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TOMORROW'S FORECAST

- * The House will reconvene for its 28th Legislative Day on Monday, March 22, at 10:00 AM.
- * 17 bills are expected to be debated on the floor.

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

Thursday, March 18, 2010

27th Legislative Day

TODAY ON THE FLOOR**RULES CALENDAR****HB 936 - Student transportation; allowance to refurbish existing school buses; provide**

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 936 relates to the funds used on refurbishing school buses. In past code they were not allowed to use the money for school buses to refurbish them, the money could only be used to buy new ones or replace old ones. This bill will make it possible for the State Board of Education to use these funds to refurbish buses in need of work. All buses that are refurbished will still be subject to all safety and maintenance inspections, the refurbishment must be completed by the a school bus manufacturer of by a dealer of such manufacturer.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Paul Battles of the 15th
- **House Committee:** Education
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 160; **Nays:** 1

HB 994 - Community Health, Department of; regulatory authority; revise provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation would allow the Board of Community Health to set fees for licensure fees of the health care facilities that they regulate.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Penny Houston of the 170th
- **House Committee:** Health & Human Services
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 131; **Nays:** 22

HB 1005 - Special license plates; Zoo Atlanta; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1005 creates specialty license plates to benefit Zoo Atlanta and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Katie M. Dempsey of the 13th
- **House Committee:** Motor Vehicles
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 152; **Nays:** 2

HB 1041 - Tax digests; not approved by commissioner under certain conditions; eliminate

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1041 eliminates a provision in the code that would not allow the commissioner of the department of revenue to approve digests where the assessed value of over 3% (or 5% in a year of a complete revaluation) of the total digest is on appeal or in arbitration. In some counties in Georgia, it is possible that one taxpayer could constitute over 3% of the total county digest, therefore resulting in a hold-up of the digest if one taxpayer has appealed the value of their property. This bill would eliminate this disapproval requirement beginning in 2010, and allow counties to proceed with mailing out tax bills even if properties are under appeal. The properties under appeal will continue to be billed at 85% of the assessed value as they are under the law now.

- **Authored By:** Rep. James Epps of the 140th
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 149; **Nays:** 1

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
- **House Committee:** Governmental Affairs
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Yeas:** 150; **Nays:** 5

HB 1119 - Georgia Arthritis Prevention and Control Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation would create the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program, within the Department of Community Health. The membership of the program would include people with Arthritis, medical experts, representatives from the Arthritis foundation, providers, and other epidemiological experts. The program will focus on ways to reduce the prevalence of Arthritis and ways to better control the occurrence. The program would be allowed to accept grants and apply for federal waivers for funding of the program.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ben Harbin of the 118th
- **House Committee:** Health & Human Services
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 152; **Nays:** 4

HB 1144 - Juvenile proceedings; detention; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill was requested by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The bill would allow juveniles to receive credit for time served in juvenile detention prior to disposition or sentencing (currently, juveniles are explicitly excluded from this mandate).

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver of the 83rd
- **House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil
- **Rule:** Modified-Open
- **Yeas:** 118; **Nays:** 34

HB 1260 - Service delivery regions; applicability of regions; revise a provision

- BILL SUMMARY: The Georgia Department of Human Services Divisions of Aging Services is the State Agency on Aging for Georgia. The State Agency on Aging must designate planning and services areas, also known as regional areas, for the state based on requirements set by the federal Older Americans Act in order to receive federal dollars. With that, aging boundaries do not follow state law in determining state service boundaries.

House Bill 1260 clarifies state law that aging program planning and service boundaries are excluded from the state law in this area.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **House Committee:** State Planning & Community Affairs
- **Rule:** Open
- **Yeas:** 155; **Nays:** 1

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
- **House Committee:** Rules
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured
- **Amendments(s):** N/A
- **Yeas:** 153; **Nays:** 8

** The House will reconvene Monday, March 22, at 10:00 AM, for its 28th Legislative Day*

COMMITTEE ON RULES

The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 28th Legislative Day, Monday, March 22, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker.

