



# This Week in the Senate

*March 10-14, 2014*

---

*Review the week in pictures with the Georgia State Senate's Facebook Photo Essays!*



## **A Message from Senate President Pro Tempore David Shafer**

“The Senate completed the last of its committee meetings on Thursday. Any House bill that was not passed out of committee by Thursday is effectively dead for the session.

“There are over 100 House bills that have made it through committee and are awaiting consideration by the Senate Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will meet Monday to set the calendar for Day 39 on Tuesday.

“The Budget Conference Committee has been appointed and is working to produce a final version of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.”

### **MONDAY, MARCH 10**

#### **Judges Exempted From Weapons Carry Laws**

Carried by Sen. Ronald Ramsey (D-Decatur), House Bill 60 expands the rights of certain judges and retired judges to carry fire arms. Retired judges will be exempted from particular carry laws such as carrying handguns and restrictions on having firearms in some unauthorized areas. Sponsored by Rep. Doug Holt (R-Social Circle), HB 60 passed by substitute with a vote of 47 to 4.  
–**HB 60**

#### **Filing for Conveyances of Real Property**

Carried by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus), House Bill 215 passed by a vote of 55 to 0. HB 215 changes the requirements for a superior court clerk when a conveyance, the transfer of legal title or property from one person to another, is recorded. Sponsored by Rep. Tommy Benton (R-Jefferson), HB 215 changes when a court clerk needs to make a note of date and time. –**HB 215**

#### **The Magistrates Retirement Fund**

House Bill 292 makes a series of changes in the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia. Carried by Sen. Ronald Ramsey (D-Decatur), the bill changes the minimum retirement benefit for members and the formula being used to calculate member dues. Sponsored by Rep. Paul Battles (R-Cartersville) HB292 adjusts the benefits to the secretary and treasurer of the Board of Commissioners and sets a max monthly



compensation level. HB 292 passed by a vote of 42 to 14. —**HB 292**

### **Accelerating Sale of State Property**

Carried by Sen. Burt Jones (R-Jackson), House Bill 495 speeds up the sale of state property valued under \$500,000 by removing the Georgia General Assembly from the property title transfer process. HB 495 was sponsored by Rep. Calvin Hill (R-Canton) and passed by a vote of 50 to 0. —**HB 495**

### **Defining Home Invasion**

House Bill 770, carried by Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna), passed by substitute with a vote of 44 to 6. Rep. Chuck Efration (R-Dacula) sponsored HB 770, which designates crimes of home invasion in the first degree and home invasion in the second degree, both criminal and juvenile code. The bill also states both offenses can be designated and punished as felonies. —**HB 770**

### **Unauthorized Transmission of Sexually Explicit Images**

Carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), House Bill 838 prohibits any person from transmitting unauthorized nude or sexually explicit photos or videos of another person to the internet. HB 838 passed by substitute with a vote of 51 to 0 and was sponsored by Rep. Kevin Tanner (R-Dawsonville). —**HB 838**

### **Retirement System Compliance with Federal Laws and Regulations**

House Bill 843, carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), passed by a vote of 50 to 0. HB 843, sponsored by Rep. Lynne Riley (R-Johns Creek), aligns state code with federal code, revises maximum allowable benefits, and protects public service employees paying into the pension fund. —**HB 843**

### **Interstate Compact for Juveniles**

House Bill 898, carried by Sen. Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro), passed by a vote of 51 to 0. HB 898 authorizes the Governor to adopt the Interstate Compact for Juveniles on the behalf of Georgia. This compact permits Georgia to join the Interstate Commission for Juveniles along with other states who have adopted the compact. The compact is necessary for Georgia to send juvenile offenders from other states back home and for registering teen offenders who cross the border into Georgia. HB 898 was sponsored by Rep. B.J. Pak (R-Lilburn). —**HB 898**

### **Strangulation Added to Definition of Aggravated Assault**

Carried by Sen. Mike Dugan (R-Carrollton) and sponsored by Rep. Mandi Ballinger (R-Canton), House Bill 911 adds strangulation to the list of acts considered aggravated assault. Strangulation is defined as any act which hinders the normal breathing or circulation of blood of another person by applying pressure to the throat or neck, or by obstructing the nose or mouth. HB 911 was passed by a vote of 50 to 0. —**HB 911**

