
Urgent: Action Needed in Georgia House

Do-Or-Die for Microchip Bill

S.B. 235, introduced by Senator Chip Pearson the latter part of the 2009 session, started in the Senate the same bill that remains blocked in the House. It's a bill requiring personal consent before a microchip could be implanted in that person. His intent was to introduce the bill in 2009, so he could work it through the system early this year, which he did. It passed the Senate 47 – 2 on February 4th. Although it requires personal permission for a human to be implanted with a microchip, it does not prevent voluntary implantation for those choosing implants.

Interestingly, when a microchip bill reached the House floor in 2008, I asked Representative Austin Scott to vote for it. Instead of agreeing to vote for it, he explained this to me, "I won't vote for any bill that says I can't microchip my children!" However, under the personal permission concept, parental authority over minors would allow parents to have minor children implanted with a microchip, just as parents now authorize other surgeries for minor children.

S.B. 235 is in the House Judiciary subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairman Mike Jacobs has promised Representative Ed Setzler, author of the three House bills that have died in previous years, a hearing after the 30th legislative day, which is Friday, March 26th. These are the hurdles S.B. 235 must cross before it can become law: the Jacobs subcommittee, Wendell Willard's full Judiciary committee and Representative Hembree's Rules committee *before* it gets to the House floor for a vote. So, time is fleeting. Immediate action is necessary. Please make your calls.

ACTION – Support. (a) **Begin calling Monday, March 29th and call regularly until after the hearing. The room number, date and time will be announced as soon as it's available.**

(a) Call Civil Judiciary Subcommittee Representatives Jacobs, Ch., 404 656-0152; Bruce, 656-0314; Crawford, 656-0265; Dobbs, 656-7859; Lindsey, 656-5024; Nix, 656-0177; O'Neal, 656-5103; Powell, 656-0177; and Weldon, 656-0152.

(b) Attend the hearing that's been promised, with date, time and place to be announced

Immigration

H.B. 1164 was gutted in Committee March 22, 2010, and is on the committee agenda for 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 23rd, Room 132, Capitol. Proponents hope to put back the gutted parts. H.B. 1164, by Representative Rick Austin, is the latest to require public employers to check citizenship of job applicants. After the committee gutted the crucial parts of the bill, contractors seeking government contracts won't be required to use the federal E-Verify program and the Commissioner of Labor would do only 50 random audits annually, instead of 200.

ACTION – Support. Call House Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Jacobs, 656-0152; Allison, 656-0177; Golick, 656-5943; Wilkinson, 656-8143; Bruce, 656-0314; Crawford, 656-0265; Dobbs, 656-7859; Hatfield, 656-7859; Lane, 656-5087; Lindsey, 656-5024; Maddox, 656-0109; McKillip, 656-0220; Nix, 656-0177; Oliver, 656-0265; O'Neal, 656-5103; Powell, 656-0177; Stephenson, 656-0126; Teilhet, 656-0568; and Weldon, 656-0152.

March 26, 2010

Keep Anti-Bullying Bills in Committee

H.B. 927, introduced by Representative Mike Jacobs, is one of two anti-bullying bills that should be defeated this session. This one, tabled and, hopefully, not revisited, extends local schools' authority for detecting bullying to various situations and locations such as school vehicles, school bus stops, school functions or software accessible *via* computer, computer system, computer network or electronic technology of local school systems. Local boards would adopt policies to transfer sixth through 12th graders to alternative schools if caught bullying three times in a school year. Bullying is not defined.

ACTION – Oppose H.B. 927. Call House Rules Committee Representatives Hembree, Ch., 404 656-5141; Mills, 656-5099; Bearden, 656-0287; Burkhalter, 656-7146; Coan, 656-6801; Ehrhart, 463-2247; Keen, 656-5052; Lane, 656-5115; Lunsford, 656-0213; Rice, 656-5912; Walker, 656-5146. Ask them to object to putting H.B. 927 on the House floor.

H.B. 940 introduced by Representative Hugley to pass a law providing special protection for sexual orientation – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or gender identity, such as transvestites.

