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## **2007 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

This document is a report of selected legislation passed by the 2007 Georgia General Assembly, and is intended to provide a general overview only. This document contains summaries of selected legislation, an index of passed legislation, and an index of vetoed legislation. If further detail on legislation is needed, please contact the Senate Research Office.

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## **APPROPRIATIONS**

**HOUSE BILL 94**  
**HOUSE BILL 95**

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS: FISCAL YEAR 2007**  
**GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT: FISCAL YEAR 2008**

The Senate Budget and Evaluation Office will provide information regarding the 2008 Fiscal Year Budget and the 2007 Amended Budget.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 102**

**COMPENSATION FOR MR. ROBERT CLARK**

This resolution authorizes and directs the Department of Administrative Services to pay the sum of \$1.2 million to Mr. Robert Clark for his loss of liberty, personal injury, lost wages, injury to reputation, emotional distress, and other damages as a result of being incarcerated more than 23 years for crimes for which he was exonerated by DNA evidence.

## **AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**SENATE BILL 165**

**AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COMMISSIONS**

This bill ratifies the following Agricultural Commodity Commissions, which were formed after enactment of the Georgia Agricultural Commodities Production Act of 1961: Soybeans, Canola, Pecans, Corn, and Vegetables.

Prior to April 30, 2009, and every three years thereafter, balloting will be conducted in accordance with current law governing marketing orders to determine whether such Commissions will continue to exist and operate.

**HOUSE BILL 122**

**EQUINE FEED LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

Current law requires commercial feed, other than a customer-formula feed, to be accompanied by a label bearing the common or usual name of each ingredient used in the manufacture of such feed. This legislation requires that ingredients for all commercial feed be listed in descending order of predominance by weight.

Furthermore, the Commissioner of Agriculture is prohibited from exempting or permitting the use of a collective term for a group of ingredients used in the manufacture of equine feed. Current law which allows such an exemption or use, by regulation, remains unchanged as it relates to other commercial feed.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**HOUSE BILL 383**

**GEORGIA CONDOMINIUM ACT**

This bill amends the Georgia Condominium Act to allow for the creation of master condominium and subcondominium associations. It defines master association, master condominium, subassociation, subcondominium, and subunit.

Additionally, the bill delineates the authority of subassociations created for subcondominiums and subunits; assessments of the master association against a subassociation; the ability of a subunit owner to remove liens from his or her subunit; and the rights of the subassociation in the foreclosure of such liens.

## **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

**SENATE BILL 10**

**GEORGIA SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP**

The Department of Education is authorized to administer the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship for students with disabilities who attend public schools in Georgia. The purpose of the scholarship program is to tailor a student's education to that student's specific needs and enable families to make independent private choices to direct their

resources to appropriate schools. The legislation allows the parents of students with disabilities to apply for scholarships for their child to attend participating schools.

## **SENATE BILL 39**

## **CHARTER SYSTEMS ACT**

The Charter Systems Act authorizes the State Board of Education to enter into a charter with a local board of education to establish a local school system as a charter system. Essentially, the Act will allow a local school system to operate under the regulations of a charter, wherein every school within the approved charter system will be a system charter school, except as otherwise provided.

## **SENATE BILL 72**

## **SCHOOL COUNCILS; SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGERS; ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION**

This bill provides that a majority of school council members must be composed of parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school, with at least two being businesspersons. The chairperson of the school council must be a parent member. Local boards of education will be authorized to employ school administrative managers, in lieu of or in addition to assistant principals, and to determine their qualifications. The school administrative manager must, at a minimum, possess a bachelor's degree; however, he or she will not be required to be certified by the Professional Standards Commission. A school administrative manager will oversee and manage the financial and business affairs of the school and will report directly to the principal. In addition, local school systems may provide an alternative teacher certification program for secondary school teachers who will teach a core or non-core academic subject.

## **ETHICS**

## **SENATE BILL 40**

## **PENALTIES FOR ELECTION-RELATED OFFENSES**

This bill increases the penalties for several election-related offenses. The following offenses would be felonies with possible punishments of one to ten years of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$100,000: false registration; fraudulent entries; interference with primaries and elections generally; intimidation of electors; influencing an elector while assisting; voting by unqualified elector or giving false information; repeat voting in the same primary or election; absentee voting by an unqualified elector; and frauds by poll workers. Upon enactment of this bill, previous misdemeanor offenses of entry into a voting compartment or booth while another is voting; interfering with an elector; inducing an elector to reveal or revealing an elector's vote; and poll workers permitting unregistered or unqualified persons to vote will become felony offenses punishable by fines of up to \$10,000 and/or one to ten years of imprisonment. This bill also adds a specific penalty for violations of subsection (b) of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385, related to rendering assistance to an elector in preparing an absentee ballot. Persons who willfully violate this subsection would be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or one to ten years of imprisonment.

## **SENATE BILL 194**

## **ABSENTEE BALLOTS/ PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES**

This bill revises Georgia law on absentee ballots. Among the changes, it requires election officials to compare the signature on the ballot's oath with the absentee elector's voter registration card signature and would allow for the absentee ballot tabulation process to begin upon the opening of the polls on Election Day. It also provides that poll workers participating in the tabulation be sequestered during this process. Although typically absentee ballots come sealed in an outer envelope and an inner envelope, those sealed only in an outer envelope will also be counted. Additionally, the bill revises the process for the cancellation of an absentee ballot.

Moreover, this legislation provides for an earlier date for Georgia's presidential preference primary. Currently, this primary is on the first Tuesday in March. Under this bill, the next such primary would be held on February 5, 2008, and would thereafter be held every four years on the first Tuesday in February. Additionally, the date by which the state and county party executive committees are to certify the names of candidates

for delegates to the presidential nominating convention could be no later than November 1 of the year preceding the year of the presidential preference primary. Currently, the deadline is December 31. Likewise, the state executive committee of each party must submit to the Secretary of State a list of names of the candidates to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot by November 1 of the year preceding the year of the primary (up from December 31), and the Secretary of State must publish these lists in a newspaper of general circulation by the first week of December in the year preceding the primary (up from the first week of January in the year of the primary).

## FINANCE

### **SENATE BILL 184**

### **DEDUCTIBLE BUSINESS EXPENSES: AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES**

This bill prohibits payments of more than \$600 annually to employees which may be claimed as a deductible business expense on state income tax unless that employee is duly authorized. This will not apply to individuals who present to an employer a valid drivers license or identification card issued by the State of Georgia; moreover, this will not apply to employers who participate in the federal electronic verification pilot program authorized under the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 as operated by the Department of Homeland Security. This applies to individuals hired after January 1, 2008.

Further, this bill exempts military or National Guard income from state income taxation if such persons are protecting the borders of the United States.

### **HOUSE BILL 128**

### **SALES TAX HOLIDAY FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES**

This bill authorizes a sales tax exemption for school-related supplies during the first weekend in August 2007, and for energy efficient products during the first weekend in October 2007.

