

# 2005 SESSION OF THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## *Final Legislative Report*

This is the latest status on all bills of county interest that appeared during the 2005 legislative session. In this issue, we report on all bills that passed indicating their effective dates. In addition, since we just completed the first year of the two-year session, reported bills that were introduced in 2005 but did not pass are listed in the “Carried Over Legislation” table on page 12. These bills will be eligible for passage during the 2006 session. During the 2005 session, more than 500 bills and resolutions had a potential impact on county government. Bills in this report are arranged by policy area starting with bills and resolutions that passed, followed by a table of bills and resolutions which failed but will be eligible for passage next year and appropriations highlights. Copies of all bills and resolutions can be obtained through the ACCG website at [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org).

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

[Staff: Matt Hicks]

### **HB 273 Authorize Use of Emergency Lanes for Normal Traffic** (Rep. John Lunsford, R-110)

This bill authorizes and urges DOT to create FlexAuto lanes by converting emergency lanes and hard shoulders into rush hour traffic lanes. The department will designate up to 80 highly congested roadways for conversion and implement a plan for use.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2005*

### **HB 279 Allow 5% Variance to Weight Limits on Local Roads and Bridges** (Rep. Johnny Floyd, D-147)

This bill allows vehicles carrying forest products, live poultry, cotton, or feed a 5 percent variance from posted weight limitations on local roads. The variance is allowable within a 100 mile radius of the point of origin. The bill also increases fines for vehicles that exceed the variance to a uniform 5 cents per pound over the posted weight limit.

*Status: Effective May 5, 2005*

### **HB 281 Amend Provisions Relating to GRTA**

(Rep. Vance Smith, R-129)

This bill amends the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority statute to remove the requirement that GRTA purchases are subject to sales tax, to enable GRTA to have similar ability as GDOT to enter onto land for purposes of surveys or site examinations, and to remove the requirement that GRTA obtain annual certification from DMVS for transit service.

*Status: Effective April 1, 2005*

### **HB 384 Exempt Public Transit Buses from Tax on Motor Fuel** (Rep. Larry O’Neal, R-146)

This bill allows public mass transit buses owned by state or local government, or an entity created by either, to be exempt from the tax on motor fuel from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

### **HB 389 Provide Tax Credits to Existing Businesses Creating New Jobs** (Rep. Jay Roberts, R-154)

This bill rewards manufacturing, warehousing and distributing, processing, telecommunications, tourism, or research and development industries that have operated in the state during the past three years with a \$500 tax credit per eligible new full-time job created.

*Status: Effective April 21, 2005*

### **HB 501 Creation of the Department of Driver Services**

(Rep. Austin Scott, R-153)

This legislation breaks up the Department of Motor Vehicle Services (DMVS) and distributes the functions of that agency

to several other state agencies including a newly created Department of Driver Services. One provision of the bill authorizes the county tax commissioner to issue driver licenses. This provision of the bill is completely optional for counties. If a county decides to take on this additional responsibility, the legislation does not provide any new revenue for the county.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

**HB 530 Amend GDOT Design/Build Law**

(Rep. Vance Smith, R-129)

This bill removes the current \$10 million per project and \$100 million per year cap on design-build projects. It removes the requirement that GDOT award the project to the lowest bidder as opposed to being negotiated. GDOT reported these requirements undermined the intent of the original law and affected the ability to deliver projects using the design-build method.

*Status: Effective May 9, 2005*

**HB 539 Increase Incentives to Attract Entertainment Industry Investment** (Rep. Larry O'Neal, R-146)

This bill increases incentives to companies filming or recording in the state to be competitive with other states. At least \$500,000 financial investment in Georgia is required before a company can qualify. A tax credit equal to 9% of the base investment is allowed. The incentives are enhanced for tier 1 and tier 2 counties, for companies that employ Georgians and for investments greater than \$20 million.