### **Filing False Documents in Georgia Public Record**

House Bill 985 passed by a vote of 47 to 1. Carried by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R-Athens) and sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Kirby (R-Loganville), HB 985 states that no one may file, enter or record documents in public record, or any Georgia or federal court, if there is prior knowledge that the document contains false or fraudulent statements. The term “document” is expanded to

include liens, encumbrances, documents of title, instruments relating to security interests or to title to real or personal property, and other statements of fact, law, right or opinion. –**HB 985**

### **Remembering Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson**

Sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), Senate Resolution 293 recognizes the life and memory of Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson and names a highway in his honor. Governor Thompson was elected to office in 1947 and was responsible for Georgia’s many economic advancements. The portion of Interstate 75 in Lowndes County from the West Hill Avenue exit to the North Valdosta Road exit will be dedicated as the Governor Melvin Ernest Thompson Memorial Highway. –**SR 293**

### **Commending Norman L. Wilson**

Senate Resolution 1066 recognizes Norman L. Wilson for his decades of military service in the United States Air Force and service to Georgia law enforcement in the State of Georgia. SR 1066 was sponsored by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus). –**SR 1066**

### **Recognizing Muscogee County School District 2014 Spelling Bee Winners**

Sponsored by Sen. Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), Senate Resolution 1133 commends David Coats, a seventh grader at Aaron Cohn Middle School for placing first in the highly competitive Muscogee County School District Spelling Bee. Tyrian Jilles, an eighth grader at Arnold Magnet Academy, was named runner-up. –**SR 1133**

### **Honoring Blake Pool**

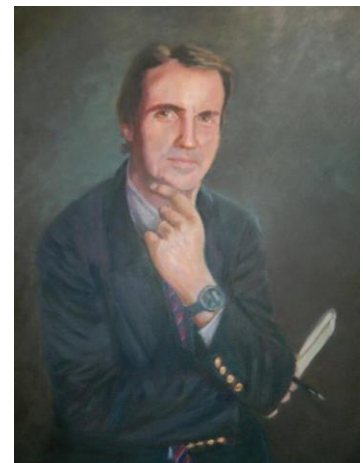
Senate Resolution 1153 recognizes Auburn University senior and Haralson County High School graduate Blake Poole. Blake Poole is the first Haralson County High School graduate to play in a BCS National Championship Game and is a senior at Auburn University, where he has proven himself to be outstanding as a scholar and a member of the Auburn football team. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Bill Heath (R-Bremen). –**SR 1153**

### **Recognizing Nighthawks DUI Task Force**

Sponsored by Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Alpharetta), Senate Resolution 1185 commends the Nighthawks DUI Task Force, a unit of the Georgia State Patrol and also the most highly trained DUI law enforcement officers in Georgia. The Nighthawks DUI Task Force was created in October 2004 and has since made 15,779 arrests and saved countless lives. –**SR 1185**

### **Honoring Dick Pettys**

A special presentation unveiled a commissioned painted portrait of the late Dick Pettys, longtime member of the Capitol Press Corps. Sen. David Shafer (R-Duluth) introduced the Pettys family and also the portrait’s artist, Dick Yarbrough. Pettys covered Georgia politics from 1970 to 2005 and was considered the undisputed “dead” of the Capitol Press Corps. The portrait will hang in the Capitol Press Corps hallway on the second floor of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.



**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

### **Fractional Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax**

Carried by Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta), House Bill 153 passed by substitute with a vote of 36 to 14. HB 153 authorizes local governments to propose Special Option Local Option Sales Taxes (SPLOST) of less than one cent. This fractional penny SPLOST will not apply to education local option sales taxes. The bill was sponsored by Rep. John Carson (R-Marietta). —**HB 153**

### **Impeding Traffic Flow and Minimum Speed in Left Lanes**

House Bill 459, carried by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) and sponsored by Rep. Bill Hitchens (R-Rincon), prohibits a driver from staying in the far left lane next to the HOV lane once it is known that he is being passed by a faster car coming from behind. The restriction does not apply in certain circumstances, including times of traffic congestion, inclement weather, emergency or when the driver is in the lane to turn or pay a toll. These restrictions also do not apply to emergency vehicles or highway maintenance or construction vehicles at work. HB 459 passed by a vote of 45 to 2. —**HB 459**