NEXT ON THE FLOOR

HB 203 - Local government; development authorities; clarify certain terms

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 203 clarifies legislative intent regarding House Bill 181 which was approved on May 24, 2007. No public or judicial facilities authority created by a single county can issue bonds for new projects with out a majority vote by referendum from county citizens. This bill only applies to the issuance of bonds.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th
- **House Committee:** State Planning & Community Affairs
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 281 - Georgia Virtual School Opportunity and Enrichment Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: Permits a public school to allow a non-enrolled public school student to participate in any extracurricular activity offered or conducted by such public school located in his or her attendance zone in the same manner as any student currently enrolled in that school. Final approval for such participation (of a student) resides in the discretion of the principal in accordance with local board policies, or in accordance with State Board of Education or Georgia Charter Schools Commission policies, for, respectively, a state-chartered special school or a commission charter school. To be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity under these provisions, a non-enrolled public school student must maintain at his or her school of attendance compliance with all academic/nonacademic rules and requirements governing participation in such extracurricular activity at the public school.

A "non-enrolled public school students" is defined as a K-12 public school student who resides within the attendance zone of a school but is not enrolled at that school. "Public school" is defined as one including, without limitation, a local charter school, a state-chartered special school, and a commission charter school.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Len Walker of the 107th
- **House Committee:** Science and Technology
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/17/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 831 - State auditor; certain state or local government entities' failure to perform audits required by law; provide for effects

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 831 relates to the state auditor and their authority to make sure that a political subdivision of the state or local government authority completes their audit. Each political entity will enter into a contract with an independent auditor no later than 180 days following the end of the fiscal year. The entity can request an extension no more than 60 days due to an extenuating circumstance beyond their control. If the entity does not enter into a contact in the specified time the state auditor will enter into a contract with an independent auditor to perform the audit and the entity. The Department of Revenue will withhold the amount equal to the 150 % of the cost of the audit. Out of the fund withheld 50% of the money will be transferred to the state treasury as a penalty.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Sims of the 169th
- **House Committee:** Information and Audits
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/17/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1021 - Dangerous drugs; Salvia divinorum A; include

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation makes the use of Salvia divinorum illegal, but provides an exemption the possession for landscaping purposes.

- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **House Committee:** Health & Human Services
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1047 - Flow of traffic; minimum fine for impeding traffic flow; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation amends Code section 40-6-184 to provide a minimum fine for drivers who impede the flow of traffic by driving too slow except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation. The fine for a conviction of violating this Code section will be at least \$75.00 in addition to any other punishment authorized by law.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mark Butler of the 18th
- **House Committee:** Transportation
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1086 - Public records; teacher and school employee information; exempt from disclosure

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1086 deals with exemptions to the disclosure of public records for teachers and employees of public and nonpublic schools. Information regarding the teachers or employees: home address, home telephone number, e-mail address, social security number or insurance/medical information is not subject to public disclosure. Previous code section only covered public school teachers and employees; HB 1086 adds nonpublic teachers and employees.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Rick Austin of the 10th
- **House Committee:** Education
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/18/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1103 - Education; Professional Standards Commission; criminal background checks; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1103 is relating to the issuance of clearance certificates for non educators in elementary and secondary education. Professional Standards Commission must issue a clearance certificate for every non educator which means that have completed fingerprint and criminal background check requirements. Additional fingerprinting is not necessary for renewal of a clearance certificate or for educators who possess a professional educator certificate as of January 2, 2011.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Howard Maxwell of the 17th
- **House Committee:** Education
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/18/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1134 - State and Local Public-Private Partnership Act of 2010; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1134 creates a new Advisory Council on Public-Private Partnerships that offers public officials in Georgia a powerful, new tool to prioritize limited resources and identifies opportunities to seek more efficient and effective means of service delivery through outsourcing and privatization. This advisory council would develop a centralized, independent decision-making body to manage privatization and government efficiency initiatives.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** State Planning & Community Affairs
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/9/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

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 include:

- 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
- **House Committee:** Ways & Means
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1170 - Medical assistance; health organizations providing service under Medicaid; repeal tax exemption

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation repeals the tax exemption for health maintenance organizations which provide health care services under the Medicaid program.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Jim Cole of the 125th
- **House Committee:** Appropriations
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/15/2010
- **Rule:** Structured

HB 1236 - Court reports; reduce number of reports to distribute; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill reduces the number of court reports that the reporter is required to distribute in hard copy to various departments, courts, etc. throughout the state.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1279 - Legislative Counsel, Office of; softbound volumes of Georgia Laws; repeal certain requirements

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill allows Legislative Counsel to discontinue publication of the softbound volumes of Georgia Laws and authorizes them to distribute fewer hardbound volumes of Georgia Laws. It also allows for distribution of an electronic version of Georgia Laws.