*Status: Effective May 9, 2005*

**SB 4 Amend Balancing Formula of Federal Transportation Funds** (Sen. Mitch Seabaugh, R-28)

The bill requires 80% of Georgia's federal transportation dollars to be distributed evenly throughout the 13 congressional districts. The remaining 20% is divided at the discretion of the State Transportation Board. The only exemptions are congressional earmarks above annual appropriations. The new allocation will give each congressional district about \$816 million in transportation funds over the next five years.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2005*

**SB 125 Create the New Georgia Tourism Foundation** (Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This bill creates the New Georgia Tourism Foundation, a public-private foundation that will pool the state's tourism marketing resources and leverage the private sector to support the growth of the tourism industry statewide. The non-profit organization is charged with developing public-private advertising campaigns, soliciting donations for tourism, offering strategic planning and support for Georgia's state facilities through tourism product development, aligning the state's five halls of fame for promotion and better coordination of marketing, advertising, customer service and telling the story of Georgia's tourism heritage.

*Status: Effective April 26, 2005*

**SB 129 Prohibit Panhandling in Public Transit Facilities**

(Sen. David Adelman, D-42)

This bill prohibits soliciting money or selling goods or services to the operator or passengers of a public transit bus or rapid rail car.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 144 Create the Rural Development Council**

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This bill officially creates the Georgia Rural Development Council in place of the State Advisory Committee on Rural Development. Whereas the committee was previously charged with advising the Governor and the Board of the Department of Community Affairs on rural development issues, the new Rural Development Council advises the Governor directly. The Governor serves as chair of the council and appoints members to serve two year terms.

*Status: Effective April 12, 2005*

**SB 160 Amend Definition of National Highway System in State Code** (Sen. Chip Pearson, R-51)

This bill amends the state code as it refers to the highway system. The existing references are no longer accurate due to changes in federal law in 1991. This bill makes state law comply with those changes. Additional provisions involve clarifying the department's jurisdiction over the control of junk yards to specify GDOT oversees only those junk yards located on state highways or primary roads that are state routes. The bill also removes obsolete language relating to vehicles registered with the state prior to 1983.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 270 Amend DOT Public Private Initiatives**

(Sen. Tommie Williams, R-19)

This bill allows GDOT to solicit public-private partnership proposals for transportation projects and establishes an evaluation committee to determine the merits of any proposals. A summary of any solicited or non-solicited proposal must be made available to the public immediately and competitive bids will be accepted for 180 days. Proposals are also subject to the open records law.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

**GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

[Staff: Jim Grubiak]

**HB 36 Incorporation of Cities/Diversion of LOST Revenues from Counties to New Cities/Sandy Springs**

(Rep. Wendell Willard, R-49)

This bill is designed primarily to enable the creation of the city of Sandy Springs in north Fulton County. However, as a general bill it affects *all* counties of the state. It deletes existing law that prevents new cities from being incorporated within three miles of an existing city. As introduced, it would have restructured LOST revenue distribution procedures to guarantee the new city a population-based share of LOST with the new city's share taken from the county's share of LOST. However, at ACCG's request, the author agreed to an amendment that limits the new LOST provisions so that they only apply to Sandy Springs and Fulton County. In addition to the foregoing, HB 36 also suspends the statewide requirement that a minimum level of services be offered by a new city for

two years after the first elected officials of the new city take office after which time the minimum service requirements are reinstated. The bill also authorizes a two-year period for the transition of the provision of services from the county to the new city whereby, among other things, the county will continue to service the new municipal territory.

*Status: Effective April 15, 2005*

**HB 186 Counties and Cities May Accept Federal Grants and Loans** (Rep. Billy Mitchell, D-88)

Current law appears to limit the use of federal funds for certain types of county or city projects. This bill broadens the law to expressly authorize counties and cities to accept federal grants or loans to fund the full gamut of local projects.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 200 Subsequent Injury Trust Fund**

(Rep. Mike Coan, R-101)

Legislation passed in 2004 would have terminated the existence of the Subsequent Injury Trust Fund (SITF) on June 30, 2008. HB 200, as introduced, would have accelerated the termination to April 15, 2005, a date that would have had serious fiscal implications for county employers as well as other employers who relied on the Fund to protect them from the cost of injuries to workers who had been previously injured when working for a previous employer. As passed, a compromise termination date was enacted which moves up the SITF termination to June 30, 2006.