### **Georgia Medical Center Authority**

Carried by Sen. John Crosby (R-Tifton), House Bill 513 abolishes the Georgia Medical Center Authority. Sponsored Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville), the bill also transfers any funds held by the Authority to the state's general funds. Any outstanding contracts, licenses and obligations of the Authority will be transferred to the Board of Regents. HB 513 passed by substitute with a vote of 46 to 1. —**HB 513**

### **Repeal of Georgia Estate Tax**

House Bill 658 repeals the Georgia estate tax in its entirety. Carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), the bill passed by substitute with a vote of 42 to 8. Rep. B.J. Pak (R-Lilburn) sponsored the bill. HB 658 will not affect tax, penalty, and interest liabilities and refund eligibility for prior taxable years. In addition, any prior administrative proceedings, civil actions, prosecutions or punishments related to the violation will not be decreased or waived. —**HB 658**

### **Work Based Learning Act**

Carried by Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa), House Bill 766 passed by substitute by a vote of 47 to 0. HB 766 renames the Youth Apprenticeship Program as the work based learning program. The work based learning program includes skill development, cooperative education internships and youth apprenticeships. HB 766 was sponsored by Rep. Eddie Lumsden (R-Armuchee). —**HB 766**

### **Interstate Boating Violator Compact**

House Bill 777, carried by Sen. Bill Jackson (R-Applying) and sponsored by Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell), enacts the Interstate Boating Violator Compact, an agreement between states that allows the home state to treat a boating conviction of one of its residents in another state as if the conviction had occurred in the home state. HB 777 allows the Department of Natural Resources to suspend a person's privilege to operate a water vessel for violations of laws outlined in the Interstate Boating Violator Compact. The bill changes the effective date of criminal boating violations to January 1, 2014. HB 777 passed by a vote of 48 to 0. —**HB 777**

### **Timber Removal & Land Boundaries**

House Bill 790 passed by substitute with a vote of 52 to 0. Carried by Sen. Bill Cowsert (R-Athens), HB 790 expands the responsibility of the Georgia Forestry Commission to enforce timber theft

laws by allowing commission foresters and firefighters, along with investigators, to issue citations for cutting or carrying away of timber of another landowner. HB 790 was sponsored by Rep. Chuck Williams (R-Watkinsville). –**HB 790**

### **Tax Credits for Business Enterprises**

Current law allows for tax credits to be given to businesses located next to a federal military property where the poverty rate is at least 15 percent of the population. House Bill 791, carried by Sen. Buddy Carter (R-Pooler) and sponsored by Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) allows for tax credits to continue to be given to those same businesses even when the military installation moves, as long as the poverty rate remains at 15 percent. The bill passed by a vote of 49 to 0. – **HB 791**

### **Support for the State of Israel**

Senate Resolution 741 expresses strong support and commitment to the security, welfare and survival of the Jewish State of Israel. The State of Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and the greatest ally of the United States in the Middle East. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell). – **SR 741**

### **Alton Russell, Georgia Tale Teller**

Sponsored by Sen. John McKoon (R- Columbus), Senate Resolution 895 honors Georgia's Tale Teller Alton Russell. Mr. Russell is a gifted storyteller and known statewide as the Cowboy Ambassador for his work to educate Georgians on the traditions of the Wild West. –**SR 895**

### **Georgia Peach Queens**

Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon) sponsored Senate Resolution 951, which commends the Georgia Peach Festival and the 2013 Georgia Peach Queens. The Georgia Peach Festival was founded in 1987 to promote Georgia's peach industry and also celebrate Peach County's status as one of the largest peach producers in the state. – **SR 951**

### **Honoring Maron Buice**

Sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Senate Resolution 979 recognizes former District 3 Commissioner Maron Buice for his dedication to making Gwinnett County a better place for families. Known as the father of Gwinnett County's "park and ride" lots, Buice established the first ever "park and ride" lot in Gwinnett County in 1972. – **SR 979**

