

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES

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TOMORROW'S FORECAST

- * The House will reconvene for its 24th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 11, at 2:00 PM.
- * 6 bills are expected to be debated on the floor.

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

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

23rd Legislative Day

TODAY ON THE FLOOR

Speaker David Ralston gavelled the House into session and as members started their day, they paid their respect to the late Thomas B. Murphy who served as Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives for 28 years, the longest of any Speaker in the history of state legislatures. Speaker Murphy's portrait will be hung in the Capitol Building celebrating his life and his service to the state of Georgia.

RULES CALENDAR**HB 925 - Mandatory education; unexcused absence notice sent by United States mail; provide**

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 925 changes provisions stating that local school systems must provide the unexcused absences of students between ages six to sixteen, from "certified mail" to only being required to be mailed by the United State mail service.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
- **House Committee:** Education
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 141; **Nays:** 3

HB 1072 - Motor vehicle franchise practices; voluntary releases; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1072 seeks to clarify provisions relating to voluntary releases entered into by a automobile dealer; to prohibit a franchisor from assessing a surcharge against a dealer for warranty repairs; to require a franchisor to pay a dealer terminated as a result of a bankruptcy or industry reorganization the fair market value of the terminated franchise as of the notice of termination or 12 months prior, whichever is greater. It becomes effective upon signature of the Governor.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **House Committee:** Motor Vehicles
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 152; **Nays:** 6

HB 1085 - Reunification of family; additional case plan and permanency plan requirements; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation would requires that when children are placed into foster care siblings are kept together when possible, that the child stays in the same educational setting when possible and require that transition planning take place with youths who are about to exit the program.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Katie M. Dempsey of the 13th
- **House Committee:** Children & Youth
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 150; **Nays:** 3

HB 1094 - Natural Resources, Department of; develop water conservation incentives; require

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill seeks to create a "culture of water conservation" in Georgia through a combination of incentives and mandates.

Section 1

The General Assembly directs a number of state agencies involved in water-related issues (Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, GEFA, DCA, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Georgia Department of Community Health, including its Division of Public Health, the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission) to work together in developing programs for water conservation and water supply.

Section 2

The bill requires state agencies (as listed above), no later than this coming August 1, to examine their programs, rules, etc. to identify incentives for voluntary water conservation and for enhancing the state's water supply. These initiatives should include, but not be limited to, incentives and opportunities to encourage residential and commercial retrofits for water-efficient fixtures and equipment. The agencies should also encourage the installation of submeters on existing non-submetered multiunit commercial and industrial complexes. Agencies must submit reports to the General Assembly each year beginning in 2011 through 2015 that detail changes made by the agencies in the preceding year to encourage water conservation and enhance the state's water supply, the rules, regulations, and policies adopted to support such changes, and an outline of the agency's goals for the next calendar year.

Section 3

The section requires the Board of Natural Resources, no later than next January 1, to adopt rules for minimum standards and best practices for monitoring and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water use by public water systems. This "best practices" program will include, among other things, the establishment of an infrastructure leakage index and a phased-in approach for water loss detection programs. This bill defines a "public water system" as one which provides piped water for human consumption, if the system regularly serves at least 3,300 individuals. By January 1, 2012, public water systems serving at least 10,000 individuals must conduct a water loss audit pursuant to the minimum standards and best practices adopted by the Board of Natural Resources. By January 1, 2013, all other public water systems must conduct such audits as well. Audit results will be submitted to EPD within 60 days of completion and be posted on the EPD website.

Section 4

The bill clarifies when a political subdivision may impose more stringent outdoor watering restrictions than those imposed by the state, to include non-drought periods or state-declared periods of drought and allows the EPD director to revoke, suspend or modify a political subdivision's water withdrawal or waste treatment permit if the subdivision violates these provisions or exercises emergency outdoor water restriction powers in a way to circumvent the need for a variance for longer-term implementation of such restrictions. It limits daily outdoor watering to the hours of 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. with exceptions for a number of activities. It provides an appeals process for a permittee who is aggrieved or adversely affected by any order and/or action of the EPD director pursuant to this section.

Section 5

The bill establishes three categories of farm use surface water withdrawal permits: active, inactive and unused. Conditions are also established for the reclassification of inactive permits to an active permit and for revocation of an unused permit.

