

**OFFICE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES**

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**TOMORROW'S FORECAST**

- \* The House will reconvene for its 20th Legislative Day on Thursday, February 18, at 2:00 PM.
- \* 4 bills are expected to be debated on the floor.

**GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****DAILY REPORT**

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

19th Legislative Day

**TODAY ON THE FLOOR****RULES CALENDAR****HB 665 - Elections; 2010 pilot program; electronic transmission of absentee ballots; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 665 provides for a pilot program for the 2012 general primary and general election for the electronic transmission of absentee ballots by military and overseas citizens. Implementation of its provisions is subject to the availability of funding.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 23rd
- **House Committee:** Governmental Affairs
- **Rule:** Structured
- **Yeas:** 165; **Nays:** 1

**HB 1028 - Ad valorem tax; forest land conservation use property; revise provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: The Forest Land Protection Act passed in 2008 provided that when breach of a forest land covenant occurs following the transfer of a portion of the tract to another owner, that the penalty and interest shall be paid by either the acquiring owner or the transferor, whichever breached the covenant. However, Dept. of Revenue rules and regulations promulgated on this act provide that if the penalty and interest is not satisfied by the breaching party then the local governments may seek recovery from the non-breaching party's property interest, and may file a lien against that property. This bill would clarify that only the portion on which the breach occurred will be subject to penalty and interest, and only that portion of the land may be subject to a lien.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Roberts of the 154th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **Rule:** Structured
- **Yeas:** 139; **Nays:** 26

\* *The House will reconvene Thursday, February 18, at 2:00 PM, for its 20th Legislative Day*

## **COMMITTEE ON RULES**

**The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 20th Legislative Day, Thursday, February 18, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker.**

### **TOMORROW ON THE FLOOR**

#### **HB 867 - Commission on Regional Planning; create; provide for membership and duties**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill creates a Commission on Regional Planning, which will:
  - Coordinate state contracts and planning of resource allocation as well as state service delivery.
  - Identify appropriate funding for commissions pursuing shared service delivery goals as well as issues requiring state, regional or local action.

This bill also establishes this Commission's governing board composition with the Governor serving as a chairperson.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/8/2010
- **Rule:** Open

#### **HB 901 - Repeat offenders; fourth felony offense punishment; change provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill would remove an exception for capital felons and require them to serve the maximum sentence upon conviction of a fourth or subsequent felony.

Currently, the code includes the phrase "other than a capital felony". This bill removes that language.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Levitas of the 82nd
- **House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/10/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

#### **HB 977 - Quality Basic Education Act; state funds for salary increase; prohibit**

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 977 relates to employment under the "Quality Basic Education Act" and to prohibit the use of state funds to provide salary increases for local school superintendents or administrators during a school year that the local board of education has furloughed teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, custodians, support staff or other non-administrative positions. If the local school board intends to do so they must provide notice of a public hearing for full discussion and public input. However, this does not apply to any step increases on the state salary schedule for superintendents or administrators.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ed Rynders of the 152nd
- **House Committee:** Education
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

#### **HB 981 - Law enforcement vehicles; painted solid color; authorize**

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation amends Code Section 40-8-91 to allow the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to have State Patrol cars painted a solid color instead of a two toned scheme. The current regulations regarding two toned color schemes remain unchanged. HB 981 just offers another option when considering painting of patrol cars.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jill Chambers of the 81st
- **House Committee:** Public Safety and Homeland Security
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/10/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

*\* The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, February 18, at 1:00 PM, to set the Rules Calendar for the 21st Legislative Day.*

# **COMMITTEE ACTION REPORT**

## **Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications**

### **SR 12 - General Assembly; authorize to provide a general law for payment of rewards; first commercial oil and natural gas wells CA**

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation proposes a Constitutional Amendment that supersedes the 1976 Constitutional provision by authorizing the General Assembly to provide, by general law, for the payment of rewards to the first person or firm who puts down and brings in the first commercial oil well on land and off-shore in waters of the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the first person that puts down and brings the first commercial natural gas well on land in this state and off-shore in waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The amount of the reward, the minimal amounts of daily production required to qualify as commercial wells, and the authority for determining whether such wells are producing the minimal amounts of production must be established by general law.