### **Georgia Forestry Commission's 2013 District of the Year**

Sponsored by Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry), Senate Resolution 1076 commends the Satilla District for being named the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2013 District of the Year. Satilla District was selected on merit of high customer satisfaction, public outreach, seedlings sold, among other factors.—**SR 1076**

### **Georgia Forestry Commission's 2013 Northern Unit of the Year**

The Franklin/Hart/Elbert/Madison Forestry Unit is recognized by Senate Resolution 1077 for being named the Georgia Forestry Commission's 2013 Northern Unit of the Year. Sponsored by Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry), SR 1077 commends the commission's work towards the safety of Georgia's citizens and natural resources. –**SR 1077**

### **Savannah State University Day**

Senate Resolution 1084 recognizes March 11, 2014, as Savannah State University Day. As Georgia's oldest historically black college or university, the resolution commends the university's work in the lives of Georgia's students. SR 1084 was sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D-Savannah). – **SR 1084**

### **Healthy Kids Georgia and Healthy Schools Programs**

Sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Senate Resolution 1198 recognizes Healthy Kids Georgia and Healthy Schools Programs for their contributions to the well-being of Georgia's youth. Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle's Healthy Kids Georgia is a collaboration of the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program, and other corporate and community partners. – **SR 1198**

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**

### **Ten Commandments Monument for State Capitol**

House Bill 702, carried by Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell), passed by a vote of 40 to 10. HB 702, sponsored by Rep. Greg Morris (R-Vidalia), administers the placement of a historic granite monument on State Capitol grounds. The monument would specifically include the Preamble to the Georgia Constitution, the part of the Declaration of Independence which states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and the Ten Commandments. – **HB 702**

### **Georgia Military College Education Advancement Opportunity**

Carried by Sen. Burt Jones (R-Jackson), House Bill 763 allows the Georgia Military College (GMC) to offer a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science degree. Currently, GMC operates on a two-year system and only offers associate degrees. HB 763 was sponsored by Rep. Bubber Epps (R-Dry Branch) and passed by a vote of 50 to 0. – **HB 763**

### **Listings on the Hazardous Site Inventory**

House Bill 904 passed by a vote of 47 to 3. HB 904 grants the right to an administrative hearing for property owners listed in Environmental Protection Division's hazardous site inventory on or after July 1, 2014. A hazardous site inventory is a list of sites where there has been a known or suspected release of a regulated substance into the environment above a certain reportable quantity. HB 904 was carried by Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry) and sponsored by Rep. Tom McCall (R-Elberton). – **HB 904**

### **Out of State Aircraft Maintenance Sales and Use Tax Exemption**

House Bill 933, carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), extends the current state sales tax exemption on the sale of equipment used in the maintenance or repair of aircraft not registered in Georgia. Under current law, this exemption is set to expire on June 30, 2015, and this bill will make the exemption permanent. HB 933 also provides a tax credit for civil rights museums larger than 40,000 feet. Sponsored Rep. Alex Atwood (R-Brunswick), HB 933 passed by substitute with a vote of 39 to 14. – **HB 933**

### **Extension of Certain Tax Exemptions**

Carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), House Bill 958 passed by substitute with a vote of 49 to 3. Sponsored by Rep. Chad Nimmer (R-Blackshear), HB 958 includes the extension and revision of certain entertainment tax credits, food donation tax exemptions and back to school sales tax holidays. —**HB 958**

### **Statue of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

House Bill 1080 provides for the placement of a statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the Capitol grounds, subject to the availability of private funds and intellectual property rights. Carried by Sen. Gail Davenport (D-Jonesboro), HB 1080 passed by substitute with a vote of 49 to 1. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus). —**HB 1080**

### **The Georgia Young Farmers Association**

Senate Resolution 804 recognizes February 27, 2014, as Georgia Young Farmers Association Day. Sponsored by Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa), the resolution commends the association on their invaluable service to Georgia through classes, field demonstrations and school tours. —**SR 804**



### **Commending the State YMCA of Georgia's Youth Assembly**

Sponsored by Sen. Rick Jeffares (R-McDonough), Senate Resolution 898 recognizes the State YMCA of Georgia's Youth Assembly, a model state legislature for high school students where students serve as legislators, justices, attorneys, and lobbyists. The Youth Assembly allows students to experience firsthand the complexity of the lawmaking process in Georgia. The Youth Assembly celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. —**SR 898**