### **HOUSE BILL 186**

### **SALES TAX EXEMPTION: ALTERNATIVE FUELS FACILITIES**

This bill authorizes a temporary sales tax exemption for goods utilized in the construction of alternative fuel facilities such as ethanol, biodiesel, and butanol. This exemption does not apply to goods purchased after production of the fuel has begun. This exemption sunsets on June 30, 2012.

### **HOUSE BILL 193**

### **DELTA ASSISTANCE**

This bill authorizes a sales tax exemption for jet fuel purchased by qualifying airlines after \$15 million in state sales tax has been paid by the airline only at a qualifying airport with at least 750,000 annual takeoffs and landings. The exemption sunsets on July 1, 2009.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### **SENATE BILL 60**

### **GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION GEORGIA TRAUMA TRUST FUND**

The lack of a quality trauma care system in Georgia is an issue the legislature continues to confront. Current data suggests that only 30 percent of major traumatic injuries in Georgia are treated in designated trauma centers. Consequently, Georgia's trauma-related death rate is 20 percent higher than the national average, and the state is experiencing a trauma care crisis.

In an effort to address this crisis, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 60, which establishes the Georgia Trauma Commission (Commission), and the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund (GTTF). The Commission will study the provision of trauma care in Georgia, establish a statewide trauma network, develop a trauma transportation system to

provide immediate transport for trauma victims where other options are not available, develop and administer a compensation system for providers of uncompensated trauma care, facilitate trauma education and prevention, and act as the accountability mechanism for the entire Georgia trauma system.

The Commission will apply for, receive, and administer state and federal funds, grants, and donations, and will distribute such funds to cover uncompensated physician and EMS trauma services; uncompensated costs of trauma care centers; trauma care readiness costs; and start-up costs for providers who are seeking trauma care designation. The executive director of the Commission will serve as the trustee of the GTTF and may expend funds deposited into the GTTF with the approval of the Commission.

## **SENATE BILL 102**

## **CHIROPRACTORS' SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Senate Bill 102 makes grammatical changes to current law regarding the scope of chiropractic practice. Current law states that chiropractors may adjust patients according to chiropractic methods. This legislation specifies that chiropractors can evaluate, diagnose, and adjust patients in order to correct spinal subluxations or to adjust articulations of the human body.

Additionally, chiropractors may use therapeutic procedures and modalities that attempt to improve function of the human body. Modalities include any physical agent applied to produce therapeutic change to tissue, including thermal, acoustic, noninvasive light; mechanical or electric energy; hot or cold packs; and electrical stimulation. Chiropractors may also utilize and recommend therapeutic exercise, manual therapy techniques, massage, structural supports, and nutritional and dietary supplements, provided that chiropractors will be held to the same standard of care as licensed physicians performing similar acts.

Finally, this bill increases the maximum fine for practicing chiropractics without a license from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

## **HOUSE BILL 147**

## **ULTRASOUND PRIOR TO ABORTION**

House Bill 147 amends the Woman's Right to Know Act to require that women who are seeking an abortion be offered an opportunity to undergo an ultrasound if the imaging is available and given the chance to view the ultrasound image and listen to the fetal heartbeat.

As part of the informed consent process to an abortion, at least 24 hours before the procedure, a woman must be given a geographically-arranged list of clinics that perform ultrasounds free of charge. In all cases in which an ultrasound is performed prior to an abortion, a woman must be offered the opportunity to view the ultrasound image and listen to the fetal heartbeat. If an ultrasound is performed, the woman must certify in writing (prior to the abortion) that she was given the opportunity to view the image and listen to the heartbeat and whether or not she chose to do so. The physician performing the abortion (or his or her agent) must receive a copy of the written certifications, and they must be kept on file with the woman's medical record for at least three years.

Physicians who do not comply with this legislation are subject to being reported to the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners for disciplinary action.

## **HOUSE BILL 429**

## **HIV PREGNANCY SCREENING**

House Bill 429 establishes the Georgia HIV Pregnancy Screening Act of 2007. It requires every physician who provides prenatal care to pregnant women to test such women for HIV, either during the pregnancy or at the time of delivery through a blood sample or rapid oral test, unless a woman specifically refuses the test. A woman must be informed of the test to be conducted and her right to refuse such testing. If she tests positive, counseling services provided by the Department of Human Resources must be made available to her and she must be referred to the appropriate medical care provider. Failure to conduct such HIV testing must be recorded on a woman's medical records; if she refuses to have the test, the physician is relieved from any responsibility under this legislation.

Additionally, this bill modifies language regarding state health planning by rendering the Health Strategies Council more advisory in nature. The Council will review, comment, and make recommendations to the Board of Community Health on components of the state health plan.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **HOUSE BILL 131      GEORGIA HERO SCHOLARSHIP FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES**

This bill allows a surviving spouse of a deceased member of the Georgia National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces to apply for the Georgia HERO Scholarship. The surviving spouse will be eligible for a grant of \$2,000 per award year for up to four years. Applications for the initial grant must be made before July 1, 2009, or not later than two years following the death of the spouse, whichever is later.

## **INSURANCE AND LABOR**

### **SENATE BILL 96      DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAM – ADDITIONAL TESTING OPTIONS**

Currently, under the Drug-Free Workplace Program, employers who are certified by the State Board of Workers' Compensation as having a drug-free workplace are entitled to a 7.5 percent discount on their workers' compensation premiums. This legislation expands the drug testing options by allowing urinalysis conducted by laboratories, testing at the employer worksite with on-site testing kits, or the use of oral testing to be conducted under the Drug-Free Workplace Program.

### **HOUSE BILL 424      WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

This bill amends several provisions of the workers' compensation program. Significant changes include the following:

#### **Farm Laborers and Workers' Compensation**

This bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act by defining farm laborers to mean any person employed by an employer in connection with the raising and feeding of and caring for wildlife. By establishing this new definition, the employers of such professions will not be required to provide such employees workers' compensation insurance.

#### **Workers' Compensation Claims: Hearings and Dismissals**

For injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2007, any claim filed with the board for which neither medical nor income benefits have been paid will stand dismissed if no hearing has been held within five years of the alleged date of injury. This provision does not apply to a claim for an occupational disease.

#### **Temporary Total Disability Benefits and Temporary Partial Disability Benefits**

This bill increases the weekly temporary total disability benefits that the employer must pay to the employee. The maximum benefit increases from \$450.00 to \$500.00 and the minimum increases from \$45.00 to \$50.00. However, if a weekly wage is below \$50.00, then the employer will pay a weekly benefit equal to the average weekly wage. This legislation also increases the maximum weekly temporary partial disability benefit that the employer must pay to the employee from \$300.00 to \$334.00.

### **HOUSE BILL 443      UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

The unemployment insurance (UI) program pays temporary cash benefits to workers who have lost jobs through no fault of their own. The UI system is administered as a federal-state partnership. To finance the program, the states levy and collect payroll taxes from employers, and the funds collected are managed in a trust fund administered by the federal government. The UI system operates counter-cyclically, paying out benefits during recessionary times and collecting revenue during recovery periods. Employers pay the premiums for the UI program through federal and state payroll taxes that are assessed on employers but based on employees' earnings.