Section 6

The bill establishes three categories of farm use ground-water withdrawal permits: active, inactive and unused. Conditions are also established for the reclassification of inactive permits to an active permit and for revocation of an unused permit.

Section 7

The bill requires all new multiunit residential buildings permitted on or after July 1, 2012, and all new multiunit retail and light industrial buildings permitted or with a pending permit application on or after July 1, 2012, to be constructed in a manner to measure water use by each unit. This "submetering" requirement would not apply, however, to newly-constructed multiunit office buildings or office components of mixed-use developments. The director of EPD may issue a temporary waiver of this submetering requirement if a building owner or operator demonstrates that compliance has become temporarily impracticable because of circumstances beyond the owner's or operator's control. The bill also relieves building owners and operators required to comply with this submetering requirement from liability for actions or inactions that occur as the result of billing or meter-reading errors by an unaffiliated third-party billing or meter-reading company.

Section 8

The bill requires the installation of high-efficiency plumbing fixtures in all new construction permitted on or after July 1, 2012 and revises provisions in the current Code concerning such fixtures (e.g. defines plumbing fixtures, provisions that standards related to high-efficiency plumbing fixtures are to include).

Section 9

The bill requires the installation of high-efficiency cooling towers in new construction permitted on or after July 1, 2012.

Section 10

The bill establish a 10-member legislative Joint Committee on Water Supply to study the state's reservoir system and analyze the state's strategic needs for additional water supply, including without limitation, the identification of creative financing options for water reservoirs and other opportunities for water supply enhancement. The study committee is to report its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2010. The board will be comprised of 5 members each of the State House and Senate. This Act shall become effective upon approval by the Governor or becomes law without such approval.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Lynn Ratigan Smith of the 70th
- **House Committee:** Natural Resources & Environment
- **Rule:** Structured
- **Yeas:** 166; **Nays:** 5

SB 305 - Transportation Department; design-build method; increase the percentage of projects contracted

- **BILL SUMMARY:** This legislation amends Georgia Code so that in contracting for design-build contracts, the Department of Transportation is limited to contracting for no more than 30% of the total amount of construction projects awarded in the previous fiscal year. Current law provides for no more than 15%.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis of the 53rd
- **House Committee:** Transportation
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 162; **Nays:** 1

LOCAL CALENDAR

HB 1161 - Macon-Bibb, Georgia; provide unified government

- **BILL SUMMARY:** A Bill to provide a unified form of government for the City of Macon and Bibb County and to provide for its powers and duties.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Allen Peake of the 137th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1210 - Bryan County; Board of Commissioners prescribe time, place, and dates for meetings; provide

- **BILL SUMMARY:** A Bill to provide that the Bryan County Board of Commissioners shall establish by resolution the time, place, and dates for its regular meetings.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1211 - Troup County; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- **BILL SUMMARY:** A Bill to authorize Troup County to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Randy Nix of the 69th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1212 - LaGrange, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- **BILL SUMMARY:** A Bill to authorize the City of LaGrange to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Randy Nix of the 69th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1225 - Western Area Regional Radio System Authority; Coweta County; government of authority

- **BILL SUMMARY:** A Bill to amend the Act creating the Western Area Regional Radio System Authority so as to include Coweta County as a member of the authority and to change definitions in the Act accordingly.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Billy Horne of the 71st
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1254 - Pooler, City of; mayor and councilmembers; four-year terms; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide four-year terms of office for the mayor and councilmembers of the City of Pooler and to provide for a referendum.
- **Authored By:** . Ann Purcell of the 159th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1255 - Gainesville, City of; ad valorem taxes; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the City of Gainesville independent school district homestead exemptions for disabled persons or senior citizens by allowing any person who is disabled or is 62 to 70 years of age who receives the first \$30,000.00 exemption to automatically receive the second full value exemption upon reaching 70 years of age.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Carl Rogers of the 26th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1261 - Hogansville, City of; levy excise tax; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Hogansville to levy a hotel/motel tax.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Carl Von Epps of the 128th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

HB 1275 - Wayne County Industrial Development Authority; number of board directors; increase

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to repeal the Act which increased the number members on the board of directors of the Wayne County Industrial Development Authority.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mark Williams of the 178th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

SB 277 - Magistrate Court of Troup County; provide chief magistrate shall be a full-time position; compensation and qualifications

