
Legislators Faced with Critical Issues: Some Left-Over, Some New Georgia General Assembly Convened January 9, 2012

The Georgia Republican Party controls both House and Senate in the General Assembly. In the House are 115 Republicans, 62 Democrats and one Independent. In the Senate there are 36 Republicans and 20 Democrats. With that majority, Republicans can pass or defeat any bill. Of 2,692 pieces of legislation introduced in the 2011 legislative session, 1,799 passed and nine were defeated, leaving 868 to be carried into the current session. Some of them would be extremely detrimental to our nation, society and culture, if they were to pass.

Two bills carried into 2012 from 2011 session address the importance of protecting the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens. The bills provide that rights guaranteed by the *Constitution of the United States* must be protected in the judicial systems of the U.S. and the state of Georgia. The bills require the use of American Law in Georgia Courts, which would have been a perfect title in the past, but *not* in the current political atmosphere of globalism. Since the official name of this country is the "United States of America (U.S.A.)," the title of those bills must be changed to "United States of America Law for Georgia Courts." That's imperative, considering the pressure to obliterate borders and combine the U.S., Canada and Mexico into a North American Union. If the NAU becomes a reality, "American Law" could be interpreted to include U.S., Canadian and/or Mexican law, since all three nations are located on the North American Continent. Actually, countries in South America could identify as "America," as well.

*The official name, United States of America,
must be used in legal documents. "America" is an abbreviation of the legal name.*

S.B. 51 American Law for Georgia Courts introduced by Senator Judson Hill on February 7, 2011, remains in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The term "American Law for Georgia Courts" should be changed to "United States of America Law for Georgia Courts," since that's the legal name of this country. If/when the North American Union combines the U.S., Mexico and Canada into a union, instead of the three different nations they are today.

ACTION – Support new name: "United States of America Law for Georgia Courts." Call Judiciary Com. Senators Hamrick, Ch., 404 656-0036; Cowsert, V-Ch., 463-1383; Crosby, Sec., 463-5258; Bethel, 656-6436; McKoon, 463-3931; Stone, 463-1314; Ligon, 656-0045; Fort, 656-5091; Brown, 656-5035; Ramsey, 463-2598, J.Carter, 404 463-1376.

H.B. 242 American Law for Georgia Courts, introduced February 15, 2011 by Representative Coomer 404 656-0109, remains in the House Non Civil Committee. The term "American Law for Georgia Courts" should be "United States of America Law for Georgia Courts" in order to distinguish United States as a sovereign nation, if/when the North American Union combines the U.S., Mexico and Canada into a union, instead of the three different nations they are today.

ACTION – Support, but change the name to "United States of America Law for Georgia Courts." Contact Non Civil Judiciary Com. Representatives Golick, Ch. 404 656-5943; Hatfield, V-Ch. 656-0109, Byrd, 656-0298; Willard, 656-5125; Abdul-Salaam, 656-0325; Abrams, 656-5058; Atwood, 656-0152; Collins, 651-7737; Coomer, 656-0109; Cooper, 656-5069; Neal, 656-0265; Pak, 656-0254; Ramsey, 656-7146; Randall, 656-0109; Setzler, 656-0177; Benfield, 656-7859.

Protect the U.S. Constitution: Oppose H.B. 667, H.R. 1137, S.R. 673

H.B. 667 Would By-Pass Electoral College; Elect President by National Popular Vote was introduced by Representative Benfield January 9, 2012 to by-pass the Electoral College, which is, ironically, the only function of national government performed outside of D.C. If 34 states pass identical bills, presidential candidates would campaign in densely populated areas only and ignore other locations. Georgia's 15 members of the Electoral College (2 U.S. senators, 13 U.S. representatives) will become 16 when an additional representative is elected in November.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact the House Governmental Affairs Committee Representatives Hamilton, Ch., 404 656-5132; Purcell, 656-5139; Hatfield, 656-0109; Brockway, 656-0188; Brooks, 656-6372; Floyd, 656-0250; Kidd, 656-0202; Meadows, 656-5141; Morgan, 656-0109; Mosby, 656-0287; Oliver, 656-0265; O'Neal, 656-5052; Powell, J., 656-7856; Powell, A., 656-0202; and Williamson, 656-7859.