### Suspension of the Statewide Reserve Ratio Surcharge

In addition to such payroll taxes, solvency taxes are assessed on employers when the balance in a state's unemployment fund falls below a specified level. Georgia's solvency tax is commonly referred to as the Statewide Reserve Ratio surcharge. Current law has suspended this surcharge through December 31, 2007. However, in the event the Statewide Reserve Ratio is less than 1.25 percent, the Commissioner of Labor has the option to impose an increase in the overall rate of up to 35 percent, as of the computation date, for each employer whose rate is computed under a rate table in O.C.G.A. § 34-8-155.<sup>1</sup> This legislation extends the suspension of the Statewide Reserve Ratio surcharge through December 31, 2009 as long as the ratio remains at or above 1.25 percent.

### Increase of Weekly Employment Security Benefits

This bill provides that the weekly benefit amount of an individual's claim will be determined by dividing the two highest quarters of wages paid in the base period by 42. Current law divides the two highest quarters by 44. This section also provides that, in the event that an alternative computation is necessary, the weekly benefit amount will be determined by dividing the highest single quarter of base period wages paid by 21. Current law divides the highest quarter by 22.

### Minimum and Maximum Benefits

Beginning July 1, 2007, the minimum weekly employment security benefit will be increased from \$42.00 to \$44.00. Beginning July 1, 2008, the maximum weekly benefit amount will increase from \$320.00 to \$330.00.

## **JUDICIARY**

### **SENATE BILL 182**

### **ASBESTOS AND SILICA LITIGATION REFORM**

The purposes of this bill are to: give priority to plaintiffs who demonstrate actual physical harm or illness caused by asbestos or silica; preserve the rights of future plaintiffs to pursue claims for damages if they become sick in the future due to exposure; enhance the ability of the courts to supervise and control asbestos/silica litigation; and conserve resources to allow for the compensation of plaintiffs who have become ill as a result of asbestos/silica exposure while also protecting the right to similar compensation for plaintiffs in the future.

The statute of limitations for asbestos and silica claims accruing after May 1, 2007 will not begin to run until the plaintiff obtains, or should have obtained, prima facie evidence of physical impairment. Asbestos or silica claims pending as of May 1, 2007 will be dismissed within 180 days of that date, without prejudice, unless all parties stipulate at least 60 days before trial begins that the plaintiff has established prima facie evidence of physical impairment, OR the trial court orders that the plaintiff has established such evidence. For asbestos or silica claims filed on or after May 1, 2007, the plaintiff must include a medical report with the complaint, along with accompanying documentation with the medical findings necessary to establish prima facie evidence of physical impairment.

This bill does NOT allow class action lawsuits in asbestos or silica cases. All asbestos and silica claims must be individually filed in separate civil actions, except where claims relating to exposure for the same exposed person may be joined in a single action. Civil actions alleging asbestos or silica injuries or diseases may only be brought in a Georgia court if the plaintiff is a Georgia resident at the time of filing the action or if the claimed exposure to asbestos or silica occurred in Georgia. However, a claim pending from a non-Georgia resident filed before April 12, 2005 will not be dismissed based on residency, if the non-resident can establish prima facie evidence of physical impairment.

Cumulative successor asbestos related liabilities of a corporation are limited to the fair market value of the total gross assets of the transferor determined at the time of the merger or consolidation. The corporation will not have any responsibility for successor asbestos liabilities exceeding this limitation.

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<sup>1</sup>The Statewide Reserve Ratio is computed on June 30 of each year by dividing the balance in the trust fund, including accrued interest, by the total covered wages paid in the state during the previous calendar year.

**HOUSE BILL 24****GEORGIA ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR HEALTH CARE ACT**

This statute contains an easy-to-use form dealing with end of life issues. Any person of sound mind who is emancipated or over age 18 may execute a document that allows the withholding of life-sustaining procedures or provision of nourishment or hydration, and/or appoints a health care agent. Designated health care agents do not have the authority to make health care decisions that are different from or contrary to the individual's decisions as long as the individual is able to understand the nature of the health care procedure being consented to or refused, and agents are under no duty to exercise granted powers, or assume control of or responsibility for health care decisions.

The statute provides immunity to health care providers, facilities, and any person who acts in good faith reliance on a decision made by a health care agent. An individual cannot be required by any physician, health care facility or provider, or health care service plan, disability insurer, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan or nonprofit hospital service plan, to execute an advance directive for health care as a condition for being insured or for receiving health care services. This law should not be construed to authorize mercy killing or to permit any affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life, other than to permit the process of dying.

**HOUSE BILL 369****GEORGIA SHARED PARENTING BILL**

The Georgia Shared Parenting Bill calls for minor children to have frequent and continuing contact with parents who have shown the ability to act in the best interest of their children, and to encourage parents to share the responsibility of raising their children after separation or divorce. The law will provide for direct appeal to the Georgia Court of Appeals or the Georgia Supreme Court for all judgments or orders in divorce, alimony, child custody and other domestic relations cases, including holding or declining to hold a party in contempt. This statute will require parents to submit a parenting plan to the court for permanent custody and modification actions, and in additional circumstances based on the judge's discretion. The shared parenting plan will help parents make joint decisions related to the child's education, health, extracurricular activities, and religious upbringing. If the parties cannot agree on a permanent parenting plan, each party will file and serve a proposed parenting plan by a certain date set by the judge, who will determine which plan is in the best interests of the child. There will be no presumption in favor of legal or physical custody for either parent. The judge may grant sole custody, joint custody, joint legal custody, or joint physical custody as appropriate to the circumstances. Custody matters will not be decided by a jury.

**NATURAL RESOURCES****SENATE BILL 157****E-85 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM**

This bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to establish a grant program to fund the costs of E-85 projects. The term "E-85 project" is defined as the installing, replacing, or converting of motor fuel storage and dispensing equipment at sites where motor fuel is stored and dispensed for retail such that the equipment will be used exclusively for storing and dispensing E-85 gasoline for retail sales for a period of not less than five consecutive years.

The Department is also required to contract with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) to implement, administer, and disperse grant money, as well as implement and administer such a program subject to the following minimum criteria:

- Each grant applicant must submit a project plan that will be subject to approval by GEFA;
- A grant for any approved project will not exceed 33 1/3 percent, or \$20,000, whichever is less, and the applicant will be required to pay for the remainder of the project. However, the grant applicant is not prohibited from using grants or loans from the federal government or private sources to pay for such remainder of the project cost;
- Construction for any approved project must begin no later than six months after the date of the grant; and



- Grant money will be refunded to the state with interest at the legal rate no later than two years after any failure to meet the above requirements.

## **HOUSE BILL 100**

## **SHRIMPING**

House Bill 100 provides for significant revisions to current law relating to shrimping. The provisions in this bill are the result of recommendations made by a public stakeholders group, coordinated and facilitated by the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources in 2005.

This bill allows modified cast nets to be used for shrimping and defines a “food shrimp cast net” as a cast net constructed of a minimum of one-half inch bar mesh until March 1, 2009; thereafter, the term is defined as a cast net constructed of a minimum of five-eighths inch bar mesh.

