research.
 - DIED in Senate Rules Committee.