The bill further provides that those entities requesting copies of the Georgia House and Senate Journals shall pay the Secretary of State the cost of acquisition. The bill also reduces the number of copies of the Georgia House and Senate Journals the Secretary of State is required to hold in reserve.

Finally, the bill gives the Secretary of State 60 days after a local referendum is approved to provide a copy of the Act and a certificate showing it became law to the election superintendent and the governing authority of each county or municipality in which it has application.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HB 1307 - Teacher certification; learning requirements for renewal; temporarily suspend

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1307 amends Code Section 20-2-200 of the O.C.G.A which relates to teacher certification. This bill will temporarily suspending the professional learning requirements for a certification renewal for teachers and paraprofessionals for five years- from July 1, 2010 through July 1, 2015.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tom Dickson of the 6th
- **House Committee:** Education
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Structured

HB 1387 - Official Code of Georgia Annotated; correct errors and omissions

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill amends the Official Code of Georgia Annotated to correct typographical, stylistic, capitalization, punctuation, and other errors and omissions in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and in Acts of the General Assembly amending the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard of the 49th
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

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
- **House Committee:** Special Committee on Small Business Development and Job Creation
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/16/2010
- **Rule:** Modified-Open

HR 178 - Enforcement of contracts; restrict competition; provisions - CA

- BILL SUMMARY: Modifies Article III, Section VI, Paragraph V, Subparagraph (c) of the Constitution to allow for contracts which restrict competition after a term of employment or commercial relationship. The amendment gives courts the authority to modify restrictive covenants to effectuate the intent of the parties where the original covenant would be unlawful.

HR 178 is necessary for HB 173, passed by the General Assembly in 2009, to become effective and to sustain Constitutional challenge.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Levitas of the 82nd
- **House Committee:** Judiciary
- **House Committee Passed:** 2/16/2010
- **Rule:** Structured

HR 1086 - Health care system; no law shall compel participation; provide - CA

- BILL SUMMARY: This resolution provides for an amendment to the Constitution so that no federal law can compel any Georgia citizen or company to participate in a health system. Additionally it provides that all Georgia citizens and companies can pay directly for health care related services without having to pay a fine for such actions.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Calvin Hill of the 21st
- **House Committee:** Health & Human Services
- **House Committee Passed:** 3/11/2010
- **Rule:** Structured

** The Rules Committee will next meet on Monday, March 22, at 9:00 AM, to set the Rules Calendar for the 29th Legislative Day.*

COMMITTEE ACTION REPORT

Agriculture & Consumer Affairs

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

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1059 will allow for a minor permit modification for existing municipal solid waste disposal facilities for materials consisting of concrete, asphalt, cardboard, or yard trimmings or similar wood wastes diverted from the waste stream for the recycling or other beneficial reuse of such materials. A 30 day notice to the chief elected official of the jurisdiction is required before starting any recycling operation for materials consisting of concrete, asphalt, cardboard, or yard trimmings or similar wood wastes.

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

Children & Youth

HB 1300 - Lead poisoning; identification and abatement of hazards; revise provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation includes renovation into the processes to contain lead based paint in structures. With this two separate types classifications are created, Child-occupied facilities and target housing. Both of these classifications pertain only to facilities built prior to 1978, for target housing is a house that is not owner occupied and that children visit or reside within. Additionally this legislation allows for the licensure of lead based paint sampling technicians, renovators and renovation firms. After meeting, the certification and licensure standards set forth by the Department of Natural Resources, renovators and renovation firms must keep documentation as to the work that has been performed. A certified renovator must be called if any renovation exceeds 6 sq ft on the interior or 20 sq ft on the exterior.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Judy Manning of the 32nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Defense & Veterans Affairs

HR 1516 - United States Congress; not decommission Coast Guard Security Team 91108; urge

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation urges the Federal Government to retain the services of every member of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91108, located in St. Mary's Georgia, for the purposes of serving and protecting the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Cecily Hill of the 180th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Education

HB 1031 - Elementary and secondary education; mandatory attendance; revise provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1031 relates to attendance and enrollment policies within schools systems for youth between the ages of six and sixteen. Parents or guardians are allotted a 15 day grace period to enroll students into a school once they have moved into a new district. If a parent causes a child to accumulate 5 or more days of unexcused absences or any similar attendance policy violations, they will be held responsible. Consequences can range from a fine to being charged with a misdemeanor depending on the extent of the infraction.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver of the 83rd