The amount of shrimp that may be taken by commercial food shrimp cast netters on the same boat with a food shrimp cast netting license is increased from 60 to 150 quarts of shrimp with heads and from 38 to 95 quarts of shrimp tails; however, beginning December 1 until the close of each food shrimp season, possession at any time is limited to 75 quarts of shrimp with heads or 48 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. The limit on the amount of shrimp that can be taken for noncommercial purposes remains the same.

Furthermore, it is now illegal to take shrimp for commercial purposes at night. Power-drawn nets may also be used during the day.

## **HOUSE BILL 214**

## **JEKYLL ISLAND**

House Bill 214 extends the Jekyll Island State Park Authority’s lease, as well as its existence as an instrumentality of the state, for an additional 40 years. This legislation also provides for appointment of two advisory members to the Authority. However, this provision will stand automatically repealed on December 31, 2009.

House Bill 214 also creates a Jekyll Island State Park Authority Oversight Committee to advise the General Assembly regarding the Authority’s compliance with the provisions of this legislation.

This bill prohibits the Authority from selling any residential lots or commercial property unless obligated to do so under the terms of a valid lease agreement entered into prior to the effective date of this legislation. On and after such date, the Authority is prohibited from entering into, extending, or renewing any agreement providing for the sale of any residential lot on Jekyll Island. This legislation also requires the southern portion of the Island to always be included within the 65 percent of the land area that the Authority is prohibited from developing. Those properties used for the Jekyll Island 4-H center and soccer complex may continue to be used and improved for the same or similar purposes under an extension or renewal of an existing lease or under a new lease. Furthermore, this legislation does not prohibit the construction and use of any public bicycle trails, public nature trails, or public picnic areas on the southern portion of the Island.

House Bill 214 also revises certain procedures relating to the adoption of amendments to the Jekyll Island Master Plan. Most importantly, any proposed amendment to the Master Plan will stay any action or development under such Plan. Under current law, the Authority must create a master plan for the management, preservation, protection, and development of Jekyll Island. The master plan delineates the present and permitted future uses of the land, as well as the boundaries of the areas delineated in the plan as the 65 percent of the land area which the Authority has no power to improve, lease, or sell. Finally, this legislation clarifies that the Authority is exempt from all sales and use taxes.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **SENATE BILL 5**

### **REAL ID ACT AND SAVE PROGRAM**

On May 11, 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, creating national standards for the issuance of state driver's licenses and identification cards. The Act establishes certain standards, procedures, and requirements that must be met by May 11, 2008 if state-issued licenses and IDs are to be accepted as valid identification by the federal government. REAL IDs must include, at a minimum: name, birth date, sex, ID number, a digital photograph, address, and a "common machine-readable technology" that will be selected by the Department of Homeland Security. The card must also contain "physical security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting, or duplication of the document for fraudulent purposes." The Department of Homeland Security is permitted to add additional requirements, such as a fingerprint or a retinal scan.

These standards are likely to alter long-standing state laws, regulations and practices governing the qualifications for and the production and issuance of such IDs in every state. They also will require substantial investments by states and the federal government to meet the objectives of the Act. Aside from the unrealistic and quickly approaching deadline of May 2008, the Georgia Department of Driver Services estimates that the cost to implement the REAL ID program in Georgia will range from \$10-\$20 million. However, no money has been appropriated by Congress. Even with full funding and an aggressive state implementation plan, however, the difficulties of complying with unpublished regulations by the statutory deadline of May 2008 are insurmountable.

#### **Delayed Implementation of the REAL ID Act in Georgia**

This bill authorizes the Governor to delay compliance with certain provisions of the federal REAL ID Act until the Department of Homeland Security expressly guarantees that implementation of the Act will not compromise the economic and biological privacy of Georgia's citizens. This provision does not limit the Governor's discretion or authority to delay compliance with the REAL ID Act for any other reason.

#### **SAVE Confirmation**

This bill also prohibits the Department of Driver Services from issuing an identification card, license, permit, or other official documents to noncitizen applicants unless such applicants have been confirmed through the SAVE program to be lawfully present in the U.S. This provision will become effective upon the department's full implementation of the SAVE Program by no later than January 1, 2008. However, this provision does not apply to instances when a federal law mandates acceptance of a document.

### **SENATE BILL 38**

### **VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND VALID IDENTIFICATION**

This bill requires all applicants for the initial issuance of a vehicle registration, on or after July 1, 2007, to present a valid Georgia driver's license or Georgia identification card, unless such applicants are exempt under current law.

### **SENATE BILL 77**

### **INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PLAN**

This bill directs the Department of Revenue to establish an electronic filing system for registering vehicles under the International Registration Plan (IRP) by January 1, 2008. Such system may also issue temporary operating permits valid for any length of time; provided, however, that in no event will the total number of days of all temporary operating permits issued for a vehicle exceed 60 days from the registration application filing date.

### **HOUSE BILL 314**

### **DNA ANALYSIS FOR PROBATIONERS OF CERTAIN CRIMES**

This bill requires any person who is placed on probation from a felony conviction for any of the following crimes to submit to DNA analysis:

1. Chapter 5 of Title 16, relating to crimes against persons;
2. Code Section 16-6-1, rape;
3. Code Section 16-6-2, sodomy or aggravated sodomy;
4. Code Section 16-6-3, statutory rape;

5. Code Section 16-6-4, child molestation or aggravated child molestation;
6. Code Section 16-6-5, enticing a child for indecent purposes;
7. Code Section 16-6-5.1, sexual assault against persons in custody, sexual assault against a person detained or a patient in a hospital or other institution, or sexual assault by a practitioner of psychotherapy against a patient;
8. Code Section 16-6-6, bestiality;
9. Code Section 16-6-7, necrophilia;
10. Code Section 16-6-22, incest;
11. Code Section 16-7-1, burglary;
12. Code Section 16-8-40, robbery;
13. Code Section 16-8-41, armed robbery;
14. Code Section 16-10-23, impersonating an officer;
15. Code Section 16-10-24, obstruction of an officer;
16. Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16, relating to dangerous instrumentalities and practices; and
17. Chapter 13 of Title 16, controlled substances.

**HOUSE BILL 313**

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS –  
ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY**

Prohibiting Convicted Criminals from having Photographs of Victims

This bill prohibits any person who is imprisoned in a penal institution or other facility under the jurisdiction of the Board of Corrections, and who was convicted under the statutes governing either crimes against persons (Chapter 5 of Title 16) or sexual offenses (Chapter 6 of Title 16), from possessing or maintaining any photograph, picture, or depiction of a victim of the crime for which he/she has been convicted. Violation of this statute will result in a misdemeanor charge. This statute does not apply where a photograph or other depiction of a victim is necessary for a civil or criminal proceeding, and where the inmate receives permission from the presiding court. This statute does not limit the placement of other restrictions on the possession of photographs by inmates as deemed appropriate by the Board of Corrections.

This bill also authorizes the Corrections Commissioner to issue warrants for the arrest of escaped convicts.

