

Georgia insight

*"She hath done what she could."
Mark, 14:8a*

Could Illegal Aliens Vote in Georgia if They Show a College ID?

H.B. 209 was introduced January 30th by Representative Morgan to add another item to the list of documents poll workers will accept as proof of eligibility to vote in Georgia. The following lists the various documentation voters may now use to authenticate their identity:

- A Georgia driver's license, voter ID or other valid ID properly issued by the appropriate Georgia government state agency, another state or the U.S., provided the ID card contains a photograph of the elector;
- A valid U.S. passport or a valid employee ID card with a photograph of the elector and issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state;
- A valid U.S. military ID or a valid tribal ID card containing a photograph of the elector.

However, *H.B. 209 should be defeated*, because it would add the following to the ID list:

"A valid student identification card used by a public or private college or university located in this state."

The question, then, becomes academic (pardon the pun). Since public universities and colleges enroll illegal aliens, some *via* in-state tuition though they're not legal residents of Georgia, is it the intent of this bill to allow illegal aliens to vote, simply, because they're in Georgia colleges? PROBABLY! If not, why doesn't the bill require student voters to prove they are U.S. citizens?

During the 2008 session, I, personally, asked a University of Georgia official whether illegal aliens were enrolled at the University and other colleges. He responded that they, probably, are and muttered something about not screening them about that.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Governmental Affairs Representatives Scott, Austin, Ch., 404 656-5132; Meadows, 656-0298; O'Neal, 656-5103; Brooks, 656-6372; Butler, 463-2245; Chambers, 656-3949; Floyd, 656-0314; Hamilton, 656-0188; Hatfield, 656-0109; Morgan, 656-0109; Mosby, 656-0287; Oliver, 646-0265; Powell, Jay 656-0177; Powell, Alan 656-0202; & Ralston, 656-0213.

Crimes and Street Gangs

H.B. 213 introduced January 30th by Representative Davis prohibits criminal street gang activity in school safety zones. Clayton County made prime-time news after a high school student was badly beaten for talking to a student from another "set," *i.e.* gang. Those convicted of gang crimes too close to schools could get two years added to their mandatory sentence.

Current punishment for gang related activities is *five to 15 years in prison* or \$10,000 to \$15,000 fines or both, depending on the crimes committed. If this passes and the location of the crime becomes a consideration in sentencing, convicted gang members could be imprisoned for *seven to 15 years* and/or fined \$10,000 to \$15,000.

ACTION – Support. Call Judiciary – Non-Civil Committee Representatives Golick, Ch., 404 651-7737; Hatfield, 656-0109; Bearden, 656-0287; Abdul-Salaam, 656-0325; Abrams, 656-0220; Benfield, 656-7859; Byrd, 656-0126; Cole, 651-7737; Collins, 656-0188; Cooper, 656-5069; Everson, 656-0188; Franklin, 656-0152; Knox, 656-6831; Levitas, 656-0202; Lunsford, 656-7416; Mangham, 656-0126; Ramsey, 656-0188; Randall, 656-0109; and Setzler, 656-0177.

February 6, 2009

H.R. 137 Repeal Income Tax Amendment (16th) to U.S. Constitution

“The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.”

– The Constitution of the United States, 16th Amendment

Representative Holt is one of a very few folks with knowledge that a constitutional amendment does not require a Constitutional Convention. So, a review of the amending process is in order.

Rhode Island was the last of the 13 original colonies to ratify the U.S. Constitution. That was May 29, 1790. One year later in 1791, the first ten amendments – the Bill of Rights – was ratified when the new government used the simpler of the two amending processes provided in the Constitution’s Article V, which states:

“The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress.”

The methods outlined above are the only two authorized processes to change the Constitution and the second – a Con-Con – is very dangerous. Article V authorizes “amendments” (plural), with no direction for restricting the agenda to an amendment (singular). History proves a Con-Con is unnecessary. The original document has been amended 27 times without a Con-Con.

H.R. 137 introduced by Representative Holt of District 112 urges Congress to send to state legislatures a proposal to repeal the Sixteenth Amendment that authorized the income tax. Representative Holt is to be congratulated for approaching the matter this way, rather than by issuing a call for a Con-Con, which could result in a massive rewrite of the U.S. Constitution. If his resolution passes, the Clerk of the House would send a copy to each member of Georgia’s congressional delegation – 13 U.S. congressmen and two U.S. senators.