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

Education

HB 1110 - Local boards of education; members employed by school system; prohibit

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1110 relates to the local school boards of education and prohibiting them from being employed by the school system, they represent, for one year from the date they leave office.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Barry Loudermilk of the 14th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Education

HB 1200 - Local boards of education; solicit and accept donations for field trips; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: House Bill 1200 related to the local school boards and giving them the authorization to solicit and accept donations for the purpose of field trips and other education purposes.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Mike Glanton of the 76th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

HB 1182 - Public Service Commission; regulate private emergency warning point to multipoint systems; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: No Summary Available

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jay Neal of the 1st

- **Committee Action:** Failed

Industrial Relations

HB 1195 - Labor and industrial relations; Georgia Workforce Investment Board; create

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1195 codifies the Georgia Workforce Investment Board that was created by a 2206 Executive Order, as well as providing for the membership of said board, its powers, functions and funding. Further, it establishes the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and Georgia Work Ready. This bill shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval. All funding is federal. No state dollars will be spent.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Terry England of the 108th

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

Industrial Relations

HB 1364 - Insurance; Georgia Insurers Insolvency Pool liable in emergency; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1364 provides that the Georgia Insurers Insolvency Pool shall be liable to claimants and electing insureds in emergency circumstances. For electing insureds whose net worth is less than \$25 million, they must pay \$5,000 to participate. For those whose net worth is greater than \$25 million they must pay \$20,000.

For the purpose of this bill "Electing Insureds" is defined as, "any insured under a workers' compensation insurance policy that is impacted by an emergency circumstance. Such term shall include but not be limited to governmental insureds and other insureds under a workers' compensation insurance policy impacted by an emergency circumstance whose net worth exceeds \$25 million as of December 31 of the year preceding the filing of a claim". "Emergency circumstances" is defined as, "a circumstance in which an association or industrial insured captive insurance company, which subsequently converted from a captive insurance company, has been declared insolvent prior to the effective date of this Code section".

- **Authored By:** Rep. Carl Rogers of the 26th

- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Judiciary

HB 1053 - Solicitors-general; act during pendency of vacancy in office; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill fills a hole in the Georgia Code. It addresses how a vacancy in the office of solicitor-general of the state court (other than due to expiration of the term of office) is filled prior to the Governor making an appointment.
- **Authored By:** Rep. John Lunsford of the 110th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Judiciary

HB 1140 - Alcovy, Atlanta, and Brunswick judicial circuits; dates of terms; change

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill moves the date of appointment for additional judges for the superior courts of the Alcovy, Atlanta, and Brunswick judicial circuits to July 1, 2010.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Roger B. Lane of the 167th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Judiciary

HB 1345 - Georgia Kasher Food Consumer Protection Act; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: This bill repeals the current kosher statutes which essentially say "thou shalt not call non-Kasher food Kasher" and then define "Kasher food" as meeting Orthodox Jewish standards. This bill replaces them with a disclosure scheme contained in a single code section in the Fair Business Practices Act. The Agriculture Department, Law Department, Governor's Office, and Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs have all signed off on HB 1345.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs of the 80th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Judiciary

HR 136 - Owners of real property; industrial areas; remove property - CA

- BILL SUMMARY: This Resolution is an amendment to the Constitution to allow owners of real property located in the industrial area in Chatham County (near Garden City) to remove the property from the industrial area. This will then allow the property to be annexed by the local municipality so that city services can continue to be provided. This restriction from annexation can only be removed by general amendment to the Constitution.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Bob Bryant of the 160th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Motor Vehicles

HB 1055 - Drivers' licenses; fees for temporary licenses or identification cards; change

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1055 updates fees throughout the Georgia code to ensure that they accurately reflect the cost of providing the service they are charged for.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Levitas of the 82nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Natural Resources & Environment

HB 1109 - Property; municipal corporations grant conservation easements; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: Allows counties and municipalities to place property, including parks, into a conservation easement.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens of the 164th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Natural Resources & Environment

HB 1206 - Water well standards; require contractor license under geologist or engineer direction; change provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: The bill adds a definition of "geothermal borehole" to the Georgia Code and provides that anyone drilling a geothermal borehole have a water well contractor's license or be supervised per the current Code. The legislation also requires these boreholes to be set back a certain distance from contamination sources (as some examples, at least ten feet from sewer lines and a minimum of 25 feet from septic tanks)
- **Authored By:** Mr.. Billy Maddox of the 127th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Natural Resources & Environment