Two Con Con Bills introduced in Georgia General Assembly

H.R. 1137 Application to Congress for a Constitutional Convention¹ introduced by Representative Welch January 23, 2012 joins other states in asking Congress to convene a Con Con for the purpose of passing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget. It covers the same subject as applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas. If two-thirds of the states apply on the same subject, a con-con would be called by or before January 1, 2020.

ACTION – Oppose. These 58 co-signed H.R.1137. Ask your representative and others to remove their names. Representatives Welch, 404 656-0109; England, 463-2245; Meadows, 656-5141; Lindsey, 656-5024; Josh Clark, 656-0325; Atwood, 656-0152; Yates, 656-5126; Teasley, 656-0177; Williamson, 656-7859; Dudgeon, 656-0298; Hightower, 656-0152; Jasperse, 656-0188; Coomer, 656-0109; Peake, 656-5025; Shaw, 656-0213; Dutton, 656-0188; Dickey, 656-0287; Benton, 656-0213; Willard, 656-5125; Brockway, 656-0188; Rogers, 656-0325; Riley, 656-0188; Byrd, 656-0298; Davis, 656-7857; Bryant, 656-0298; Manning, 656-7857; McBrayer, 656-0126; Purcell, 656-5139; Parrish, 463-2247; McKillip, 656-0177; Casas, 656-0254; Dickson, 463-2247; Powell, A., 656-0202; Cooke, 656-0325; Black, 656-0287; Setzler, 656-0177; McCall, 656-5115; Braddock, 656-0177; Rogers 656-5146; Dunahoo, 656-0126; Hembree, 656-6801; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Battles, 656-0152; Jerguson, 656-0188; Knight, 656-7855; Lane, 656-5087; Harden, 656-0188; Maddox, 656-3947; Wilkerson, 463-8143; Ron Stephens, 656-5115; C. Williams, 656-0254; Weldon, 656-0152; Dollar, 656-0254; Pak, 656-0254; Rynders, 463-2247; Parsons, 656-9198; R. Smith, 656-6831; Collins, 656-7737; and Sheldon, 656-5025.

S.R. 673 Application to Congress for a Constitutional Convention, identical to H.R. 1137.

ACTION – Oppose. The following 21 senators co-signed this bill. If your senator is listed, ask him and select others to remove their names. Senators Cowsert, 463-1383; Rogers, 463-1378; Williams, 656-0089; Mullis, 656-0057; Staton, 656-5039; Goggans, 463-5263; Unterman, 463-1368; Gooch, 656-9221; Miller, 651-7738; Bethel, 656-6436; Ligon, 646-0045; McKoon, 463-3931; Albers, 656-6484; Ginn, 656-4700; Heath, 656-3943; Crane, 656-6446; Jeffares, 656-0503; Tippins, 656-0406; Millar, 463-2260; Grant, 656-0082; Loudermilk, 656-0034.

Don't Play "Jeopardy" with A Con Con. Too Many Unanswered Questions

Proof that many welcome a run-away Con Con is apparent in the work that began in 1964 by the tax-exempt Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. That group produced a new constitution for the U.S. after ten years, input from over 100 people and a \$2,500,000 *annual* grant from taxpayers. The final version published quietly in 1974 in Rexford G. Tugwell's, *The Emerging Constitution* (Harper & Row) constituted a regional "newstates" global government. Authority for a Con Con is found only in the U.S. Constitution Article V that leaves many unanswered questions, including how, when or where it will convene; who will or must attend; citizenship of delegates, subject(s); its duration, funding, rules of order or who will preside.

¹ In 2004, all nine previous Georgia calls for a Con-Con were rescinded.

² In a June 29, 2011 letter, Speaker Boehner, Rep. Leader McConnell and Texas Governor Perry asked all governors to protect the Electoral College. They ended with this, "The stability of presidential elections depends on it."

Continued: Two Additional Bills to Oppose

H.B. 707 Student ID Card for Voter Identification, introduced this session on January 11th by Representative Morgan, adds a valid student photo ID to the list of documents that will be accepted as proof of eligibility to vote. Meaning, students enrolled in a Georgia college or university could vote without proof of U.S. citizenship.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact the House Governmental Affairs Committee Representatives Hamilton, Ch., 404 656-5132; Purcell, 656-5139; Hatfield, 656-0109; Brockway, 656-0188; Brooks, 656-6372; Floyd, 656-0250; Kidd, 656-0202; Meadows, 656-5141; Morgan, 656-0109; Mosby, 656-0287; Oliver, 656-0265; O’Neal, 656-5052; Powell, J., 656-7856; Powell, A., 656-0202; Williamson, 656-7859.