### **Taco Bell Graduate for Más Program**

Senate Resolutions 984 and 1060 honor Lumpkin and Fannin County High Schools, respectively, for being recognized by Taco Bell's Graduate for Más program. Both resolutions were sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) to recognize the high schools' outstanding performance in a national program that inspires students to graduate high school and become caring, educated and productive adults. —**SR 984 and SR 1060**

### **Alpha Gamma Rho Day**

Senate Resolution 1098, sponsored by Sen. Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville) recognizes March 12, 2014 as Alpha Gamma Rho Day at the State Capitol. Alpha Gamma Rho was founded in 1908 and has been instrumental in uniting college men who are pursuing careers in agriculture. The organization is dedicated towards making better men by surrounding them with influences that encourage individual endeavors, resourcefulness and fellowship. —**SR 1098**

### **Honoring Sen. John Crosby on His Retirement**

The Honorable Sen. John “Dickey” Crosby was recognized by Senate Resolution 1172. Sen. Crosby has served in the General Assembly since 2008 with a deep personal commitment to the welfare of all Georgians. The resolution commends his invaluable leadership and acknowledges his impending retirement. Sponsored by Sen. Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville), SR 1172 wishes him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he spends time with his family.

–**SR 1172**



### **Recognizing Georgia2Georgia**

Senate Resolution 1176, sponsored by Sen. Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville) commends the Georgia2Georgia campaign. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce created this effort to encourage state and local governments to work with Georgia companies in mutually beneficial economic relationships. SR 1176 recognizes the Georgia Chamber of Commerce for this positive initiative in making Georgia a more globally competitive location for business. –**SR 1176**

### **Honoring Jack Collin Lance, Sr.**

Senate Resolution 1184, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), recognizes the life and memory of Jack Collin Lance, Sr. and names a road in his honor. Lance is recognized for his leadership and his deep personal commitment to Union County citizens. The portion of U.S. Route 19 in Union County, from its intersection with State Route 515 to the North Carolina line, will be renamed the Jack Collin Lance, Sr. Memorial Highway. –**SR 1184**

### **Buckner “Buck” Melton Sr.**

Sponsored by Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon), Senate Resolution 1197 honors the life and memory of Buckner “Buck” Melton Sr. The distinguished former Mayor of Macon is recognized for his dedication, high ideals and serving as an inspiration to those around him. –**SR 1197**

### **Mercer University's Men's Basketball Team**

Senate Resolution 1207, sponsored by Sen. David Lucas (D-Macon), commends Mercer University's men's basketball team for their victory against Florida Gulf Coast University in the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament championship game. This win placed Mercer University in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1985. –**SR 1207**

### **Aaron Murray Visits the State Capitol**

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Cowser (R-Athens), Senate Resolution 1211 recognizes and commends former quarterback of the University of Georgia football team, Aaron Murray, on his extraordinary accomplishments as a student-athlete and for his public service to the citizens of Georgia. –**SR**

**1211**



## **THURSDAY, MARCH 13**

### **Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia**

House Bill 646, carried by Sen. Bill Jackson (R-Applying), allows part-time chief magistrates to become members of the Magistrates Retirement Fund. All other references to a “full-time chief magistrate” in this Code section are changed to “chief magistrate.” HB 646 was sponsored by Rep. Barry Fleming (R-Harlem) and passed by a vote of 47 to 7. —**HB 646**

### **Additional Judges on Coweta and Waycross Judicial Circuits**

Carried by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus), House Bill 742 passed by a vote of 48 to 0. HB 742 establishes one additional judgeship for both the Coweta Circuit and the Waycross Circuit. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Randy Nix (R-LaGrange), also establishes the duties and powers of the judges who will fill these positions.—**HB 742**

### **Nonprofits and Mortgage Loan Originators**

House Bill 750 was carried by Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna). The bill exempts certain mortgage loan originator licensing requirements for employees of non-profit organizations. The exemption applies to bona fide nonprofit corporations whose employees work to promote home ownership and assistance for the disadvantaged. Sponsored by Rep. Spencer Frye (D-Athens), the bill passed 45 to 10. —**HB 750**