HB 1298 - Hazardous waste; make provisions consistent with federal regulations; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: Updates Code sections pertaining to hazardous waste management and hazardous site response to conform to new federal provisions.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton of the 31st
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Natural Resources & Environment

HB 1359 - Best management practices; required buffer along state waters; provide exception

- BILL SUMMARY: Provides an exemption from the state's 25-foot water buffer requirement for construction of bulkheads and sea walls to the extent necessary to prevent erosion of the shoreline into a lake operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or by a utility regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The exemption would be limited to the duration of construction of those erosion-control devices.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Mickey Channell of the 116th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB 1338 - Disability parking laws; appointed law enforcer have disability; remove requirement

- BILL SUMMARY: No Summary Available
- **Authored By:** Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB 1398 - Safety belts; change certain provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: No Summary Available
- **Authored By:** Rep. Burke Day of the 163rd
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass

Transportation

HB 1174 - Public roads; regulate oversize and overweight loads; provisions

- BILL SUMMARY: This legislation amends Code section 32-6-24 relating to the regulation of maintenance and use of public roads so as to provide for regulation of oversize and overweight loads on streets or highways. Any vehicle utilizing idle reduction technology shall have the penalty assessed with the weight of the idle reduction technology taken into account up to 400 pounds. The operator of the vehicle must have written certification from the manufacturer specifying the weight of the technology and demonstrates that it is fully functional. If the citation is being issued for a weight or axle spacing violation on a superload plus permit issued by DOT, the citation shall be issued based on all excess weight over 150,000 pounds, not 80,000 pounds. Code section 32-6-28 is amended to say that permission to transport two modular housing units is only granted when minimum requirements and specifications are met. The same section is also amended to provide that DOT will issue the rules for driver certification of those driving an escort vehicle for oversize loads. Those rules may provide for reciprocity with other states. Certification credentials must be kept in the escort vehicle at all times. Driver training shall be implemented on or before July 1, 2010 and requirements shall be enforced beginning January 1, 2011. This bill also amends Title 40 by allowing for pedestrian hybrid beacons which remain dark until a pedestrian activates the signal by pressing a button. Having these signals in place would allow drivers to keep moving at a mid block crosswalk unless the signal is activated by pedestrians. Code section 40-14-9 is amended by allowing for variable speed limits.
- **Authored By:** Rep. Jon G. Burns of the 157th
- **Committee Action:** Do Pass by Committee Substitute

Transportation

HB 1218 - Transportation Investment Act of 2010; enact

- BILL SUMMARY: Transportation Investment Act of 2010:

This legislation creates 12 special taxing districts whose are coterminous with the boundaries of the 12 regional commissions in Georgia. Each district will have a regional transportation roundtable that will be a conference of local governments within the district. The roundtable is established for the purpose of establishing the investment criteria and for determining projects eligible for the investment list for the special district in collaboration with the Planning Director at GDOT. After the investment list is approved, a referendum will be held in each county within a region. The first election will take place on the date of the general primary in 2012. Should the measure fail, the question shall not be submitted again for 24 months immediately following the month in which the question was asked. If approved the region shall levy a tax of one percent for a period of ten years to fund transportation projects within the region where the tax is levied.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Jim Cole of the 125th

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

Ways & Means

HB 347 - Sales and use tax; sales price; change definition

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 347 provides that property taxes that are passed on from a lessor to a lessee of equipment shall be backed out before calculation of sales taxes on the lease payments.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Terry England of the 108th

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

Ways & Means

HB 971 - Income tax payment; refund or waiver of de minimis overpayments and insufficiencies; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 971 provides that, beginning in 2010, if a taxpayer's income tax refund after all deductions, withholding, prepayments, and/or credits, is equal to \$1 or less, than such de minimis refund amount will not be refunded unless the taxpayer requests that amount be refunded on the income tax return. If the amount of income taxes a taxpayer owes after deducting amounts withheld, prepaid, credited, or deducted is \$1 or less, than such amount will be waived and the taxpayer will not be liable for the tax insufficiency.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Ellis Black of the 174th