H.B. 467 State Government, Pari-Mutuel Betting on Horse Racing, introduced March 4, 2011 and carried into this session, authorizes horse racing and pari-mutuel betting, creation of a Georgia Racing Commission, Georgia Breeders Fund, and a Live Horseracing Compact.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact House Regulated Industries Committee Representatives Williams, R., Ch., 404 656-3904; Jerguson, V-Ch., 656-0287; Dickson, Sec., 463-2247; Cooke, 656-0325; Cooper, 656-5069; Epps, C., 656-7859; Fludd, 656-0314; Harden, 656-0188; Harrell, 656-7859; James, 656-0116; Maddox, 656-3947; Martin, C., 656-5064; Mitchell, 656-0126; Powell, A., 656-0202; Ramsey, 656-7146; and Taylor, 656-0152.

Support:

S.B. 293 “In God We Trust” on Georgia License Tags, introduced by Senator Heath January 9th, was the first Senate bill introduced in 2012. It requires the Georgia license plates to be imprinted with “In God We Trust” instead of the county name. However, vehicle owners who prefer to display their county name, a decal may be purchased when they buy their license plate.

ACTION – Support. Contact Senate Finance Committee Senators Heath, Ch., 404 656-3943; Albers, 463-8055; Lindsey, 656-0406; Chance, 651-7738; Crane, 656-6446; Rogers, 463-1378; Staton, 656-5039; Golden, 656-7580; Shafer, 656-0048; Davis, 656-0340; Thompson, 656-0083, Jack Hill, Ex Officio, 656-5038.

H.B. 661 Charter Schools Personnel Must Be Certified, introduced by Representative Heard January 9, 2012, requires professional personnel in charter schools to comply with Professional Standards Commission certification currently required for other Georgia public schools and their qualifications must be adequate for their professional classification. Extremely important, since many charter schools founded in the U.S. are staffed by personnel here on H1B visas. Charter schools could add this law to the education rules, regulations and laws they may waiver.

A Double Standard: Students May be Proselytized at Tax-Payer Expense

Georgia public schools are allowed only one minute of silence (not prayer) per school day, but charter schools may waiver that law. Can public charter schools practice and promote their religion during school, although other public schools cannot?

ACTION – Support. Contact House Education Committee Representatives Coleman, Ch., 404 656-9210; Casas, 656-0254; Benton, 656-0177; Dickson, 463-2247; Ashe, 656-0116; Austin, 656-0287; Battles, 656-0152; Carter, 651-7737; Clark, 656-0202; Dudgeon, 656-0298; England, 463-2245; Floyd, 656-0314; Howard, 656-6372; Jones, 656-5072; Kaiser, 656-0265; Lindsey, 656-5024; Massey, 656-7859; Maxwell, 656-5143; Mayo, 656-6372; Morgan, 656-0109; Nix, 656-0177; Purcell, 656-5139; Setzler, 656-0177; Talton, 656-5116.

H.B. 798 Ethics in Government by Representative Tommy Smith, was introduced January 25th to regulate campaign contributions, conduct of lobbyists, and post-employment public officers.

ACTION: Support. Call Rules Committee Representatives Meadows, Ch., 404 656-5141; Golick, 656-5943; Abrams, 656-5058; Hugley, 656-5058; J. Jones, 656-5072; Lindsey, 656-5024; O’Neal, 656-5052; Benton, 656-0177; Casas, 656-0254; Channell, 656-5103; Cooper, 656-5069; Dempsey, 656-0213; Drenner, 656-0202; Ehrhart, 463-2247; Greene, 656-0202; Hanner, 656-7859; Hembree, 656-6801; Manning, 656-7857; Mitchell, 656-0126; Morris, 656-5099; Mosby, 656-0287; Parrish, 463-2247; Randall, 656-0109; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-7153; Setzler, 656-0177; Sheldon, 656-5025; Smith, 656-7149; R. Smith, 656-6831; Smyre, 656-0116; R. Stephens, 656-5099; Weldon, 656-0152; Willard, 656-5125.