### **Farm Winery Licenses**

House Bill 825 passed by a vote of 46 to 4. HB 825 creates a new license for fruit growers who are already licensed as a farm winery to manufacture distilled spirits for sale exclusively through a wholesaler. HB 825, carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), also requires these farm wineries to not have more than one on-site tasting room. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Penny Houston (R-Nashville). —**HB 825**

### **Special License Plates**

Carried by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), House Bill 881 passed by substitute with a vote of 51 to 1. HB 881 transfers special charges from certain license plates to non-profits focused on protecting the environment. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Bubber Epps (R-Dry Branch). —**HB 881**

### **Corrections to Code Sections relating to Georgia Merchant Acquirer Limited Purpose Banks**

House Bill 883 enforces rules and regulations governing the Georgia Merchant Acquirer Limited Purpose Bank Act and corrects cross-references of code sections within the law. HB 883 was carried by Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) and sponsored by Rep. Brian Strickland (R-McDonough). The bill passed by a vote of 50 to 0. —**HB 883**

### **Tire Fees**

Carried by Sen. Rick Jeffares (R-McDonough) and sponsored by Rep. Lynne Riley (R-Johns Creek), House Bill 908 passed by a vote of 43 to 10. The bill extends the sunset date of the \$1 fee assessed on each new replacement tire sold in Georgia to June 30, 2019. –**HB 908**

### **Cancer Treatment Fairness Act**

House Bill 943, carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), passed by substitute with a vote of 47 to 0. HB 943 requires health insurance policies providing coverage for intravenously administered chemotherapy to provide the same level of coverage for orally administered chemotherapy. The bill was amended to require insurers to cover children six years of age or younger diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). HB 943 was sponsored by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville). –**HB 943**

### **Medical Amnesty Law**

Carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) and sponsored by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta), House Bill 965 creates a “good samaritan” law that encourages people to seek medical assistance for drug overdoses. HB 965 allows licensed health practitioners and pharmacists to prescribe and dispense opioid antagonists. The bill also authorizes Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, paramedics and first responders to administer opioid antagonists. HB 965 passed by substitute with a vote of 50 to 3. –**HB 965**

### **Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority**

Carried by Sen. Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), House Bill 978 amends membership appointments for the Georgia International Maritime Trade Center Authority. The Authority, which was created on April 21, 1995, will consist of members representing Chatham County and the City of Savannah. All members will serve three year terms. HB 978 passed by substitute with a vote of 46 to 0 and was sponsored by Rep. Ron Stephens (R-Savannah). –**HB 978**

### **Sale of Checks or Money Orders and Cashing of Checks, Drafts or Money Orders**

House Bill 982, carried by Sen. Jesse Stone (R-Waynesboro) and sponsored by Rep. Bruce Williamson (R-Monroe), enacts modernized licensing requirements for a person engaged in the sale of payment implements (including checks, money orders, and similar instruments), transmission of money, and cashing of payment implements. HB 982 authorizes the Department of Banking and Finance to participate in the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System & Registry. The bill passed by a vote of 53 to 1. –**HB 982**

### **Medical Student Scholarships and Loans**

Carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge) and sponsored by Rep. Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), House Bill 998 passed by a vote of 54 to 0. HB 998 lays out the requirements for repayment of loans and scholarships for medical students if he/she does not receive their medical licensure under the Georgia Board of Physician’s Workforce. –**HB 998**

### **Roger Wise Jr., Day**

Sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell), Senate Resolution 888 recognizes February 13, 2014, as Roger Wise Jr., Day at the Capitol. Roger Wise Jr. worked at Ross Laboratories as the regional manager of government affairs. While employed at Ross Laboratories, Roger served as an industry-sponsored child advocate and worked on various issues dealing with children and

legislation impacting mothers and children. He retired from Ross Laboratories in 1995 after more than 30 years with the company and has devoted his life to serving others. –**SR 888**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14**

In adjournment, as set by HR 1333.



# # # #

*The Senate Press Office is located at 201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building, 18 Capitol Square, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. We can be reached at 404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803*