*Status: Effective May 10, 2005*

**HB 244 Election Code Revisions/Photo ID Required to Vote** (Rep. Sue Burmeister, R-119)

This bill incorporates a series of major revisions to the state elections code, including limitations on the forms of ID required to allow registration and voting; procedures for nonpartisan candidates, absentee voting and the use of provisional ballots, and numerous other matters.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 319 Investments by Large Retirement Systems**

(Rep. Ben Bridges, R-10)

This bill expands the types of securities in which large public retirement systems can invest. In particular, HB 319 authorizes large systems to invest in securities issued by a unit investment trust or an open-end company when the trust or company is listed on a securities exchange, the assets of which consist of securities managed so that the fund replicates a listed index or specific market sector, that is capable of creating or redeeming shares as necessary to reflect demand, and where continuous markets are quoted. Under Georgia law, the term large retirement system includes the ACCG Pension Fund and any other public pension fund that has assets in excess of \$50 million and, provides a defined benefit plan.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 437 Open Records: Home Address and Other Personal Information of Public Employees Confidential**

(Rep. Austin Scott, R-153)

This bill amends the open records law to extend confidentiality status to specific personal information pertaining to public employees. In particular, HB 437 provides that the public will no longer have access to the home

addresses, home telephone numbers, insurance information, medical information, or social security numbers of any local or state employees.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

**HB 570 Interstate Cooperation between Local Governments in Adjoining States** (Rep. Martin Scott, R-2)

This bill provides a comprehensive procedure for the exercise of governmental powers between two or more public agencies located in different states. Public agencies are defined as political subdivisions of the state, volunteer fire departments or rescue squads, or any agency of a state government. Services may be provided directly pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement or through a jointly created separate administrative entity to be jointly created by the participating public agencies.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2005*

**HB 665 Whistleblower Cause of Action for State**

**Employees** (Rep. Richard Golick, R-34)

State employees who believe they are the subject of retaliation for reporting or uncovering problems or wrongdoing will have an additional basis for suing the state. However, the bill, as passed, only applies to state agencies and state employees. At ACCG's request, counties were not made subject to the new law as some members of the legislature and others had proposed.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 3 Tort Reform: Joint and Several Liability / Venue**

(Sen. Preston Smith, R-52)

While most of the debate on tort reform revolved around medical malpractice and the plight of the medical profession, SB 3 also includes several key provisions relative to joint and several liability and venue shopping that directly help counties and county taxpayers by making it possible to keep a lid on county insurance and self-insurance costs.

*Status: Effective February 16, 2005*

**SB 87 Local Governments Preempted from Regulating Sale, Distribution or Storage of Seeds**

(Sen. John Bulloch, R-11)

This bill bars local governments from adopting any ordinance or regulation regulating the labeling, packaging, sale, storage, transportation, distribution, notification of use, or use of seeds. The bill also provides that this new code section will not impair local zoning decision-making or the issuance of business licenses.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 121 Open Records: Exempt Personal Information Regarding Toll Road Users** (Sen. Dan Moody, R-56)

Records of the State Road and Tollway Authority which would reveal the financial accounts or travel history of any individual who is a motorist upon such toll project are exempt from the open records law. Such financial records shall include, but are not limited to, social security numbers, home addresses, home telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, credit or debit card information, and bank account information.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

**SR 163 Public-Private Infrastructure Projects Study Committee** (Sen. Dan Moody, R-56)

This Senate Study Committee will review the potential benefits and any drawbacks that might result from legislation that would authorize local governments to enter into partnership arrangements with private organizations to facilitate the construction of needed infrastructure projects. In particular, the study committee will review the experience of other states that have passed similar provisions.

*Status: Passed*

**SR 457 Inverse Condemnation Study Committee** (Sen. Chip Pearson, R-51)

This bill authorizes a Senate Study Committee to examine current eminent domain practices and the application of inverse condemnation law in Georgia. In particular, the study committee will examine the effect of the use of such powers on private property rights.