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

Ways & Means

HB 985 - Income tax returns; contributions for education and multiple sclerosis; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 985 provides a mechanism for taxpayers to contribute to a Multiple Sclerosis Research Program Fund on their individual income tax returns by reducing all or a part of their tax refund due. The Department of Revenue will transmit the funds contributed to the Department of Community Health for deposit into the fund, and may withhold a reasonable amount for administration costs, up to \$50,000. All balances in this fund must be deposited into an interest-bearing account, and such funds shall be expended by DCH through contracts for multiple sclerosis research. DCH must annually prepare by February 1, an accounting of funds received and expended and a review and evaluation of all expended funds. This report will be made available to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, the members of the Board of Human Services, and if requested, to members of the public.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Virgil Fludd of the 66th

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

Ways & Means

HB 1055 - Drivers' licenses; fees for temporary licenses or identification cards; change

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1055 updates fees throughout the Georgia code to ensure that they accurately reflect the cost of providing the service they are charged for.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Levitas of the 82nd

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

Ways & Means

HB 1069 - Income tax; credits for equipment that reduces energy or water usage; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1069 provides for an income tax credit for taxpayers that purchase certain energy or water efficient equipment as part of new construction or for retrofit in the year the equipment is placed in service. The amount of the credit is 25% of the cost of the equipment or \$2,500, whichever is less. Eligible equipment includes energy and water efficient equipment certified by the commissioner of natural resources as effective in reducing business or domestic energy or water usage. Tax credits allowed shall not exceed a taxpayers' income tax liability, and unused credits may be carried forward for five years. The aggregate amount of the tax credits that shall be allowed is limited to the amount of federal funds granted to Georgia for this purpose, and these credits will only be granted in years such federal funds are granted. After purchase of the equipment, the taxpayer must submit an application to the Dept. of Revenue for approval of the credit, and the credits will be allowed on a first come, first served basis.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Joe Wilkinson of the 52nd

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

Ways & Means

HB 1105 - Watercraft held in inventory; exempt from taxation; provide

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1105 extends the property tax exemption for watercraft owned by a dealer and held for sale or resale. Currently, the exemption is set to expire on December 31, 2010, and this bill extends the expiration date to December 31, 2013.

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

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

Ways & Means

HB 1272 - Income tax returns; make contributions for lupus and kidney disease; authorize

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1272 provides a mechanism for taxpayers to contribute to a Lupus and Kidney Disease Research Program Fund on their individual income tax returns by reducing all or a part of their tax refund due. The Department of Revenue will transmit the funds contributed to the Department of Community Health for deposit into the fund, and may withhold a reasonable amount for administration costs, up to \$50,000. All balances in this fund must be deposited into an interest-bearing account, and such funds shall be expended by DCH through contracts for multiple sclerosis research. DCH must annually prepare by February 1, an accounting of funds received and expended and a review and evaluation of all expended funds. This report will be made available to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker, the members of the Board of Human Services, and if requested, to members of the public.

- **Authored By:** Rep. Toney Collins of the 95th

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

Ways & Means

HB 1405 - 2010 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians; Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure; create

- BILL SUMMARY: HB 1405 provides for the 2010 Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians which will consist of twelve members – four economists, Governor Perdue, Senator Zell Miller, the chairperson of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia National Federation of Independent Business, and two members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and two appointed by the Speaker. The Council will conduct a study of Georgia's revenue structure and make a report of its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor not later than January 10, 2011. The bill also creates the legislative Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure composed of six House members and six Senate members – the Speaker, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate, the chairs of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees, and two members appointed by the President and two by the speaker – one of each in the majority party and one in the minority party. The Committee must have legislation introduced that incorporates the recommendations of the Council without significant changes. The legislation will be referred to the Committee and if the Committee recommends that such legislation pass, then the legislation will be voted on by the House of Representatives without amendment. If passed by the House, the Senate will vote on the legislation as it passed the House without amendment.

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

- **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

Friday, March 19, 2010

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<u>JUDICIARY NON-CIVIL</u>	132 CAP
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Jacobs Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil</u>	403 CAP

Saturday, March 20, 2010 : No Meetings

Sunday, March 21, 2010 : No Meetings

Monday, March 22, 2010

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	<u>Resolution Subcommittee of Transportation</u>	515 CLOB
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM	<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM</u>	506 CLOB
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>INSURANCE</u>	406 CLOB
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<u>Railway & Transit Subcommittee of Transportation</u>	415 CLOB
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	341 CAP
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>HIGHER EDUCATION</u>	506 CLOB
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<u>STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY</u>	515 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.*