Georgia Correctional Industries Administration

The remainder of this bill authorizes the Board of Corrections to issue and promulgate rules and regulations for programs of voluntary labor by inmates for privately owned employers to produce goods or services for sale to public and private purchasers under the administration and management of the Department of Corrections and the Georgia Correctional Industries Administration programs.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES**

**SENATE BILL 115**

**STATE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD**

This bill redefines a Contractor to include persons installing industrialized buildings. An industrialized building is defined by the Code as any structure which is wholly or in substantial part made, fabricated, formed, or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation on a building site.

The State Construction Industry Licensing Board will establish these categories of general contractor licensure based on financial criteria and will further provide interpretation and guidance for any established policies which regulate residential and general contractors.

Eligibility of residential basic and light commercial contractors regarding examination will be changed to exclude persons acting as an agent who has maintained licensure as an individual, doing business as an individual in a trade name as sole proprietor or qualifying agent for another business.

The Board may determine criteria for exemption for specialty contractors which applies to work performed for an owner that would require a license if such work does not exceed \$10,000 or 25 percent of work performed. This new language does not apply to

registered interior design or engineering, nor will it apply to the construction of manufactured homes. The effective date is July 1, 2008.

#### **SENATE BILL 146**

#### **PUBLIC BIDDING**

This bill relates to the bidding process for public works. The amended language inserts definitions for “alternative bid” and “base bid” and keeps previous definitions. The alternate bid is a secondary amount of the bid if the scope of the project changes.

Additionally, this bill provides for internet advertising for contract opportunities and such advertising must occur at least four weeks before opening of the sealed bid. The notice for public works will include whether the project will be awarded by base bid or alternative bid, and a listing of all anticipated permits required and whether they have been obtained in addition to necessary easements or rights-of-way.

A qualified pre-bidder cannot be disqualified without cause.

#### **SENATE BILL 237**

#### **ARCHITECTURE LICENSING**

This bill mandates that applicants for the practice of architecture must have a bachelor’s degree in architecture, architecture engineering, or a related concentration, and at least four years of experience if seeking licensure in Georgia and already registered in another *jurisdiction*. All rules, regulations, and standards of conduct must be posted on the board’s website.

#### **HOUSE BILL 227**

#### **CONSUMER CHOICE FOR TELEVISION ACT**

This bill authorizes that video service providers may obtain a franchise to provide the service by the Secretary of State (SOS) or by the local government. The statewide franchise fee is 5 percent of gross revenues, and the fee will apply to local governments who provide written notice to the SOS showing that their jurisdiction is within the provider’s designated service area. The franchise fee is paid directly to the local government; moreover, no other fees are permitted. The SOS may charge up to \$500 for a statewide franchise and up to \$250 for a franchise amendment.

Statewide franchise holders will be prohibited from discriminating on the basis of income by denying service to a specific area. There are no build-out requirements on statewide franchise holders.

### **RETIREMENT**

#### **SENATE BILL 156**

#### **MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS – PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

This bill authorizes political subdivisions to establish plans to provide for the payment of post employment benefits. Other than certain exceptions, the plan and assets of any trust or fund will be under the governance and investment authority of a retirement system maintained by the political subdivision, or other board of trustees established for such purpose. All employer contributions, plan participant contributions, appropriations, earnings, and reserves for the payment of obligations under the plan will be credited to such trust or fund.

#### **SENATE BILL 162**

#### **DISABILITY BENEFITS - ERS**

This bill amends provisions relating to the disability benefits offered under the Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) by revising the method for calculating disability benefits for persons who become members of ERS on or after 1 July, 2007.

#### **HOUSE BILL 106**

#### **OPTIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS – PEACE OFFICERS’ ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND**

This bill amends provisions relating to optional retirement benefits under the Peace Officers’ Annuity and Benefit Fund by requiring optional retirement benefits to be calculated based on the interest rate and mortality basis that is approved by the board,

along with other factors. This legislation further authorizes the board to approve a different interest rate and mortality basis from time to time. Current law states the specific mortality tables and interest rate that must be used for calculating optional retirement benefits.

**HOUSE BILL 318**

**PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS  
INVESTMENT AUTHORITY LAW**

This bill amends provisions relating to Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority law by allowing certain foreign corporations to be organized under the laws of this state or another state. This does not apply to any corporation that is included in the terrorism sanctions issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury pursuant to Executive Order 13224. Additionally, public retirement systems may invest in certain business entities organized under the laws of the United States or Canada. Public retirement systems are only authorized to invest in such business entities that have a minimum market capitalization equivalent to \$100 million and have elected to be taxed and continue to qualify as a real estate investment trust, as defined in the Federal Internal Revenue Code. Large retirement systems may invest up to 15 percent of the retirement system assets in corporations or in obligations of corporations organized in a country other than the United States or Canada. Currently, such investment is limited to 10 percent. Finally, large retirement systems may enter into contracts, agreements, and other instruments designed to manage risk exposure.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SENATE BILL 148**

**NEWBORN UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD BANK**

This bill creates the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank for postnatal tissue and fluid, provides for donations and information concerning donations, creates the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure, and authorizes taxpayers to make certain contributions through the income tax payment and refund process.

**SENATE BILL 280**

**ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR GEORGIA  
TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES**

This bill amends current law which prohibits the executive director and employees of the Georgia Technology Authority from having any personal business interest, directly or indirectly, in any business transactions involving the State, so that neither may have an amount greater than 1 percent ownership interest in any firm, corporation, partnership, or association that is involved with business with the State.

**SPECIAL JUDICIARY**

**HOUSE BILL 139**

**INTESTATE SUCCESSION: ESTATES OF MINORS**

This bill provides that a parent who willfully abandons his or her minor child would lose all rights to intestate succession to the minor child's estate and would not have the right to administer the minor child's estate.

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

**SENATE BILL 200**

**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS**

This bill authorizes the creation of Infrastructure Development Districts, which are geographic areas of development that are created for financing of projects. This legislation will only become effective on January 1, 2009 upon the ratification of Senate Resolution 309.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 309****REFERENDUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS**

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Georgia State Constitution to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the creation and comprehensive regulation of infrastructure development districts (SB 200). However, infrastructure development districts may only be created when approved: by a county governing authority when the entire district is proposed to be in the unincorporated area of a county; by a municipal governing authority when the entire district is proposed to be wholly within the municipality; or by both a county governing authority and a municipal governing authority when the district is proposed to be partially in the unincorporated area of a county and partially in a municipality. Also, the governing body of the infrastructure development district will not have the power of eminent domain. Voters in Georgia will vote in a state-wide referendum to accept or reject the proposed amendment.

**HOUSE BILL 2****FAIR ANNEXATION ACT**

This bill provides procedures for resolving annexation disputes between municipalities and county governing authorities. The procedures of this legislation will not apply to local Acts of annexation by the General Assembly.

**STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY****SENATE BILL 235****DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICERS  
RETAINING THEIR BADGES**

This bill allows a correctional employee who leaves the Department of Corrections under honorable conditions and has 25 or more years of service as a certified peace officer or who has been killed in the line of duty, to retain his or her badge as part of such employee's compensation.