*Status: Passed*

**Health and Human Services**

[Staff: Suzanne Nieman]

**HB 166 Health Share Volunteers in Medicine Act** (Rep. Mickey Channell, D-116)

This bill is intended to increase access to needed health care for persons who are uninsured or Medicaid recipients. The bill provides governmental protection to health care providers who offer free quality medical services to underserved populations of the state. The health care provider must have a current valid Georgia health professional license. The program will be established within the Department of Community Health. A health care provider acting under the terms of a contract may not be named as a defendant in any action arising out of the medical care or treatment provided on or after July 1, 2005.

*Status: Effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for purposes of this Act*

**HB 216 Limitations and Restrictions on the Sale of Products Containing Pseudoephedrine** (Rep. Jay Neal, R-1)

The bill limits the sale and manner of sale of products containing pseudoephedrine. Those products will be sold in blister packaging and retailers would be prohibited from selling more than three packages at one time. Wholesalers are required to obtain a license through the state Board of Pharmacy. The law is effective July 1, 2005 except in those counties where pseudoephedrine sales are already regulated. Those counties have until January 1, 2006 to comply with the statewide standard.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 320 Georgia Health Risk Pool** (Rep. Ron Forster, R-3)

This bill creates the commission on the Georgia Health Insurance Risk Pool, consisting of seven members. The commission will conduct a feasibility study and provide recommendations for the establishment of the Georgia Health Insurance Risk Pool as an acceptable alternative mechanism for coverage for uninsurable individuals and persons eligible for federal Health Coverage Tax Credits. The commission stands abolished on June 30, 2006.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 390 State Commission on the Efficacy of the Certificate of Need Program** (Rep. Austin Scott, R-153)

This bill creates a State Commission on the Efficacy of the Certificate of Need Program. The commission will study the effectiveness of the certificate of need program in Georgia. The commission will have 11 members and will issue a final report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before June 30, 2007. The commission stands abolished on June 30, 2007.

*Status: Effective April 17, 2005*

**HB 392 Health Care Management Organization Assessment Fee** (Rep. Jeff Brown, R-69)

This bill establishes a segregated account within the indigent care trust fund through the imposition of the quality assessment fee. The quality assessment fee is the fee imposed for the privilege of operating a case management organization for the Department of Community Health. The bill is housekeeping bill for the DCH.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HR 512 House Community Living Services Study Committee** (Rep. Stan Watson, D-91)

The resolution creates the House Community Living Services Study Committee to study community living arrangements in Georgia through research of what is occurring in other states and from experts in the field. The committee will review the range of services or sanctions that are needed to best serve the needs of the community, families and children. ACCG is designated to have one representative on the study committee. The committee will make its recommendations and suggestions for proposed legislation before it stands abolished on December 31, 2005.

*Status: Passed*

**HR 633 Oversight Committee for Planning to Provide Home and Community Based Services**

(Rep. Judy Manning, R-32)

The resolution urges the DHR, the DCH, Department of Education, Department of Labor and the Department of Juvenile Justice to cooperate on a plan to identify, assess and plan community services for the more than 150 children who are currently living in institutional settings. The plan is due to the Speaker of the House by July 1, 2006 and should include an estimate of additional financial resources that will be needed for a budget request for Fiscal Year 2008. The intent is for dedicated funding for the transition of children that would not compete with the funding for the adult waiting list.

*Status: Passed*

**SB 6 Criminal Background Check** (Sen. Doug Stoner, D-6)

The bill authorizes the exchange of national criminal history background checks on providers of care to children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The background check includes volunteers with youth sports organizations and other youth activities.

*Status: Effective May 10, 2005*

**SB 90 Georgia Smokefree Air Act** (Sen. Dan Thomas, R-54)

This bill prohibits smoking in most enclosed public places that allow minors. Smoking is permitted in restaurants and bars that do not admit or employ persons under age 18, or in

restaurants that have separately ventilated smoking rooms. The Department of Human Resources and their duly authorized agent are authorized to enforce compliance. The bill does not preempt local smoking ordinances that are more restrictive.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 204 Provide Electronic Format for Health Records**

(Sen. Brian Kemp, R-46)

This bill enables any health care provider to create, maintain, transmit, receive and store health records in electronic format. All applicable federal laws governing the security and confidentiality of a patient's personal health information apply to the bill.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT**

