

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES

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TOMORROW'S FORECAST

- * The House will reconvene for its 26th Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 17, at 10:00 AM.
- * 16 bills are expected to be debated on the floor.

**GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES****DAILY REPORT****Tuesday, March 16, 2010****25th Legislative Day****TODAY ON THE FLOOR****RULES CALENDAR****HB 571 - Sexual offenders; classification; change and enact provisions**

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill updates the code sections dealing with classification of sexual offenders, sexual offender registration requirements, and restrictions on sexual offenders' residences, workplaces, and activities. Also, a narrow and defined appeals process has been added that allows registration requirements to be altered at the discretion of a superior court judge in very limited circumstances.

Major topics covered in this bill include: Appeals, Electronic monitoring devices, Homeless provisions, Language Consistency/Terminology, Misdemeanor offenders, E-mail information, Out of State Offenders, Removal provisions, Penalties, Sexual Offender Registration Review Board, Restrictions on those required to register, Volunteers, Property Interests.

- **Authored By:** Rep. David Ralston of the 7th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 165; **Nays:** 1

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
- **House Committee:** Science and Technology
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 115; **Nays:** 46

HB 954 - Alimony; determining amount; not consider certain events; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill would prohibit the finder of fact from considering premarital cohabitation or relationship between the parties or any marriage between the parties that preceded the dissolution of the current marriage in determining an award of alimony.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 57; **Nays:** 102

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
- **House Committee:** Public Safety and Homeland Security
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 156; **Nays:** 2

HB 982 - Revenue and taxation; administrative garnishment; comprehensive revisions

- **BILL SUMMARY:** This bill provides for an administrative garnishment process. Using the current cumbersome judicial process to garnish, the Department of Revenue is only able to pursue about 240 garnishments annually because of the revenue agent resources required in the service and subsequent handling of the garnishments, and monetary costs in court filing fees, etc., even if there are no objections by either the delinquent taxpayer or the garnishee. This means thousands of delinquent accounts are uncollected even though the delinquent taxpayers may have property or income that could satisfy the debt. This bill creates an administrative garnishment process. DOR must send a billing notice to the delinquent taxpayer within 6 months, no less than 30 days, before applying administrative garnishment so that the taxpayer has a chance to satisfy the liability and received notice of possible collection action by DOR. DOR would have to wait at least 30 more days before beginning the administrative garnishment process. Once notified, the taxpayer has 15 days to decide whether to appeal to Superior Court, make an administrative appeal to the Department, or allow the garnishment to go forward. Upon DOR's final determination, the taxpayer has 30 days to appeal to Superior Court. A delinquent taxpayer (one that has exhausted its appeal rights) would have two opportunities to put the administrative garnishment process back into Superior Court.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th

- **House Committee:** Ways & Means

- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

- **Yeas:** 95; **Nays:** 68

- *Notice of "Motion to Reconsider" was made, so the bill will not be transmitted to the Senate*

HB 1128 - Public property; writing off small amounts due to state; provisions

- **BILL SUMMARY:** House Bill 1128 extends the sunset provision put in place to allow state agencies and departments including the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or the Technical College System of Georgia, to consider administratively discharging obligations that have been determined uncollectable to July 1st 2013. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or the Technical College System of Georgia may discharge amounts of \$3,000.00 or less. In order for these obligations to be considered uncollectable, the agency must provide documentation of the efforts made to collect the debt to the commissioner of the agency. At that time the commissioner will then determine if the cost of further collection efforts is in the public's financial interest. A certificate will be issued deeming the efforts of collection to be costly and the obligation can then be removed for accounting purposes.