**TRANSPORTATION****SENATE BILL 19****REMOVAL, RELOCATION, OR ADJUSTMENT  
OF UTILITY FACILITIES BY GDOT**

This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to order the removal, relocation, or adjustment of utility facilities occupying any part of the public road system. A utility that fails to remove, relocate, or adjust a facility in a timely manner will be responsible to the Department and its contractors for failure to comply.

**SENATE BILL 87****"RV FRIENDLY" MARKERS ON SERVICE SIGNS**

This bill directs the Department of Transportation to seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration to incorporate the use of "RV friendly" markers on specific service signs for business establishments that cater to the needs of persons driving recreational vehicles.

**SENATE BILL 282****ALTERNATIVE TOURISM ROUTES**

This bill provides for the creation of alternative tourism routes that are a part of the state highway system and that traverse the state and pass through or are in close proximity to historic sites or tourist attractions. Interstate highways that traverse the state will not be eligible for such designation. The initial alternative routes will be U.S. Highway 27 and U.S. Highway 441.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 365****JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

This resolution creates the Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding to be composed of eight members who will study the issues to determine alternative funding mechanisms for transportation projects and special funding sources.

## **PASSED LEGISLATION (LISTED BY COMMITTEE)**

### **AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

SB 101 Agricultural Facilities  
SB 165 Agricultural  
SB 220 Warehousemen  
SB 236 Georgia Personal Identity Protection Act; state agencies; breach of security; personal information  
SR 326 U.S. Congress; urge to reform U.S. sugar policy  
HB 101 Public records; agricultural or food  
HB 112 Food; license  
HB 122 Commercial feeds; labeling  
HB 240 Retail Installments  
HB 433 Meats

### **APPROPRIATIONS**

SB 172 Georgia Retiree Health Benefit Fund; reports to the board of community health  
HB 94 Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007  
HB 95 General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008  
HB 120 Supreme Court; Court of Appeals; certain judges; travel allowances; provide  
HB 443 Employment security; employment; change definition; provisions  
HR 102 Clark, Mr. Robert; compensate; provide for state income tax exclusion

### **BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

SB 70 Financial Institutions; update banking laws to reflect changes in federal law  
HB 96 State depositories; Federal Home Loan Banks; secure state funds

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HB 132 Vessels; certain ports; numbers of pilots; change certain provisions  
HB 383 Georgia Condominium Act; define terms; provisions

### **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

SB 9 Grade Integrity Act; provide ethical violation reportable to Professional Standards Commission; statutory construction  
SB 10 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act; provide public school students with disabilities to attend eligible private schools  
SB 39 Charter Systems Act; establishment of charter schools; revise/add definitions; Charter Advisory Committee  
SB 72 Quality Basic Education Act; authorize the employment of school administrative managers to conduct the financial/business affairs  
SB 123 Local Boards of Education; require twins placed in same classroom if parent requests  
SB 168 Deaf Child's Bill of Rights Act; communication needs of a deaf student  
SB 170 Quality Basic Education Act; foreign language requirements; college preparatory diploma  
SR 426 Quality of Child Care in Georgia; create Senate Study Committee  
SR 483 Georgia's Public Schools; encouraging the effective teaching of social studies  
SR 487 Teacher Complaint/Grievance Procedure; create Senate Study Committee  
HB 375 Education; pages of General Assembly; provisions

### **ETHICS**

SB 40 Elections; fraudulent acts; increase penalties  
SB 194 Election; county election superintendent; tabulation of absentee ballots; prior to the close of the polls on the day of primary, election or runoff  
SB 212 Public Records; disclosure to the news media; public employees  
HB 16 Public employees; fraud, waste, abuse in state operations; change definitions

### **FINANCE**

SB 184 Income Taxes; new definitions; modify the computation of deductible business expenses  
SR 482 Senate Communications Taxes and Fees Study Committee; create  
HB 30 Housing authorities; private enterprise agreement; redefine  
HB 78 Bona fide conservation use property; additional acts; provisions  
HB 128 Sales and use tax exemption; certain school supplies; energy efficient products; provide  
HB 169 Sales and use tax; certain prepared food and beverage donations; provide exemption  
HB 171 Motor vehicles; scrap metal or parts; certificates of title; provisions  
HB 182 Property tax digest; positive tax allocation increments; prohibit use  
HB 183 Motor vehicles; certificates of title; definitions; change certain provisions  
HB 186 Sales and use tax; certain alternative fuel facilities; five year exemption

HB 193 Sales and use tax; jet fuel; additional exemption  
 HB 219 Certain local sales and use tax; motor fuels; prepayments; provisions  
 HB 225 State income tax; certain college savings plans; change certain provisions  
 HB 264 Homestead option sales and use tax; disbursing proceeds; change manner and method  
 HB 282 Sales & use tax; repair of certain aircrafts; sale of parts; provide exemption  
 HB 321 Bona fide conservation use property; assessment; change certain eligibility requirements  
 HB 357 Revenue and taxation; define certain terms; provisions  
 HB 380 Tax collectors and commissioners; bill or notice mailing; change certain provisions  
 HB 445 Bona fide conservation use property; buffers adjacent to rivers; change certain provisions  
 HB 505 Human Resources, Department of; adult day centers; licensure; authorize charge fees

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

SB 17 Optometrists; authorize to prescribe and administer oral/topical pharmaceutical agents; eye/adnexa oculi  
 SB 60 Georgia Trauma Commission; establish  
 SB 61 Child-Placing Agency; require petitioner to submit to a criminal history records Check  
 SB 95 Cigarettes/Tobacco; minors; unlawful to attempt purchase; vending machines; change certain provisions  
 SB 102 Chiropractors; define/redefine terms; scope of practice; change criminal penalties for unlicensed practice  
 SB 204 Health; board for distribution/delivery of dead bodies; change certain provisions  
 SB 205 Prescription Medication Integrity Act  
 SB 222 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; revise definition; licensed registered nurse  
 SR 30 Joint Study Committee on State Stroke System of Care; create  
 SR 66 Shortage of Doctors and Nurses; Senate Study Committee; create  
 SR 87 Human Resources, Dept.; urged to name district health office building at Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in honor of Dr. Raymond F. Corpe  
 SR 385 Georgia Advance Directives Registry; create senate study committee  
 SR 386 Human Resources, Dept.; urged to establish a uniform format among hospital forms; mandate use in all Georgia hospitals  
 SR 517 Childhood Obesity in Georgia; create Senate Study Committee  
 SR 637 Health Care Transformation; create Senate Study Committee  
 HB 147 Woman's Right to Know Act; abortion; change certain provisions  
 HB 155 Human Resources, Department of; personal care home owners; criminal history; permit  
 HB 286 Controlled substances; Schedule II and V; change certain provisions  
 HB 330 Georgia State Board of Pharmacy; registry of pharmacy technicians; establish  
 HB 429 Georgia HIV Pregnancy Screening Act of 2007; enact  
 HB 626 Physicians; retired; continuing education hours; provisions  
 HB 655 Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons; create