ACTION – Oppose H.B. 940. Since the list is so long, call your own legislator if listed, plus several others. House Education Representatives Coleman, Ch., 404 656-9210; Millar, 656-5064; Benton, 656-0177; England, 463-2247; Ashe, 656-0116; Austin, 656-0287; Battles, 656-0109; Carter, 656-0202; Casas, 656-0254; Dickson, 656-0202; Everson, 656-0188; Floyd, 656-0314; Holt, 656-0152; Jordan, 656-0116; Kaiser, 656-0265; Keown, 656-0177; Lindsey, 656-5024; Massey Reece, 656-7859; Maxwell, 656-0152; Mayo, 656-6372; Morgan, 656-0109; Nix, 656-0177; Peake, 656-7146; Purcell, 656-0188; Reese, 656-0254; Sellier, 656-0254; Setzler, 656-0177; Kip Smith, 656-0213; Talton, 656-0254; Taylor, 656-0220; Teilhet, 656-0568; Thomas, 656-0325; and “Coach” Williams, 656-0202.

Abortion, Ask Legislators to Pass Both Bills

H.B. 1155 introduced by Representative Loudermilk would make it a crime to (a) *coerce or solicit* a female to have an abortion based on race or sex of the baby or (b) perform an abortion based on race or sex of the child or to abort babies for population control.

H.B. 1155 seeks to curb the trend toward all abortion by reminding society that induced abortion is a human crisis that must end. Abortion, no matter the race or sex of the child is a tragic loss and leaves an enduring pain for those immediately concerned, as well as society as a whole.

ACTION – Support. Call Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Jacobs, 656-0152; Allison, 656-0177; Golick, 656-5943; Wilkinson, 656-8143; Bruce, 656-0314; Crawford, 656-0265; Dobbs, 656-7859; Hatfield, 656-0109; Lane, 656-5087; Lindsey, 656-5024; Maddox, 656-0109; McKillip, 656-0220; Nix, 656-0177; Oliver, 656-0265; O’Neal, 656-5103; Powell, 656-0177; Stephenson, 656-0126; Teilhet, 656-0568; and Weldon, 656-0152.

S.B. 529, the Senate version of H.B. 1155, came out of committee and is in Senate Rules, now.

ACTION – Support. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048; Smith, 656-0034; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; and Williams, 656-0089.

Defeat the 4-Percent Sales Tax on Groceries

H.B. 401 would reinstate taxes on groceries and beverages. Shoppers would pay another four-percent state sales tax on groceries and eligible beverages.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Ways and Means Committee Representatives O’Neal, Ch., 404 656-5103; Sims, 656-3947; Knight, 656-0152; Harbin, 463-2247; Abrams, 656-0220; Austin, 656-0287; Battles, 656-0109; Beasley-Teague, 656-0220; Black, 656-0287; Bryant, 656-0298; Fludd, 656-0314; Glanton, 656-0202; Graves, 656-0109; Houston, 463-2247; Martin, 463-2247; May, 656-5025; Meadows, 656-6831; Mills, 656-5099; Mosby, 656-0287; Parsons, 656-9198; Peake, 656-7146; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-7153; Austin Scott, 656-0188; Martin Scott, 656-0254; Ron Stephens, 656-5099; Mickey Stephens, 656-0117; Talton, 656-0254; Taylor, 656-0220; and Williams, 656-3904.

Urgent Action Needed in Georgia Senate

U. S. Flag, Display or Not

S.B. 333 was introduced January 28th by Senator Judson Hill to authorize lot owners to display the official flag of the U.S. and the official flag of Georgia on their property. Also, no property owners' association or covenant could prohibit the flags' display by lot owners. However, the displayed flags must be attached to a structure on the lot or on an erected pole that's no more than 20 feet high and positioned to prevent any obstruction of sight-lines at intersections.

Passed Senate committee, now in Senate Rules.

Must pass Rules Committee and the entire Senate by the end of business March 25th.

ACTION – Support. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048; Smith, 656-0034; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; and Williams, 656-0089.

Identifying Illegal Inmates

S.B. 385 introduced by Senator Wiles provides extra funding incentives for local counties to locate and report illegal aliens who are incarcerated in the United States. If this passes, counties could choose between two programs that give additional funding for housing state inmates.

ACTION – Support S.B. 385. Select several of the following numbers, plus your own senator if listed, and call: Appropriations Committee Senators Jack Hill, Ch., 404 656 5038; Goggans, V-Ch., 463-5263; Golden, Sec., 656-7580; Balfour, 656-0095; Bulloch, 656-0040; Cowser, 651-7738; Douglas, 656-0503; Fort, 656-5091; Grant, 656-0082; Hamrick, 656-0036; Harp, 463-3931; Heath, 651-7738; Henson, 656-0085; Hooks, 656-0065; Bill Jackson, 656-5114; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Murphy, 656-7127; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Seay, 656-5095; Smith, 656-0034; Staton, 656-5039; Tate, 463-8053; Thomas, 656-6436; Curt Thompson, 463-1318; Steve Thompson, 656-0083; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; Wiles, 657-0406; and Williams, 656-0089.