This bill also allows the Technical College System of Georgia to collect revenue from tuition. However the amount collected may not exceed 15 percent of the tuition collected. This section is also extended until July 1st 2013.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Earl Ehrhart of the 36th

- **House Committee:** Higher Education

- **Rule:** Open

- **Yeas:** 164; **Nays:** 0

HB 1188 - Revenue and taxation; appoint special agents of Department of Revenue; provide

- **BILL SUMMARY:** HB 1188 allows the commissioner of the Department of Revenue to appoint not more than eight POST certified law enforcement officers as special agents. These agents shall be authorized to enforce criminal laws as to tax matters (Title 48 of the Georgia Code), and shall have all the powers of a peace officer when engaged in enforcement of these tax matters. Currently, DOR employs 4 POST certified officers, however, these officers are not authorized to enforce the criminal laws of the state on tax matters, and must coordinate with other law enforcement that do not have the expertise in the subject matter which is a very time consuming process that impedes the Department's ability to protect State revenues. Other agencies have their own caseloads and cannot be given certain confidential taxpayer information.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th

- **House Committee:** Ways & Means

- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

- **Yeas:** 97; **Nays:** 69

- *Notice of "Motion to Reconsider" was made, so the bill will not be transmitted to the Senate*

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR

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

- **House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

LOCAL CALENDAR

** HB 1319 & 1320 did not receive the requisite majority last week, but were reconsidered today, and did receive the requisite majority of votes.*

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
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 144; **Nays:** 23

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
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 144; **Nays:** 23

HB 1262 - Hogansville, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Hogansville 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. Carl Von Epps of the 128th
- **House Committee:** State Planning & Community Affairs
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1262 - Hogansville, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Hogansville 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. Carl Von Epps of the 128th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

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
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 144; **Nays:** 23

HB 1326 - Dawson County; ad valorem tax; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to increase the current homestead exemption from Dawson County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes for residents of that school district who are disabled or who are 65 years of age or older from \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00 and which changes the \$50,000.00 income limitation from gross income to net income excluding certain retirement income.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Amos Amerson of the 9th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1327 - Dawson County; ad valorem tax; educational purposes; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from Dawson County school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes in the amount of \$120,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 70 years of age or over.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Amos Amerson of the 9th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1330 - Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority; remove Calhoun County

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend the Act creating the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Airport Authority so as to remove Calhoun County as a member.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Gerald E Greene of the 149th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1331 - Kingsland, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Kingsland 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. Cecily Hill of the 180th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1333 - Dawson County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to increase the current homestead exemption from Dawson County ad valorem taxes for county purposes for residents of that county who are disabled or who are 65 years of age or older from \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00 and which changes the \$50,000.00 income limitation from gross income to net income excluding certain retirement income.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Amos Amerson of the 9th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1337 - Holly Springs, City of; councilmembers elected from designated posts; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to provide that the councilmembers of the City of Holly Springs shall be elected from one district with five posts and shall designate the post which he or she seeks to represent at the time of qualifying for the office.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Sean Jerguson of the 22nd
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

HB 1341 - Pickens County Board of Commissioners; create

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to change the governing authority of Pickens County from a sole commissioner to a three-member or five-member board of commissioners pending a local referendum to determine the changes.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Graves of the 12th
- **House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 163; **Nays:** 0

** The House will reconvene Wednesday, March 17, at 10:00 AM, for its 26th Legislative Day*

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 26th Legislative Day, Wednesday, March 17, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker.

TOMORROW ON THE FLOOR

HB 24 - Evidence; revise, supersede, and modernize provisions; provide definitions

- BILL SUMMARY: This is an update and rewrite of Georgia's Evidence Code (Title 24). The bill is the result of a State Bar Study Committee, which began in 2005, a joint House/Senate Study Committee that met once weekly over the 2008 interim from July through November, a number of meetings with interested parties to discuss concerns with the version of the bill that passed the Judiciary Civil Committee during the 2009 Session, and a full Judiciary Civil Committee meeting. This bill largely adopts the Federal Rules of Evidence to the extent that the interpretation is consistent with the Georgia Constitution, and brings Georgia in line with 42 other states that have similarly adopted a version of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/9/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 965 - Bicycles; operation on sidewalks; authorize local governments