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

SR 397 Board of Regents; urged to establish programs for intercollegiate wrestling  
 SR 446 U.S. Representative Charles Whitlow Norwood, Jr. D.D.S; honoring lifetime achievements  
 HB 131 Georgia HERO Scholarship; surviving spouses; change definitions  
 HR 322 Joint Study Committee on Continuing Education and Collegiate Sports Programs for Students with Disabilities; create

### **INSURANCE AND LABOR**

SB 49 Labor, Dept. of; transfer of Rehabilitation Services; provide delivery of certain services/techniques to deaf-blind individual  
 SB 84 Insurance; protect members of United States armed forces; unscrupulous practices; marketing/sale of insurance  
 SB 96 Drug-Free Work Programs; provide for onsite/oral testing  
 SB 131 Subsequent Injury Trust Fund; payment of assessments; change certain provisions  
 SR 471 Property and Casualty Rate Regulation; create Senate Study Committee  
 SR 619 Prescription Drugs; create Senate Study Committee  
 HB 408 Insolvency funds exclusion; certain companies; provide exception  
 HB 424 Workers' compensation; claim filings; benefits; examinations; provisions  
 HB 551 State False Medicaid Claims Act; enact  
 HB 648 Long-term care insurance; changes to certain definitions; provide

### **JUDICIARY**

SB 23 Criminal Sentencing Procedure; probation/suspension; court may inquire/consider the legality of prisoner's presence in United States



SB 34 Penal Institutions; possession of photograph of victims by certain persons confined; prohibit

SB 42 Child Support Recovery; authorize Dept. of Human Resources to impose fees on child support collections

SB 79 Criminal Attempt; increase maximum punishment for convictions; felonies punishable by death/life imprisonment

SB 98 Crimes/Offenses; Georgia Bureau of Investigation investigate certain offenses against minors, including subpoena power

SB 106 Bonds; surety for good behavior; extend the period

SB 139 Georgia Public Defender Standards Council; transfer from judicial branch to

SB 182 Torts; asbestos/silica claims; change provisions

SB 188 Foster Parents Bill of Rights; children who are privately placed; provide administrative hearing for aggrieved parties

SB 190 Pretrial Proceedings; insanity/mental incompetence; definitions; evaluation

SR 246 Indigent Defense; create Joint Study Committee

SR 280 Property Rights Relating to Reproductive/Genetic Technology; create Senate study committee

SR 555 Hate Crime Legislation; create Senate Study Committee

HB 24 Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care Act; enact

HB 136 Public policy; contract of insurance; indemnification; provisions

HB 153 Juveniles; Division of Family and Children Services; provide certain requirements

HB 197 Imprisonment sentence reviews; more than 12 years; three-judge panel; repeal

HB 221 Professional malpractice charges; affidavit; change certain provisions

HB 270 Juvenile proceedings; appointment of guardian ad litem; change provisions

HB 274 Notaries; qualifications; application; change certain provisions

HB 369 Domestic relations; child custody proceedings; provisions

HB 497 Adoption; surrender rights; provisions

HB 586 Alternative attorneys; capital cases; counsel appointment and fees; change matters

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SB 116 State Forestry Commission; qualifications of the director; change provisions

SB 157 Gasoline Additives; provide for grants; E-85 gasoline for retail sale; define certain terms

SB 176 State Forestry Commission; reports to General Assembly; change certain provisions

SB 226 Qualified Soil Scientists; evaluations/reports shall be accepted by Dept. of Natural Resources/Dept. Human Resources

SB 263 Soil/Water Conservation Districts; number/boundaries; alteration of existing districts/formation of new districts; change certain provisions

SR 123 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; urged to begin study of the costs/effects of raising the full pool for Lake Lanier

SR 243 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Congress; urged to begin a study of the cost/effects; storage capacities

HB 81 Salt water fishing; charter fishing guide and pier fishing licenses; provisions

HB 100 Shrimp and shrimping; revise various provisions

HB 177 Historic sites; initial investigation; state archeologist; notice; require

HB 214 Jekyll Island - State Park Authority; renewal of property lease; provisions

HB 463 Soil erosion and sedimentation; exemptions; change certain provisions

HB 471 Local government; privately constructed water systems; requiring ownership transfer; prohibit

HB 510 Boating safety zones; Lake Oconee; certain vessels; change certain provisions

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

SB 5 Secure and Verifiable Identity Document Act; drivers' licenses; provisions (PF)

SB 38 Motor Vehicles; registration of a vehicle; require driver's license/identification card

SB 62 Georgia Crime Information Center; provide certain conditions for requesting criminal history records

SB 77 Commercial Vehicles; local tag agents; International Registration Plan

SB 81 Special Licenses; 100 years of scouting; Boy Scouts of America

SR 403 EMS Recruitment, Retention, and Retirement; create Senate Study Committee

HB 79 Motor vehicles; light transmission through windows; materials; provisions

HB 220 Georgia Criminal Justice Improvement Council; repeal Chapter 8

HB 313 Georgia Correctional Industries Administration; certain inmate work programs; clarify

HB 314 Persons convicted of certain sex offenses; probation; DNA analysis; provide

HB 394 Emergency 9-1-1 system; change provisions; Wireless Communications Security Act; enact

HB 419 Commercial drivers' licenses; definitions; issuance; provisions

HB 457 Revenue, Department of; special license plates; process all applications; provisions

HB 518 Motor vehicles; commercial motor vehicle; define; license plates; provisions

HB 527 Probation; private supervision services; minimum fee; establish

## **REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES**

- SB 114 Real Estate Brokers; criminal convictions; terms/conditions of sentence; provide that certain time periods shall pass; application for licensure
- SB 115 Residential/General Contractors; revise the licensure provisions
- SB 146 Public Works Bidding; provide definitions; advertisement of contract opportunities
- SB 203 Secondary Metals Recyclers; public utilities/transportation; increased penalties
- SB 237 Architecture; establish minimum training requirements to qualify for certification; Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers
- SB 246 Buildings; advisory committee on industrialized buildings; appointment/vacancies; change composition
- HB 90 Funeral establishments; adequate stock of funeral caskets; provisions
- HB 107 Municipal government; additional requirements; certain franchise fees; provisions
- HB 134 Local governments; bid bonds; cash; change certain provisions
- HB 144 Motor vehicles; used; sale or advertising; change certain exceptions
- HB 227 Consumer Choice for Television Act; enact
- HB 391 Cemeterians State Board; members qualifications; change certain provisions
- HB 528 Cosmetic laser practitioners; registration certificates; provisions
- HB 587 Gas; public convenience and necessity certificates; provide for revocation

## **RETIREMENT**

- SB 156 Retirement; counties, municipal corporations; post-employment benefits; define certain terms
- SB 162 Retirement; person who becomes member; disability benefit; actual years of creditable service
- HB 106 Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund; retirement benefit options; provide
- HB 213 Deferred compensation plans; state employees; special pay plan; repeal
- HB 318 Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law; change certain provisions
- HB 448 Retirement; term life insurance; certain eligible persons; establish two funds