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

**HB 98 Georgia Land Conservation Act**

(Rep. Rich Golick, R-34)

This bill creates the Georgia Land Conservation Council under the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, to administer the Governor's land conservation program. It establishes a land conservation trust fund and revolving loan fund to provide an estimated \$100 million (from state, federal and private contributions) for counties and cities to purchase conservation land or to purchase land and set aside conservation easements, to dramatically increase green space protection. Conservation land includes active recreational areas and program grants and loans are available on a competitive basis, statewide. The bill encourages public/private partnerships whereby local governments working with one or more private entities are given priority when applying for funds. Projects identified by state and local governments as ecologically valuable and/or regional in scope will also receive priority.

*Status: Effective April 14, 2005*

**HB 496 EPD to Forward Dam Information to Superior Court Clerks** (Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)

This bill requires the director of the EPD annually to provide superior court clerks in each county information relating to all Category I and Category II dams in that county. Clerks must maintain the information in an easily-accessible location near the county's land records. The purpose is to make dam information more readily accessible to developers.

*Status: Effective December 31, 2005*

**SB 122 Reauthorizing the Scrap Tire Management Fee**

(Sen. Jim Whitehead, R-24)

This bill reauthorizes until June 30, 2008 the \$1 scrap tire management fee that is charged on the sale of every new replacement tire in the state. By statutory requirement, fee proceeds are to be used to support the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) and are to be spent to clean up illegal tire dumps; fund grants to local governments to advance scrap tire and solid waste management; and promote statewide recycling and waste reduction programs. The legislation also allows the SWTF to be used for grants for prevention and abatement of litter; amends the definition of municipal solid waste to include construction and demolition waste – thus allowing

community host fees to be assessed; allows the EPD to shut down scrap tire processors that violate the law; and requires scrap tire processors to be bonded. All proceeds (about \$6.5 million annually) from the fee have been redirected to balance the state's budget in the past two years, and only \$1.5 million has been appropriated for the SWTF in FY 2006, significantly hampering counties' solid waste management and recycling efforts.

*Status: Effective May 10, 2005*

**SB 190 No Indefinite Stay for EPD Permit Appeals**

(Sen. Ross Tolleson, R-20)

Under current Georgia law, any person aggrieved or adversely affected by a permit or variance issued by the state EPD can appeal, thereby indefinitely delaying the final issuance of the permit or variance until the case is heard by an administrative law judge. This legislation provides an automatic 90-day stay if an environmental permit issued by EPD is appealed, with judges able to extend this period by 60 days. It also provides a 10-day window to appeal the administrative ruling to a superior court.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 274 Call Before You Dig Revisions**

(Sen. Mitch Seabaugh, R-28)

This bill significantly revises the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act (GUFPA). While some reforms are beneficial to counties, particularly in the area of limiting relocate requests, others entail significant responsibility and potential costs for county water and sewer owners/operators. The two most onerous provisions will require local governments to provide their best available information on the location of sewer laterals and remove their exemption from civil penalties. ACCG was successful in having the bill amended so that the Public Service Commission (PSC) will only be able to fine local governments, in the event of a severe excavation violation or a demonstrated pattern of willful noncompliance. The PSC will not be able to levy fines if local governments make a good faith effort to comply. Fines, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per violation and \$50,000 per year for local governments, become effective on January 1, 2007.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SR 54 Joint "Future of Georgia Forestry" Study Committee** (Sen. Ross Tolleson, R-20)

This legislation creates a 22-member joint study committee to develop a comprehensive plan reexamining the state's laws and policies relating to forest products and forestry protection in order to sustain and expand the benefits of Georgia's forest lands and products industry. The author, considerate of ACCG's request, amended the bill to add a county commissioner to the committee.

*Status: Effective May 9, 2005*

**SR 458 Senate Tree Ordinance Study Committee**

(Sen. Chip Pearson, R-51)

This study committee will explore whether the state should regulate and/or restrict the local enactment of tree ordinances. The committee's final report is to be issued by December 1, 2005.