- **Authored By:** Sen. Chip Pearson of the 51st

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Health & Human Services**

### **HB 1154 - Influenza vaccine; revise definition**

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation allows the nasal spray flu vaccine to be administered to patients in the range of 13-49 years of age without needing a prescription from a physician. Additionally patients who opt for the nasal spray vaccine rather than the injection must sign a form stating that they do not have any medical conditions that would make them high risk for influenza.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Sean Jerguson of the 22nd

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Health & Human Services**

### **HB 1179 - Influenza vaccinations; hospitals offer annually to employees; require**

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation requires that hospitals offer flu vaccines to their employees who have contact with patients, at no cost for the employee. These vaccines are not mandatory for the employee to accept.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Katie M. Dempsey of the 13th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Industrial Relations**

### **HB 1101 - Workers' compensation; Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund; revise provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1101 provides for the publication of decisions of the board as well as providing for the entry and execution of judgment upon final orders and decisions regarding the Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund. Further, it modifies the notification period for revocation of a certificate of self-insurance and revises provisions relative to the Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund. Finally, it provides immunity from liability for members of the board of trustees of the Self-insurers Guaranty Trust Fund.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mike Coan of the 101st

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1142 - Putnam County; board of elections and registration; create**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the Act creating a board of elections and registration for Putnam County so as to provide for the composition, qualifications, and terms of its members, and, to provide for meetings, procedures, and compensation of members of the board and personnel.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mickey Channell of the 116th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1151 - St. Marys, City of; ad valorem tax; municipal purposes; homestead exemption; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to replace the current homestead exemption from City of St. Marys ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$25,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city who are 65 years of age or older whose income does not exceed \$25,000.00 with a new exemption in the amount of \$25,000.00 for residents who are 65 years of age or older without regard to income.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Cecily Hill of the 180th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1156 - Temple, City of; provide new charter**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Temple.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Timothy Bearden of the 68th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1157 - Broxton, City of; city attorney and municipal court judge qualifications; provide**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide qualifications for certain officials, to provide requirements for disbursements, to provide for deposit of funds received as fines, forfeitures, and fees, to provide for penalties for not timely making such deposits, to provide for audits, and to provide for penalties for failure to timely perform audits in the City of Broxton.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Sims of the 169th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1169 - Cadwell, Town of; provide new charter**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide a new charter for the Town of Cadwell.
- **Authored By:** Rep. DuBose Porter of the 143rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **HB 1176 - Fannin County Water Authority Act; enact**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to create the Fannin County Water Authority and to provide for its powers and duties.
- **Authored By:** Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Intragovernmental Coordination - Local**

### **SB 376 - Covington Municipal Airport Authority Act; powers, duties, membership**

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to create the Covington Municipal Airport Authority and to provide for its powers and duties.
- **Authored By:** Sen. John Douglas of the 17th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Judiciary Non-Civil**

### **HB 199 - Warrants for arrest; persons who may issue warrants; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: Under the current code citizens may petition a magistrate court for an arrest warrant to be issued against another for a violation of penal laws. A hearing is required for such a petition.

This bill modifies code section 17-4-40 and provides that a magistrate judge may deny a hearing of an application for warrant without notice if the application does not demonstrate a probable cause for issuing the warrant.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Sean Jerguson of the 22nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Judiciary Non-Civil**

### **HB 1002 - Crimes and offenses; crimes against judges and court personnel; increase punishment**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill provides for enhanced penalties against those who commit aggravated assault against judges, attorneys, clerks of court, deputy clerks of court, court reporters, and probation officers while they are performing their official duties.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Public Safety and Homeland Security**