## **RULES**

- SR 340 Senate Study Committee; State Boards, Commissions, Authorities, Councils, and Committees; create
- SR 646 President/U.S. Congress urged to adopt/implement federal immigration/border security plan
- SR 650 Community Health, Dept. of; urged to develop/establish educational programs regarding diabetes
- SR 653 Tobacco Tax Evasion; create Senate Study Committee
- HB 224 State Licensing Board for Residential and General Contractors; change certain provisions

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

- SB 148 Saving the Cure Act; create the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank for postnatal tissue and fluid; Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure
- SB 280 Georgia Technology Authority; provide for construction/interpretation of the Code section
- SR 247 Eugenics; express profound regret for Georgia's participation
- SR 593 Brain Fingerprinting Technology; create Senate Study Committee

## **SPECIAL JUDICIARY**

- SB 94 Dispossessory Proceedings; clarify the process for judgments by defaults
- SB 103 O.C.G.A.; correct errors/omissions
- SB 104 O.C.G.A.; correct errors/omissions; Title 47
- SB 124 O.C.G.A.; correct errors/omissions; Title 21
- SB 128 Child Advocate, Office of; provide confidentiality of records
- SB 234 Secretary of State; collect a filing fee for certificates of conversion; Georgia corporation to foreign corporation
- HB 53 Piedmont Circuit; terms of court; change provisions
- HB 139 Estates and wills; descent and distribution; provisions
- HB 168 Associate juvenile court judges; appointment; change qualifications
- HB 233 Long-term Care Facility Resident Abuse Reporting Act; change definition

## **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

(This list does not include local legislation.)

- SB 177 Superior Courts; Pike County in Griffin Circuit; change certain terms of court
- SB 200 Georgia Smart Infrastructure Growth Act; creation
- SR 309 Infrastructure Development Districts; provide by general law the creation and comprehensive regulation-CA
- HB 2 Fair Annexation Act; enact
- HB 109 County and municipality; consolidation; provisions
- HB 118 Brunswick and Cobb Judicial Circuits; additional superior courts judge; provide
- HB 181 Public safety and judicial facilities authorities; bond indebtedness; provide limitations

HB 222 County tax commissioners; purchasing certain property; prohibit  
 HB 232 Georgia Development Impact Fee Act; change definitions; provisions  
 HB 247 Local government; water and sewer systems; change certain provisions  
 HB 316 Public Service Commission; towing of certain vehicles; provide  
 HB 317 Public transportation; motor contract carrier; change definition  
 HB 486 County tax commissioners; compensation; additional duties; change certain provisions  
 HB 519 Counties and municipal corporations; taxicabs; provisions  
 HR 351 Joint Study Committee on Fulton County; create

### STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY

SB 210 Secretary of State; authorize to designate/establish facilities; government agency as a branch depository; Division of Archives/History  
 SB 235 Corrections, Dept. Of; certified correctional employees; leave under certain conditions may retain their badges  
 SR 68 William H. "Sonny Boy" Skipper Maintenance Headquarters; dedicate  
 SR 249 Public Property; conveyance; granting of easements for facilities, utilities 6 counties  
 HB 245 Georgia State Prison warden; passenger motor vehicle; repeal certain provisions  
 HB 366 Guide or service dog; certain persons; equal public accommodations; provide  
 HR 21 Elbert Shaw, Jr. Regional Youth Detention Center; designate  
 HR 57 Elbert County; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize  
 HR 369 Baldwin, Charlton, Chatham, Coffee, and Columbia counties; convey property; authorize  
 HR 370 Bibb, Cobb, Dougherty, Mitchell and Troup Counties; lease property; authorize  
 HR 524 Gerald Dasher Memorial State Farmers' Market; dedicate

### TRANSPORTATION

SB 19 Transportation, Department of; pay costs of removal, relocation, or adjustment of utility facilities necessitated by construction of public roads  
 SB 87 Highway System; Dept. of Transportation; RV friendly markers on specific service signs for business establishments  
 SB 282 Highway System; alternative tourism routes; creation  
 SR 296 POW Julian Abel Memorial Bridge; dedicating  
 SR 357 Major Byron S. McGuire, Sr. Memorial Bridge; dedicating  
 SR 365 Transportation Funding; create joint study committee  
 HB 192 Transportation, Department of; contracts; provisions  
 HB 231 Public roads; lack of removal of vehicles; liable for gross negligence  
 HB 389 Public transportation; limousine carrier; change definition; provisions  
 HB 536 Vehicles and loads; fines for excess weight; provisions  
 HR 171 Cason and Virginia Callaway Conservation Highway; dedicate portions of SR 116  
 HR 201 Georgia's High Tech Corridor; certain portion; remove designation

### **INDEX OF VETOED LEGISLATION**

(This list does not include local legislation.)

SB 14 Superior Court Clerks; personal property filing fees; collection/remittance; change sunset dates  
 SB 15 Drivers' Licenses; suspended/revoke; change certain provisions  
 SB 100 Crime; knowingly manufacturing, selling, or distributing false identification documents; increase certain penalties  
 SB 135 Criminal Reproduction/Sale of Recorded Material; increase penalties; provide forfeiture of certain items  
 SB 193 Local Government; employment benefits for county employees; general provisions  
 SB 224 Motor Vehicles; commercial vehicle and fleet policy; change the definition  
 SB 225 Redevelopment; require training with programs; create Redevelopment Powers Training Board  
 SB 251 Motor Vehicles; require establishment by Dept. of Revenue of internet website for stolen/towed motor vehicles  
 SR 363 Mental Health Service Delivery Commission; create  
 HB 48 Georgia State Indemnification Fund; definitions; change terms  
 HB 69 Driver's records; online; Department of Driver Services; charging fee; prohibit  
 HB 76 Emergency management; nomenclature and symbols; require permission; provisions  
 HB 91 Executive branch of government; certain reports; provide to General Assembly  
 HB 105 Animals; poultry; revise certain provisions  
 HB 117 Motor vehicles; definition; exempt certain vehicles  
 HB 148 Sales and use tax; aquariums; provide exemption  
 HB 162 Sales and use tax; performing arts amphitheater facilities; provide exemption  
 HB 202 Transportation, Department of; contractors; eligibility; provisions  
 HB 218 Georgia Ports Authority; employees; power of arrest; peace officers; require  
 HB 229 Education lottery; book allowances; fee payments; impose certain limitations  
 HB 242 Insurance; certain high deductible health plans; provide exemption  
 HB 327 Setoff debt collection; public housing authorities; authorize

HB 363	HOPE grants; eligibility requirements; Georgia Military College students; provide
HB 374	Hotel motel tax; definitions; change certain provisions
HB 386	Superior court fees; instrument recordings; provide additional fees
HB 413	Sales and use tax; joint county and municipal; change certain provisions
HB 441	Income tax; federal obligations; taxable income; revise provisions
HB 430	Property; railroads; provisions
HB 451	Georgia Tourism Development Act; enact
HB 467	University system; international baccalaureate diploma program; provide course credit
HB 529	General Assembly; budgetary functions; reflect changes
HB 549	Children with disabilities; basic therapy services; establish requirements
HB 559	Health insurance; charter school teachers and employees; provisions