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide that the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Troup County shall be a full-time position and to provide for compensation and qualifications.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Seth Harp of the 29th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

SB 279 - Decatur, City of; authorize all redevelopment/other powers; provide a referendum

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Decatur to exercise all redevelopment powers as permitted under the State Constitution and the Redevelopment Powers Law pending a local referendum to approve the authorization.
- **Authored By:** Sen. David Adelman of the 42nd
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

SB 422 - Porterdale, City Of; provide homestead exemption; municipal purposes

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide a \$10,000.00 homestead exemption from certain City of Porterdale ad valorem taxes.
- **Authored By:** Sen. John Douglas of the 17th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

** The House will reconvene Thursday, March 11, at 2:00 PM, for its 24th Legislative Day*

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 24th Legislative Day, Thursday, March 11, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker.

TOMORROW ON THE FLOOR

HB 927 - Public schools disciplinary tribunals; bullying; expand definition

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill expands and clarifies the definition of 'bullying,' and allows remedial action to be taken in any grade level (not just six through 12). The bill reiterates that local school systems have discretion to transfer a student for bullying. The DOE would be required to develop a model bullying policy which requires a process to notify parents of incidents of bullying, a duty for school employees to report bullying, and to prohibit retaliation for reporting bullying.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/10/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

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
- **House Committee:** Public Safety and Homeland Security
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/17/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1013 - Sales tax; educational purposes; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1013 requires school boards to publish an annual summary of their sales tax for education (ESPLOST) program finances in a newspaper of general circulation within the local government boundaries. The publication must show, for each project, the original estimated cost, the current estimated cost, amounts expended in prior year, and amounts expended in the current year. This is the same requirement imposed on counties and cities that have a special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST). This is intended to provide transparency in the use of taxpayer money and ensures school systems are held to the same standards as counties and cities.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Doug Holt of the 112th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/18/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

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
- **House Committee:** Regulated Industries
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/17/2010
- **Rule:** Open

HB 1079 - Teacher certification; additional payment methods; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1079 amends Code Section 20-2-200 relating to the payment methods for teachers to pay certifications fees to the Professional Standards Commission. In the past, teachers were only allowed to pay with check or money order but now will be allowed to use credit or debit cards as well.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Dickson of the 6th
- **House Committee:** Education
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/18/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

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
- **House Committee:** Industrial Relations
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/17/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

** The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, March 11, at 1:00 PM, to set the Rules Calendar for the 25th Legislative Day.*

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORT

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

HB 62 - Cancelable educational loans; State Veterinary Education Board; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: Involves the creation of a Veterinarian Education Board which will be comprised of five(5) members whose criteria of membership is established by the bill. The primary purpose of the board will be to purchase educational loans on behalf of veterinarian students, up to 5, who have received necessary certification and agree to apply their practice in a "rural" county which is defined to be one whose population, as of the 2000 census or any subsequent census, to be at or below 35,000. This bill further requires that any veterinarian receiving these funds must make themselves available to service food-stuff animals such as cattle or sheep.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Gene Maddox of the 172nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

HB 842 - Agriculture; preempt certain local ordinances; protect right to grow food crops; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 842 states that no county, municipality, consolidated government, or local government authority can require a permit to raise food crops, chickens, rabbits, or milk goats, on private residential property. These products must be used for human consumption and cannot be used for commercial purposes. This bill will not impair local government or private citizen to abate a public or private nuisance.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Bobby Franklin of the 43rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

HB 1048 - Conveyances; structures require certified termite and wood-destroying organism inspection; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1048 requires all deeds conveying an interest in real property on which is situated a single family dwelling shall include certification by a person employed by a licensee under Chapter 45 of Title 43 that such structure has been inspected for termites and other wood-destroying organisms and stating the results of such inspections.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom McCall of the 30th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

HB 1059 - Solid waste management; permits for handling, disposal, or treatment; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1059 will allow for the disposal and decomposition of yard trimmings and vegetative waste in a lined municipal solid waste landfill having a landfill gas collection system in operation directed to a beneficial use of landfill gas such as electrical power generation, industrial end use, or similar beneficial reuse.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Randy Nix of the 69th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