Continued: Bills to Support

S.B. 312 Food Stamps and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), introduced by Senator Ligon January 23rd, requires food stamp and TANF applicants to engage in personal growth activities to qualify for benefits. They could work toward a general educational development (GED) diploma from high school, pursue a technical education, attend self-development classes, and enroll in an adult literacy class. However, this will not apply to those employed at least 40 hours per week. The Department of Health & Human Services would make the rules and regulations to implement these requirements.

ACTION – Support. Call Health and Human Services Committee Senators Unterman, Ch., 404 463-1368; Carter, V-Ch., 656-5109; Goggans, Sec., 463-5263; Balfour, 656-0095; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Millar, 463-2260; T. Williams, 656-0089; Grant, 656-0082; Ligon, 656-0045; Henson, 656-0085; L. Jackson, 463-5261; Orrock, 463-8054; and Tate, 463-8053.

H.B. 59 Students Must Certify Lawful Presence in U.S. to Enter College, Receive Benefits. Representative Rice introduced this in 2011 to extend the immigration law. It needs to pass.

ACTION – Support. Contact Higher Education Committee Representatives Dempsey, V-Ch., 404 656-0201; Carter, Sec., 651-7737; Allison, 656-0188; Amerson, 657-8443; Ashe, 656-0116; Ehrhart, 463-2247; Fullerton, 656-0126; Gardner, 656-0265; Harden, M., 656-0188; Hatfield, 656-0254; Hembree, 656-6801; Huckaby, 651-7737; Knight, 656-3904; Long, 656-0325; McBrayer, 656-0126; Murphy, 656-0265; Sims, 656-7855; Smyre, 656-0116; Watson, 656-0109.

S.B. 33 Zero-Based Budgeting, State Agencies & Departments Would Justify Budget was introduced by Senator Shafer, March 1, 2011. Similar bills passed the Senate four times in the last eight years. S.B. 33 passed both House and Senate last session but with different language, requiring a conference committee that is still alive for this session. If S.B. 33 passes, each year 1/4th of all state agencies would be required to justify their expenditures. Result: In four years all state agencies would have justified their budgets from zero to the last dollar spent.

ACTION – Support. Call Conferees: Senators Jack Hill, 404 656-5038; Shafer, 656-0048; and McKoon, 463-3931; Representatives Allison, 656-0188; Martin, 656-5064; and Cheokas, 656-0325.

S.B. 62 Protect State Sovereignty, introduced by Senator Ligon February 9, 2011, provides the following: “No private property within the borders of this state shall be alienated in any manner to any other state, territory, or nation or to the federal government” if it would reduce state sovereignty or jurisdiction over the property.

ACTION – Support. Contact Judiciary Committee Senators Hamrick, Ch., 404 656-0036; Cowser, V-Ch., 404 463-1383; Crosby, Sec., 404 463-5258; Bethel, 404 656-6436; McKoon, 404 463-3931; Stone, 404 463-1314; Ligon, 404 656-0045; Fort, 404 656-5091; Brown, 404 656-5035; Ramsey, 404 463-2598, and Jason Carter, 404 463-1376.

H.B. 316 Opens EMC Meetings to the Public, introduced by Representative Willard February 23, 2011, requires electric membership boards of directors and committees to take action only in open meetings and allow public inspection of their records.

ACTION – Support. Contact Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Representatives Parsons, Ch. 404 656-9198; Geisinger, V-Ch., 656-0254; Horne, Sec., 656-0287; Amerson, 657-8443; Baker, 656-0202; Dempsey, 636-0213; Drenner, 656-0202; Dudgeon, 656-0298; Frazier, 656-0265; Fullerton, 656-0126; Hamilton, 656-5132; Harbin, 656-3949; Holt, 656-0152; Hudson, 656-7859; Lucas, 656-0220; C. Martin, 656-5064; E. Smith, 656-6372; “Coach” Williams, 656-0202; and Roger Williams, 656-3904.

S.B. 314 Regulate Previously Used Material in Mattresses and Other Products was introduced by Senator Lester Jackson January 23rd. Requires manufacturers, reupholsterers or bedding renovators to sterilize previously used materials to be used in bedding. Certification will annually cost manufacturers \$1,000. Reupholsterers will be charged \$250.

ACTION – Support. Call Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Senators Bulloch, Ch., 404 656-0040; Heath, V-Ch., 656-3943; Ginn, Sec., 656-4700; L. Jackson, 463-5261; Orrock, 463-8054; Miller, 656-6578; and Goggans, 463-5263.

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