### **HB 958 - Georgia Ports Authority; applicability of traffic laws and enforcement by security guards; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends Code section 52-2-10 by revising language to change designations of 'security guards' as 'peace officers'. The section is also amended to require those persons with the authority to exercise the powers of arrest to be certified peace officers according to the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Burke Day of the 163rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Public Safety and Homeland Security**

### **HB 979 - Assault and battery; penalties for aggravated assault on explorer; provide**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill will amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the O.C.G.A relating to assault and battery by amending Code Section 15-5-21 by adding subsection (f)(1) which defines the term "law enforcement explorer" as a person who is a current member of a law enforcement agency's explorer program and who is performing functions other than those required to be performed by a certified peace officer. (f)(2) a person who knowingly commits the offense of aggravated assaults upon a law enforcement explorer, while the explorer is engaged in or the midst of doing his or her duties, will be punished by imprisonment of no less than 5 years but no more than 20 years.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Roger B. Lane of the 167th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Public Safety and Homeland Security**

### **SB 324 - Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; clarify the authority of the council to impose administrative fees**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends 35-8-7 to add the imposition of administrative fees for services provided pursuant to Code to the duties and powers of the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Johnny Grant of the 25th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## **Regulated Industries**

### **HB 1050 - Real estate appraisers; appraisal management companies; add regulations**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill gives the Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board the authority to regulate and discipline the Real Estate Appraisal Management Companies that do business in this state. It allows the Board to establish standards for the operation of appraisal management companies and requires such companies to register with the Board. It also requires the appraisal management companies to designate as a managing principal an individual who holds a certified residential real property classification, as determined by the Board.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Retirement**

### **HB 960 - Georgia Defined Contribution Plan; make lump sum payment upon death; change**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill changes the default beneficiary for Georgia Defined Contribution Plan members when a designation has not been made from the member's estate to follow the Per Stirpes Rules.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## **Retirement**

### **HB 1150 - Retirement and pensions; Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund; define terms**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill increases the penalty for making false statement or falsifying documents for the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund from a misdemeanor to a felony.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Weldon of the 3rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

## Science and Technology

### **HB 788 - Animal protection; methods of euthanasia; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: Prohibits animal shelters from utilizing gas chambers to euthanize cats and dogs, instead requiring lethal injection to be used as the method of euthanasia (the latter method currently already widely in use).
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Knox of the 24th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## State Institutions & Property

### **HB 1019 - State government; replacement permits, licenses; and identification cards; provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1019 defines "natural disaster" for the ensuing code section and requires each state agency that issues permits, licenses, certificates, or identification cards to citizens of this state to issue replacement permits, licenses, certificates or identification cards without charge to citizens who demonstrate that their original documents were lost or destroyed as the direct result of a natural disaster.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Alisha Thomas Morgan of the 39th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

\* Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office, and are then placed on the General Calendar.



## **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **Thursday, February 18, 2010**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<u>NATURAL RESOURCES &amp; ENVIRONMENT</u>	606 CLOB
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<u>MOTOR VEHICLES</u>	406 CLOB
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<u>Joint Appropriations Public Safety and General Subcommittee</u>	415 CLOB
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>JUDICIARY NON-CIVIL</u>	132 CAP
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<u>GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS</u>	406 CLOB
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<u>WAYS &amp; MEANS</u>	606 CLOB
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<u>EDUCATION</u>	506 CLOB
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Railway &amp; Transit Subcommittee of Transportation</u>	515 CLOB
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	<u>Real Estate/Construction Subcommittee on Special Committee on Small Business</u>	415 CLOB
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee</u>	403 CAP
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>DEFENSE &amp; VETERANS AFFAIRS</u>	406 CLOB
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	<u>SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT &amp; JOB CREATION</u>	415 CLOB
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Sales Tax Subcommittee of Ways &amp; Means</u>	606 CLOB
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Academic Achievement Subcommittee of Education</u>	506 CLOB
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<u>Jacobs Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil</u>	132 CAP- CANCELED
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<u>INSURANCE</u>	406 CLOB- CANCELED
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<u>RULES</u>	341 CAP
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<u>Subcommittee of Regulated Industries</u>	415 CLOB