ACTION – Support. Call Ways and Means Committee Representatives O’Neal, Ch., 404 656-5103; Sims, 656-3947; Knight, 656-0152; Harbin, 463-2245; Abrams, Beasley-Teague & Taylor, 656-0220; Austin & Mosby, 656-0287; Bryant, 656-0298; Fludd, 656-0314; Glanton, 656-0202; Graves, 656-0109; Chuck Martin & Don Parsons, 463-2247; May, 656-7146; Mills, 656-5099; Peake, 656-0188; Jay Powell, 656-0177; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-5025; Martin Scott, 656-0254; Austin Scott, 656-5132; Mickey Stephens, 656-0117; Ron Stephens, 656-5122; Talton, 656-0254; & Roger Williams, 656-3904.

S.B. 1 Waste Reduction Act

The title of the bill might suggest its subject is garbage or trash, but not so. It’s a proposal to scrutinize the budget of tax-funded departments and agencies. 90 percent of Georgia’s budget is a “continuing budget,” meaning previous funding will continue with no thought of a decrease or proof of how their money was spent. Only increases in funding are debated for that 90 percent of tax revenue recipients. This bill presents a plan to change that.

S.B. 1 introduced by Senator Shafer would install “zero-based” budgeting to annually require one-fourth of the agencies to justify every dollar of their previous year’s budget rather than, simply, requesting more funding. Result: in four years, every agency will have explained where the money went. Some agencies could be defunded or projects eliminated. The Senate liked the plan so much they passed it January 29th with no dissenting vote. It’s now in the House.

ACTION – Support. Call the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Representatives Houston, Ch., 404 656-0202; Reese, 656-0254; Dempsey, 656-0213; Davis, Hardie, 656-0325; Dooley, 656-0117; Epps, 656-7859; Hill, Calvin, 656-0109; and Martin, Chuck, 463-2247.

H.R. 71 Preserve Georgia's Status as a Right-to-Work State

H.R. 71 introduced by Representative O'Neal of District 146 urges members of the Georgia congressional delegation to encourage the U.S. Congress to oppose the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) that *eliminates* a worker's right to cast a secret ballot when voting for or against a labor union. This bill is important, because special interest groups are pressuring Congress to outlaw secret balloting for workers faced with deciding whether to unionize their workplace.

Currently, the law protects workers and employers by allowing companies to ask for a federally supervised secret ballot election when employees vote about unionizing. The current law is fair to all parties. (a) Employers can explain the benefits of a non-union workplace. (b) Promoters of the union can explain their position. (c) Workers cannot be as easily intimidated.

If the secret ballot is abolished, workers may be pressured into signing authorization cards. Then, union dues could be taken from their paychecks and employers could be penalized for speaking against union efforts.

Who's Taking Sides in the Secret Ballot Issue?

- *Businesses and workers* want to retain their freedom to work without being forced to accept labor unions. A coalition of over 300 business and free enterprise organizations opposes the "card check" process, which is a way to get workers to sign a membership card that, then, serves as a favorable vote for unionizing. When a union organizer has acquired signed cards from a majority of the workers, their employer must recognize them as an organized union.
- *Communist Party, USA* at its 28th National Convention, unanimously, endorsed the EFCA, including its strategy to take away the secret ballot that now shields workers from retaliation if they vote against a union. If EFCA passes, open voting will reduce workers' freedom to choose and they could be intimidated into voting to unionize.

If passed by the legislature, a copy of H.R. 71 will be sent to each member of the Georgia congressional delegation – two U.S. senators and 13 U.S. representatives.

ACTION – Support. Call Industrial Relations Committee Representatives Coan, Ch., 404 656-6801; Reese, 656-0254; England, 656-0177; Carter, Buddy, 656-0213; Cox, 656-0188; Dawkins-Haigler, 656-0287; Dooley, 656-0117; Floyd, 656-0314; Hamilton, 656-0188; Horne, 656-0287; Howard, 656-6372; Kaiser, 656-0265; Knox, 656-6831; Lindsey, 463-2247; Marin, 656-0314; May, 656-7146; McKillip, 656-0220; Pruett, 651-7737; Shipp, 656-6372; Teilhet, 656-0298; & Williams, Roger, 656-3904.