HB 1106 - Animal protection; shelters scan for microchips prior to euthanasia; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1106 requires that all animals brought into a shelter be scanned universal microchip reader within 24 hours, or as soon as possible, prior to euthanizing any dog, cat, or other large animal traditionally kept as household pets.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Gene Maddox of the 172nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Governmental Affairs

HB 1090 - Parks; Georgia Agrirama Development Authority; abolish; provide successor

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1090 abolishes the Georgia Agrirama Development Authority and provides that Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) shall be the successor to such authority and shall continue all functions of the authority without interruption. Further, it provides for an assumption of assets and liabilities by ABAC.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Austin Scott of the 153rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Governmental Affairs

HB 1233 - Georgia Public Service Commission; certain costs charged to involved utility; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1233 changes how expert witnesses are funded in public utility rate cases held before the Georgia Public Service Commission. Currently, these witnesses are funded from the state treasury. Under HB 1233, witnesses would be paid by the utility bringing the rate case. They would then recoup their cost from their rate payers.
- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Governmental Affairs

HB 1242 - Ethics; State Transportation Board members are public officers; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1242 provides that members of the State Transportation Board are public officers for the purposes of "The Ethics in Government Act" and will be subject to the financial reporting requirements contained therein.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 23rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Governmental Affairs

HB 1283 - State government; budget units to review and modify user fees collected; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1283 develops a statewide policy for state agencies to review and modify, if necessary, all user fees. It provides principles for reviewing user fees. Finally, it removes those fees set by statute and places it under the agencies purview.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Richard H. Smith of the 131st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Governmental Affairs

HB 1284 - Planning and Budget, Office of; record of user fees collected; provide for publication

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1284 requires the Office of Planning and Budget to maintain a record of all user fees collected by any department, agency, or other budget unit. Further, it provides for publication of the record on the Open Georgia website.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Richard H. Smith of the 131st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Governmental Affairs

HB 1322 - Public disclosure exemption; certain graphic image photographs; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1322 provides that certain photographs fewer than five years old which are in the custody of a law enforcement agency which show graphic images of the sexual organs or the dismemberment of the dead body of a crime victim whose identity is known shall not be subject to public disclosure. This bill will become effective upon signature of the Governor.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Jill Chambers of the 81st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1281 - Decatur County; board of commissioners; voting and removal from office; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide for the selection, service, power, and duties of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Decatur County Board of Commissioners, and, to change provisions relating to voting and removal from office of the chairperson and vice-chairperson.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Gene Maddox of the 172nd

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1282 - Leary, City of; provide new charter

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Leary.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Gerald E Greene of the 149th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1292 - Colquitt County Family Connection Collaborative on Children and Families; change membership

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the Act creating the Colquitt County Family Connection Collaborative on Children and Families so as to change membership of the commission.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1295 - Haralson, City of; mayor and councilmembers; stagger terms

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide four-year staggered terms of office for the mayor and councilmembers of the City of Haralson, to reduce the current term of office for the mayor and the Post 3 councilmember from four years to three years, and to provide for a referendum.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Billy Horne of the 71st

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1299 - Roswell, City of; office of mayor not held more than three terms; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide that no person shall hold the office of mayor for more than three complete terms in the City of Roswell.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Harry Geisinger of the 48th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1319 - Dunwoody, City of; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the homestead exemption from City of Dunwoody ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead by eliminating the automatic sunset so that the exemption continues indefinitely.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Fran Millar of the 79th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1320 - DeKalb County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the homestead exemption from DeKalb County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year assessed value of a homestead exceeds the base year assessed value of such homestead by eliminating the automatic sunset so that the exemption continues indefinitely.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Fran Millar of the 79th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Judiciary Non-Civil

HB 31 - Motor vehicles; traffic-control signal monitoring devices; repeal provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill addresses citations issued when a vehicle is photographed or video taped in violation of a red light signal. The included statement of the inference under which the citation is issued shall be in such a format that the recipient can check off one of the methods to rebut the inference and return a notarized statement to the law enforcement agency. The statement shall also contain a provision notifying the recipient of the citation that knowingly and willfully making a false statement is a misdemeanor.