E-Verify Job Applicants

S.B. 460 introduced by Senator Judson Hill March 9th requires government agencies to contract only with contractors that register and participate in the federal E-Verify program, a process to screen *job applicants* in order to identify illegal aliens.

This passed the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee March 22nd and is now in Rules Committee. Please contact them *before* Friday, March 26th.

ACTION – Support. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048; Smith, 656-0034; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; and Williams, 656-0089.

Defeat S.R. 570: Amnesty Resolution that Passed Senate Committee

S.R. 570 introduced in 2009 by Senator Orrock passed 6 – 4, a year later. It suggests that the U.S. should eliminate poverty and joblessness in nations of alien workers and recommends that Congress enact comprehensive immigration reform ... i.e. amnesty. The six YES votes were Senators Jones (D), Mullis (R), Seay (D), Crosby (R), Grant (R) and Butler (D). The four NO votes: Senators Sims (D), Douglas (R) Carter (R) and Jackson (R) – 3 Republicans, 1 Democrat.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048; Smith, 656-0034; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; and Williams, 656-0089.

Protect Gun Rights in Emergencies

S.B. 342 introduced February 1, 2010 by Senators Preston Smith would remove the governor's emergency power over gun ownership if an emergency were declared in Georgia. Currently, the emergency power act could be used to *suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of firearms* for the duration of the emergency. If that law is not repealed, no one in Georgia could buy, sell or transport firearms in a declared emergency.

ACTION –Support. Call Judiciary Committee Senators Smith, Ch., 404 656-0034; Harp, 463-3931; Hamrick, 656-0036; Adelman, 463-1376; Brown, 656-5035; Cowsert, 651-7738; Crosby, 463-5258; Fort, 656-5091; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Ramsey, 463-2598; Seabaugh, 656-6446; and Wiles 657-0406.

Auxiliary Police

S.B. 347 introduced by Senator James February 2, 2010 creates a reserve auxiliary police force within a sheriff's department or local police department to be recruited locally. Their authority would be that of a regular peace officer and their local governments would hire them and negotiate salaries. What circumstance would prompt the activation of a back-up police force, if they have needed no back-up? What future circumstance might require their services?

ACTION – Oppose. Call Public Safety Committee Senators Murphy, Ch., 404 656-7127; Crosby, 463-5258; Chapman, 656-0045; Butler, 656-0075; Carter, 656-5109; Douglas, 656-0503; Grant, 656-0082; Bill Jackson, 656-5114; Jones, 656-0502; Mullis, 656-0057; Seay, 656-5095; and Sims, 463-5259.

Say, “No,” to Czars for Georgia

S.B. 393 was introduced by Senator Heath on February 9th to authorize future governors to hire the State School Superintendent, plus the Commissioners of Labor, Agriculture and Insurance.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Government Oversight Committee Senators Unterman, Ch., 404 463-1368; Chance, 463-1366; Henson, 656-0085; Buckner, 463-5260; Carter, 656-5109; Goggans, 463-5263; Golden, 656-7580; Grant, 656-0082; Harp, 463-3931; Heath, 651-7738; and Don Thomas, 656-6436.

S.R. 1013, also introduced by Senator Heath on February 9th, amends Georgia Constitution to allow future governors to hire the State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Labor, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commissioner of Insurance. It removes the voters' constitutional right to elect them. The governor could hire them from anywhere in the world. There would be no minimum age required, no mandatory U.S. citizenship and no requirement of Georgia residency.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Government Oversight Committee Senators Unterman, Ch., 404 463-1368; Chance, 463-1366; Henson, 656-0085; Buckner, 463-5260; Carter, 656-5109; Goggans, 463-5263; Golden, 656-7580; Grant, 656-0082; Harp, 463-3931; Heath, 651-7738; and Don Thomas, 656-6436. (Both S.B. 393 & S.R. 1013 are in this committee.)

Protection against Federal Health Care: DEAD, Unless Revived on March 24th
H.R. 1086: Immediate attention required: The House is scheduled to reconsider H.R. 1086 Wednesday, March 24th, after its defeat 111 – 61 on the House floor Monday March 22!

H.R. 1086 prohibits any person or entity from compelling any individual, employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system. Payment could go directly to health care service providers and they could accept direct payment. It would not affect services provided by medical facilities or health care services permitted by law or workers' compensation laws enacted by the General Assembly.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call your representative BEFORE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH and ask for a YES vote on this critically important bill. If you don't know his phone number, call 404 656-5015 and ask to be connected with his office.

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