- BILL SUMMARY: Amends Code section 40-6-144 to allow persons of all ages to ride bicycles on sidewalks if a local government chooses to allow the same in their ordinance. The same section is also amended relating to vehicles yielding to pedestrians to require vehicles to also yield to bicycles.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Doug McKillip of the 115th
- **House Committee:** Transportation
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/16/2010
- **Rule:** Open

HB 990 - Motor carriers; financial responsibility compatible with federal regulations; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 990 is a housekeeping bill to bring Georgia in line with federal motor carrier laws.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Alan Powell of the 29th
- **House Committee:** Motor Vehicles
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/18/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1046 - Family Court Division; project duration determined by Fulton County Superior Court majority; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: The bill removes the sunset provision for The Family Court Division of the Superior Court of Fulton County.

It further provides that the family court division shall continue until a majority of the judges of the Superior Court of Fulton County vote to discontinue it.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1060 - Georgia Ports Authority; comprehensive revisions; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1060 allows the Georgia Ports Authority to obtain its own credit rating instead of using a bank credit facility (such as a letter of credit). Last May, a large portion of GPA's revenue bonds failed to remarket due to a major bank credit rating downgrade.

Under the bill, GPA must get approval from the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission prior to issuing any bonds and financial plans are reviewed by the GSFIC staff, the state's financial advisor. Under current law, GPA's revenue bonds are not State debt and are not a pledge of the State's faith and credit, and no GPA bondholder can enforce payment against the State. GPA can use bond proceeds only for capital projects – no operating expenses are paid from bond funds. Also in the bill the definition of "project" is clarified to include cranes, cargo handling equipment, and other equipment currently used by the Authority.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/9/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1082 - Ad valorem tax exemptions; freeport exemptions; revise provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1082 expands the current Freeport inventory exemption. It allows local governments to hold a local referendum to exempt inventory of finished goods. Currently the Freeport exemption only applies to inventory for final destination outside Georgia or inventory in the process of manufacture or production. This bill creates a "Level Two" Freeport exemption that would include all inventory of a business not otherwise qualified for the current, or "level 1" Freeport exemption. The county or city may exempt 20, 40, 60, 80, or 100% of such inventory, subject to local referendum. This level two Freeport may be granted either in lieu of or in addition to the current "level one" Freeport exemption.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Powell of the 171st
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/9/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1093 - Occupation taxes; county provide electronic information to Department of Revenue; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation is designed to improve collection of state and local sales and use taxes. It provides that, if a county or city chooses to participate in this program, that they will send certain pieces of information to the Georgia Department of Revenue about the businesses that are paying local occupation taxes in that jurisdiction. This will allow the Dept. of Revenue to match those businesses with the Department's list of businesses that have registered to collect and remit sales taxes to the Department. This will allow them to identify those businesses that should be collecting sales taxes but are not doing so. The provisions in this bill will only apply to those counties and cities that adopt a resolution consenting to participate in this program.

Under this bill, participating counties and cities will request the business legal name and any trade names, mailing address and physical location addresses, and the sales and use tax identification number assigned to the business by the Department if they are required to have such number. In addition, the county or city will submit a North American Industry Classification System Code number or numbers of the business. The county or city must also provide written notice to the business that this information, or refusal to provide this information, will be provided to the Department. After collecting this information the county or city will enter this information into a website or electronic portal maintained by the department.

- **Authored By:** Rep. David Knight of the 126th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/9/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

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
- **House Committee:** Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/10/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1118 - Child Support Recovery Act; IV-D agency support orders; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 19 to align state law with federal law with respect to child support orders and access to medical insurance coverage for children.