In addition to the current methods available to rebut the evidence that the owner operated the vehicle in violation of this section a new one has been added: Submit to the court a notarized statement that he or she was operating the vehicle as part of a funeral procession at the time of the alleged violation.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Barry Loudermilk of the 14th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Judiciary Non-Civil

HB 1121 - Quality Basic Education Act; state assessments tampering a misdemeanor; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: The legislation will make it unlawful for any employee of a local unit of administration to knowingly and willfully tamper with or facilitate cheating on tests required by the State Department of Education (examples of unlawful acts under this bill include allowing students to see questions prior to the exam, copying any portion of the exam, making answer keys available, etc.). The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) will establish and follow annual guidelines to examine the results of mandated tests. As a result of these examinations, GOSA may submit requests for investigation of testing irregularities to the Professional Standards Commission and the Attorney General.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Matt Ramsey of the 72nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Judiciary Non-Civil

HB 1155 - Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill creates the offense of 'criminal abortion,' which is when a person performs an abortion (1) with the intent to prevent an unborn child from being born based on the race, color, or gender of the unborn child or the race or color of either parent; (2) with the knowledge that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion based on the race, color, or gender of the unborn child or the race or color of either parent; or (3) with the knowledge that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion as a result of coercion. The bill allows the woman to recover in a civil action from the person who performed the criminal abortion.

The bill exempts the woman from criminal or civil liability as a result of the abortion or for solicitation or for conspiracy to violate the Code section.

The bill includes a provision reiterating the confidentiality of a patient's personal medical information.

The bill includes a provision reaffirming that abortions done to protect the life of the mother are not subject to liability under this Code section.

The bill adds the offense of criminal abortion to the State's RICO statutes.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Barry Loudermilk of the 14th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB 51 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation; bingo games; Department of Revenue; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: Amends Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 relating to bingo by replacing "Director" with "Commissioner" and "director" with "commissioner" wherever such terms occur in the Code sections relating to bingo game definitions, operations and licensing, certification, reporting, rules and regulations, and penalties. This part is also amended by replacing "Bureau of Investigation" with "Department of Revenue" wherever such term occurs relating to bingo definitions and policies.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Burke Day of the 163rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Retirement

HB 1237 - Retirement; Title 47; correct errors and omissions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated

- BILL SUMMARY: This bills corrects typographical and other errors within Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. relating to retirement and pensions

- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Retirement

SB 283 - Retirement; no person who becomes tax commissioner; on/after July 1, 2010; membership in Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill relates to county revenue employees and states that no one who becomes tax commissioner or their employees are eligible for membership in the Employees Retirement System. Effective Date July 1, 2010.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Bill Heath of the 31st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Science and Technology

SB 319 - Education; definition of "textbook" include computer hardware/technical equipment to support use of nonprint or digital content

- BILL SUMMARY: Allows the State Board of Education to broaden the definition of "textbook" (as pertains to elementary and secondary education) to include textbooks in a digital format, including any computer hardware, software and technical equipment necessary to support such material. Also provides that these provisions are not to be construed to exempt computer hardware or related equipment acquired by the state from competitive bidding.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Cecil Staton of the 18th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

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



COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 11, 2010

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|---------------------|--|----------|
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | <u>Lane Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil</u> | 132 CAP |
| 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM | <u>BUDGET & FISCAL AFFAIRS</u> | 515 CLOB |
| 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | <u>Life & Health Subcommittee of Insurance</u> | 415 CLOB |
| 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM | <u>Ad Valorem Subcommittee of Ways & Means</u> | 133 CAP |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | <u>JUDICIARY CIVIL</u> | 132 CAP |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>Setzler Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil</u> | 132 CAP |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>WAYS & MEANS</u> | 606 CLOB |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>EDUCATION</u> | 506 CLOB |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | <u>HUMAN RELATIONS & AGING</u> | 515 CLOB |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES</u> | 406 CLOB |
| 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | <u>STATE PLANNING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS</u> | 341 CAP |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>MOTOR VEHICLES</u> | 415 CLOB |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <u>Resource Management Subcommittee of Natural Resources</u> | 403 CAP |
| 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM | <u>Ramsey Subcommittee of Judiciary Non-Civil</u> | 132 CAP |
| 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | <u>RULES</u> | 341 CAP |

* This broadcast schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meetings dates and times are subject to change. To keep up with the latest schedule please visit the General Assembly website www.legis.ga.gov and click on House Meetings. To view the live stream of these meetings, please visit the Georgia Legislative Network.