*Status: Passed*

**SR 469 Senate Environmental Program Privatization Study Committee** (Sen. Casey Cagle, R-49)

This study committee will evaluate the advantages, efficiencies and cost effectiveness of allowing the private sector to compete with government in implementing and enforcing environmental regulations. In particular, it will focus on transferring EPD functions, assets and services to private entities. The committee shall issue its final report by December 1, 2005.

*Status: Passed*

**SR 499 Senate Coastal Georgia Water Study Committee** (Sen. Ross Tolleson, R-20)

This study committee will examine water quantity and quality issues in coastal Georgia. Particular focus will be on saltwater intrusion into the Upper Floridian Aquifer. Its findings are to be reported by December 1, 2005.

*Status: Passed*

**PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS**

[Staff: Kem Kimbrough]

**HB 58 Authorizing Department of Corrections to Institute a Paid Labor Program for Inmates**

(Rep. Alan Powell, D-29)

This bill authorizes the state to institute voluntary, paid-labor programs, according to federal standards, in the state prison system. The programs will be for-profit and privately-operated, producing goods and services by contract. Further, the state will also create a post-release work placement program, based on the same industries.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 170 Criminal Justice Act of 2005**

(Rep. Rich Golick, R-34)

This is the Governor's comprehensive criminal justice bill; it provides for equal jury strikes for the prosecution and defense in all cases, and authorizes the prosecution to appeal additional rulings by the trial court (such as motions to recuse and motions to grant a new trial). It provides for evidence of 'bad character' to be used against a defendant who testifies without the defendant first placing his/her character at issue, and requires the defendant to provide discovery of his evidence in the same manner as the state. Finally, it guarantees that the prosecution makes the closing argument in every case.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 172 Crime Victims Restitution Act of 2005**

(Rep. Rich Golick, R-34)

This is the Governor's comprehensive victims' rights bill; it provides for a more favorable priority on payment of restitution to a victim and codifies the common law procedure for converting a criminal fine into a judgment, executable by *fi fa*. It also tolls the statute of limitations on any civil action that could be undertaken by a victim, until after the close of any prosecution, for up to six years. Further, it makes restitution mandatory by both adult and juvenile offenders, and authorizes district attorneys to pursue recovery, including through the parents of a juvenile offender.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005.*

**HB 334 Minimum Salaries for Juvenile Court Judges**

(Rep. Robert Mumford, R-95)

This bill makes the current state grant levels for juvenile court judge salaries the minimum salary for those judges and provides for voluntary increases by the county to those sums, with a match from the state up to 2 percent. The bill's state matching provision has sunset provisions making that project authorized only for 2006 and 2007.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2006*

**HB 366 Re-authorizing County Opt-Out from the Circuit Public Defender Program** (Rep. Jack Murphy, R-23)

This bill requires that all standards for indigent defense by posted on the Public Defender Standards Council's web site and authorizes single-circuit counties with an existing public defender program, whose applications to opt-out of the state's Circuit Defender Program were denied, to re-apply to opt out before September 30, 2005. The council must make a determination on that application by December 31, 2005 and must give a detailed accounting, in writing, of what standards the circuit's program failed to meet. The Council must also give the circuit an opportunity to cure any defects before a final determination is made. This determination will be subject to appeal to the state's Supreme Court.

*Status: Effective May 6, 2005*

**HB 470 Omnibus 9-1-1 Code Revision Bill**

(Rep. John Lunsford, R-110)

This bill is a comprehensive re-write of the 9-1-1 Code. The bill clarifies the amount of cost recovery that can be charged to local governments for wireless 9-1-1 service and simplifies the procedures for maintaining the separate accounts where 9-1-1 funds must be kept. The bill requires local governments to submit, within the existing annual audit report, an accounting of all 9-1-1 funds collected and expended. Service providers must remit detailed information to the state on their operations in Georgia, with that information available to counties. A local government collecting or expending fees not authorized by the law will be required to provide a pro-rata reimbursement to all affected subscribers, by abatement of their bill through the service providers, after a judicial proceeding establishing liability. Finally, the bill also creates a tax exemption on property, sales, and use taxes for joint 9-1-1 authorities.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 521 Sheriff's Qualifications**