The revisions to the code are necessary to ensure that federal funds continue to be received by the state.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Weldon of the 3rd
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1186 - Ad valorem tax exemption; certain public-private transportation projects; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1186 further defines what constitutes "public property" for purposes of the ad valorem tax exemption for public property. It provides that property qualifying as a public private transportation project which is owned or leased by the state, state agency, or other governmental entity and which is developed, operated, or held by a private partner shall constitute "public property" and shall be exempt from ad valorem tax.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Roberts of the 154th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1191 - Encumbered property; recording, payment, and distribution of tax; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1191 relates to the intangible recording tax when the encumbered property lies in more than one county. Currently, the entire tax is paid to the first county in which the filer presents the instrument for recording. The clerk of the first county has no way of determining the appropriate amount of tax to forward to the other counties. Taxpayers must wait to file in the other counties after they receive their first filing back from the clerk. This process results in a delay of several weeks or months as the filing party waits for the instrument to be recorded in each county affected. Under this bill, the filer will pay the tax to the clerk of each county. For purposes of determining the proportional value, the filer may use the county tax assessment. This bill also provides for filing of duplicate original instruments in each county where the secured property being encumbered is located.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1192 - Real estate transfer tax; property in more than one county; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1192 relates to the real estate transfer tax when the encumbered property lies in more than one county. Currently, the entire tax is paid to the first county in which the filer presents the instrument for recording. The clerk of the first county has no way of determining the appropriate amount of tax to forward to the other counties. Taxpayers must wait to file in the other counties after they receive their first filing back from the clerk. This process results in a delay of several weeks or months as the filing party waits for the instrument to be recorded in each county affected. Under this bill, the filer will pay the tax to the clerk of each county. For purposes of determining the proportional value, the filer may use the county tax assessment. This bill also provides for filing of duplicate original instruments in each county where the secured property being encumbered is located.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1224 - Drivers' licenses; defense for drivers; no vision condition restriction; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1224 provides that a person charged with driving in violation of a restriction requiring that he or she wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, such person shall not be guilty of such offense if he or she presents the trial court with admissible medical or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the trial court that he or she no longer suffers from the vision condition that resulted in the imposition of such restriction.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mark Hamilton of the 23rd
- **House Committee:** Motor Vehicles
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

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

Annotated - BILL SUMMARY: This bill corrects typographical and other errors relating to retirement and pensions

- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Retirement
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/10/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1258 - State Financing and Investment Commission; powers to meet requirements; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation allows unclaimed recovery zone bonds to be pooled together, allowing Georgia to take advantage of time sensitive borrowing and investment opportunities made available through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The deadline for said funds expires December 31,2010.

- **Authored By:** Rep. James Mills of the 25th
- **House Committee:** Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HR 1106 - Congress of the United States; Honor and Remember Flag designation; urge

- BILL SUMMARY: This resolution urges congress to adopt Honor and Remember Flag as the national symbol for service members who have fallen in service to our country.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O`Neal of the 146th
- **House Committee:** Defense & Veterans Affairs
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/3/2010
- **Rule:** Open

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORT

Banks & Banking

SB 296 - State Government; rename Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services to Office of the State Treasurer

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend OCGA Title 50 relating to state government and other code sections in order to conform, so as to rename the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services as the Office of the State Treasurer and to rename the director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services as the state treasurer.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Mitch Seabaugh of the 28th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Children & Youth

HB 1194 - Family and children services; outsource certain duties; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend Code Section 49-3-5 to authorize a county director of family and children services to identify the administrative needs of his or her office and to permit the outsourcing of such administrative needs to qualified volunteers. A criminal background check shall be required for such volunteers at the expense of the volunteer.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Carl Rogers of the 26th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Game, Fish, & Parks

HB 603 - Game and fish; taking of nongame species; change certain provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 603 makes it unlawful to possess any fresh-water turtle except a fresh-water turtle obtained from a private pond with the consent of the owner of such pond. It shall be unlawful to transport, farm, or sell any fresh-water turtle or their eggs, except as authorized by the Department of Natural Resources.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Insurance