Reservoirs for Water

H.R. 180 introduced by Representative Rogers of District 26 urges the United States Congress to facilitate the building of reservoirs upstream from Lake Sidney Lanier, in order to store desperately needed water. The average annual rainfall for Georgia is 50 inches, but as of December 1, 2008, the state had received only 37 inches of rain (1/3 less than normal). Over 5,000,000 people depend on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River for their water supply.

Therefore, the building of reservoirs upstream from Lake Lanier is necessary to control water levels. If they were built, the people of Georgia and surrounding states would be better assured of an adequate supply of water.

ACTION – Support. Call Natural Resources and Environment Committee Representatives Lynn Smith, Ch., 404 656-7149; Morris, 656-0152; Nix, England & Keown, 404 656-0177; Anderson & Meadows, 656-0298; Barnard, 656-5138; Benfield & Hanner, 656-7859; Bucker, 656-6372; Burkhalter, 656-5072; Coleman, 656-9210; Davis & Long, 656-0325; Drenner, 656-0202; Gardner, 656-0265; Geisinger, 656-0254; Harden, 656-0126; Lane, 656-5063; Manning, 656-7857; McCall, 656-5115; McKillip, 656-0220; Richard Smith, 656-3904; Wilkinson, 463-8143; & Mark Williams, 656-0188.

Pork in Bail-Out No. 2¹: Excerpts from \$900 Billion “Stimulus”

Billions

\$2 billion to re-start a near zero emissions coal power plant in Illinois that the Department of Energy defunded last year because it said the project was inefficient

\$1 billion for the 2010 Census, which has a projected cost overrun of \$3 billion

\$1.4 billion for rural waste disposal programs

\$6 billion to turn federal buildings into “green” buildings

\$1.2 billion for “youth activities,” including youth summer job programs

Millions

\$246 million tax break for Hollywood movie producers to buy motion picture film

\$650 million for the digital television converter box coupon program

\$88 million for the Coast Guard to design a new polar icebreaker (arctic ship)

\$448 million for constructing the Department of Homeland Security headquarters

\$248 million for furniture at the new Homeland Security headquarters.

\$600 million to buy hybrid vehicles for federal employees

\$400 million for the CDC to screen and prevent sexually transmitted diseases

\$412 million for CDC buildings and property

\$125 million for the Washington sewer system

\$150 million for Smithsonian Museum facilities

\$75 million for “smoking cessation activities”

\$200 million for public computer centers at community colleges

\$75 million for salaries of employees at the FBI

\$25 million for tribal alcohol and substance abuse reduction

\$500 million for flood reduction projects on the Mississippi River

\$10 million to inspect canals in urban areas

\$500 million for state and local fire stations

\$650 million for wild-land fire management on forest service lands

\$88 million for renovating the headquarters of the Public Health Service

\$500 million for building and repairing National Institutes of Health facilities in Bethesda, Maryland

\$160 million for “paid volunteers” at the Corporation for National and Community Service

\$5.5 million for “energy efficiency initiatives” at the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration

\$850 million for Amtrak

\$100 million for reducing the hazard of lead-based paint

\$75 million to construct a “security training” facility for State Department Security officers when they can be trained at existing facilities of other agencies

\$110 million to the Farm Service Agency to upgrade computer systems

\$200 million in funding for the lease of alternative energy vehicles for use on military installations

ACTION – OPPOSE. Ask Georgia’s U.S. Senators to stand firmly AGAINST the stimulus plan and vote NO!

- **Senator Saxby Chambliss**

Savannah	912 232-3657	FAX 912 233-0115
Augusta	706 738-0302	FAX 706 738-0901
Macon	478 741-1417	FAX 478 741-1437
Atlanta	770 763-9090	FAX 770 226-8633
Moultrie	229 985-2112	FAX 229 985-2123
Washington, D.C.	202 224-3521	FAX 202 224-0103
Toll Free	1 800 234-4208	

- **Senator Johnny Isakson**

Atlanta	770 661-0999	FAX 770 661-0768
Washington, D.C.	202 224-3643	FAX 202 228-0724

¹ Source: CNN.com or John Whitehead’s commentary at www.rutherford.org