HB 656 - Religious organizations; qualify as a self-insurer; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 656 allows certain qualified religious organizations to self-insure for motor vehicle liability insurance for all motor vehicles registered in this state that are owned or leased by members of such religious organization that obtains a certificate from the Commissioner of Insurance.
Requirements to obtain a certificate are as follows: The religious organizations has been established since December 31, 1950, and its members hold a common belief in mutual financial assistance in time of need; The religious organization shall be a recognized sect or division of a religious group which has been a recognized religious group for purposes of exemption from federal social security and Medicare taxes since December 31, 1970; The religious organization has filed with the Commissioner the required minimum security.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Terry Barnard of the 166th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination

HB 1194 - Family and children services; outsource certain duties; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend Code Section 49-3-5 to authorize a county director of family and children services to identify the administrative needs of his or her office and to permit the outsourcing of such administrative needs to qualified volunteers. A criminal background check shall be required for such volunteers at the expense of the volunteer.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Carl Rogers of the 26th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination

SB 296 - State Government; rename Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services to Office of the State Treasurer

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to amend OCGA Title 50 relating to state government and other code sections in order to conform, so as to rename the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services as the Office of the State Treasurer and to rename the director of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services as the state treasurer.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Mitch Seabaugh of the 28th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1346 - Henry County; require board member to resign if stand for other election; repeal provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to repeal the Act which requires a member of the Henry County Board of Commissioners to resign when standing for another election office.
- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1347 - Henry County; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize Henry 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. Rahn Mayo of the 91st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1349 - Roswell, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to authorize the City of Roswell 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. Harry Geisinger of the 48th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1353 - White County Building Authority Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to create the White County Building Authority and to provide for its powers and duties.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Doug Collins of the 27th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

HB 1362 - Alma, City of; change certain charter provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: A Bill to reapportion the council districts in the City of Alma.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Smith of the 168th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Rules

SB 370 - Water; examine practices, programs, policies; develop programs for voluntary water conservation; reports of measurable progress

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill seeks to create a "culture of water conservation" in Georgia through a combination of incentives and mandates. Similar legislation to HB 1094.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Ross Tolleson of the 20th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation

HB 1249 - Ad valorem tax exemption; businesses providing new jobs; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation provides exemptions on local ad valorem tax assessed on certain tangible real property for businesses providing new jobs. New language is added to the Georgia Code defining "Job creating business projects" as a project designated by the Department of Economic Development creating at least 50 jobs for the county or municipal governing authority. Said tax exemptions will be provided for a period of three years. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development will set the standards for the application process for job creating business projects. The governing authority for each individual city or county will be tasked with the approval process.

- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation

HB 1388 - Development authorities; change a certain definition

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation expands the definition of a development authority project to include conservation projects that reduce energy or water consumption or produce renewable energy. It also gives the option to local development authorities to obtain private bonds to offer low interest loans to individuals.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Timothy Bearden of the 68th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation

HR 1351 - House Study Committee of Procurement Policies of Georgia Departments and Agencies Regarding Businesses Owned by Minorities and Women; create

- BILL SUMMARY: This resolution calls for the creation of the House Study Committee on Procurement Policies of Georgia Departments and Agencies Regarding Businesses Owned by Minorities and Women. The Speaker of the House shall select five Representatives to serve on the committee, one of which will be appointed chairperson.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Tyrone Brooks of the 63rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation

HR 1448 - Ad valorem tax exemption; net job producing jurisdictions; provide - CA

- BILL SUMMARY: House Resolution 1448 proposes an amendment to the Constitution allowing counties and municipalities ad valorem tax exemptions for certain projects that produce net jobs for that area.

- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Transportation

HR 1513 - Little's Ferry/George F. Green Memorial Bridge; Hancock and Putnam Counties; dedicate

- BILL SUMMARY: This resolution dedicates the bridge over the Oconee River on Georgia Highway 16 connecting Hancock and Putnam Counties as the Little's Ferry/George F. Green Memorial Bridge. Other resolutions included in this package name roads and bridges around the state.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Sistie Hudson of the 124th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Ways & Means

HB 1138 - Revenue and tax; define Internal Revenue Code; incorporate federal law

- BILL SUMMARY: HB adopts the Internal Revenue Code as of January 1, 2010 so as to include federal tax law changes signed into law during 2009. If Georgia does not adopt these provisions, taxpayers will be required to make a number of state-level adjustments to federal AGI to compute their Georgia tax liability which will increase complexity and make compliance with our income tax system much more difficult and expensive.

The federal legislation includes the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009; the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act; the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; and the Haiti Relief Public Law 111-126. New items Georgia will adopt includes:

- Section 179 Small business expense limitation increased from \$125,000 to \$250,000.

- Allows taxpayers to claim charitable contributions for Haitian relief efforts on 2009 tax returns
- Expansion of Section 529 (qualified tuition program) qualified education expenses to include the purchase of computer technology or equipment and Internet access for students
- Non-taxability of economic recovery payments made to recipients of social security, railroad retirement, and veterans disability compensation benefits
- Non-taxability of COBRA premium subsidies received from IRS
- **Authored By:** Rep. Larry O'Neal of the 146th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Ways & Means

HB 1249 - Ad valorem tax exemption; businesses providing new jobs; provisions

- **BILL SUMMARY:** This legislation provides exemptions on local ad valorem tax assessed on certain tangible real property for businesses providing new jobs. New language is added to the Georgia Code defining "Job creating business projects" as a project designated by the Department of Economic Development creating at least 50 jobs for the county or municipal governing authority. Said tax exemptions will be provided for a period of three years. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development will set the standards for the application process for job creating business projects. The governing authority for each individual city or county will be tasked with the approval process.
- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Ways & Means

SR 277 - Georgia Trauma Trust Fund; impose a charge on certain motor vehicle registrations; transferred to state treasury for purpose of funding-CA

- **BILL SUMMARY:** Senate Resolution 277 proposes to amend the constitution to provide a dedicated source of revenue for trauma funding. It provides for an annual \$10 fee on all passenger vehicles (motor vehicles designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers) registered in this state. This fee will be collected at the same time and in the same manner as other license tag and registration fees required by law and shall be collected prior to the issuance of a license plate or revalidation decal. This trauma charge will not apply to vehicles owned by the state or its departments, agencies, or authorities or by any political subdivision of the state. Proceeds of this fee will be deposited monthly into the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund.
- **Authored By:** Sen. Greg Goggans of the 7th
- **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

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<u>SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY</u>	506 CLOB (7:45am)
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<u>AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS</u>	403 CAP
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<u>Life & Health Subcommittee of Insurance</u>	415 CLOB
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<u>RULES</u>	341 CAP
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	<u>JUDICIARY NON-CIVIL</u>	132 CAP
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	<u>NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT</u>	403 CAP
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>Resource Management Subcommittee of Natural Resources</u>	403 CAP
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>REGULATED INDUSTRIES</u>	515 CLOB
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>MOTOR VEHICLES</u>	406 CLOB
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	341 CAP
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>RETIREMENT</u>	415 CLOB
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	506 CLOB
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY</u>	415 CLOB
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>CODE REVISION</u>	403 CAP
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS</u>	406 CLOB
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<u>HEALTH HUMAN SERVICES</u>	606 CLOB
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>Sales Tax Subcommittee of Ways & Means</u>	133 CAP

Thursday, March 18, 2010

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<u>INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS</u>	606 CLOB
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<u>Academic Support Subcommittee of Education</u>	506 CLOB
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	<u>ENERGY, UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS</u>	415 CLOB
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<u>NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT</u>	515 CLOB
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>DEFENSE & VETERANS AFFAIRS</u>	415 CLOB
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY</u>	606 CLOB

** 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.*