(Rep. Mack Crawford, R-127)

This bill requires that the office of sheriff shall be vacated by operation of law when the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council certifies to the probate judge of the county that the sheriff's peace officer certification has been revoked.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 557 County Police Not Responsible for Inspection of Roads and Bridges** (Rep. Mark Burkhalter, R-50)

This bill deletes the statutory duty of any county police to make inspection of the roads and bridges in the county of their employment.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HR 515 House Study Committee on the Restructuring of Georgia's Criminal Penalties** (Rep. David Ralston, R-7)

This resolution creates a study committee to determine whether the state's criminal penalties can be tailored to reserve incarceration for those crimes which truly merit such a penalty. The Committee is composed of nine appointees of the Speaker of the House, as well as, a representative from: ACCG, GMA, the Public Defender Standards Council, the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Council of Superior Court Judges, and the Georgia Alliance of African-American Attorneys. The aim and intent is to reduce the demand for indigent defense services, which are implicated whenever a person is charged with an offense for which jail time can be imposed. Currently, all offenses carry incarceration as a possible penalty, including traffic and other minor offenses for which jail time is almost never imposed. As long as incarceration remains available, constitutional rights are thereby implicated and indigent defense must be provided. This committee was requested by ACCG, and will meet through 2005-06. Its final report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006.

*Status: Passed*

**SB 97 Authorizing Supervision Fees Collected in Juvenile Court to be Used for Truancy Intervention Programs** (Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

This bill allows funds collected from juvenile probationers as supervision fees to be used for local programs aimed at reducing truancy, developing alternatives to incarceration, and enhancing the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. It also establishes maximum fees (\$10 to \$200 initial fee, and \$2 to \$30 monthly fee) to be collected and requires that the funds be remitted to the county for placement in a separate fund. This fund can only be used for the specified purposes and any excess is to be held over into succeeding fiscal years.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SR 431 Creating Senate Study Committee on Security for State/County Buildings** (Sen. Joe Carter, R-13)

This resolution creates a committee of seven Senators, appointed by the Committee on Assignments, to review the security of vital public buildings throughout the state and to make findings as to the state of their security. The committee shall make recommendations on any necessary improvements, and suggestions as to how to fund and implement those improvements. The committee will solicit and receive testimony from security experts and state and local officials. The committee will meet throughout the latter half of the year and shall make its final report by December 31, 2005.

*Status: Passed*

**REVENUE AND FINANCE**

[Staff: Clint Mueller]

**HB 1 Expanded Uses for Property in a Conservation Use Covenant** (Rep. Richard Royal, D-171)

This bill authorizes a property owner in a conservation use covenant (CUVA) to sell admissions to a corn maze and for fishing without violating their covenant. The bill also allows owners of CUVA property to lease up to six acres of their property for placement of a cellular tower. The lease will not

breach the covenant but will remove the leased property from the covenant to be taxed at its fair market value.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 5 Renewal of the Four Day Sales Tax Holiday** (Rep. Ron Borders, D-175)

This bill creates a sales tax exemption on certain school supplies, clothing, footwear, computers and computer related accessories between July 28, 2005 and July 31, 2005. Eligible items for the exemption are the same as last year. The sales tax holiday again includes local option sales taxes.

*Status: Effective May 9, 2005*

**HB 22 Sales Tax on Motor Vehicles Remitted to the County of Registration** (Rep. Calvin Hill, R-21)

This bill requires automobile dealers to remit the sales tax to the county where the vehicle is registered. Currently, the sales tax is remitted to the county where possession is taken (usually the county where the dealership resides). The county of registration may receive some sales tax, if its tax rate is higher than the rate of the county where the dealership resides. For example, a car purchased in a six percent county and registered in a seven percent county currently requires the dealer to remit two percent to the county where the car was purchased and one percent to the county where the car is registered. Under HB 22 all three percent would go to the county where the vehicle is registered. If your county is a regional center for auto sales, this bill may reduce the amount of sales tax your county receives from auto sales. If most of the residents of your county go outside the county to buy their cars, this bill will probably increase your local option sales tax revenues.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 116 New Special Service Districts Not Eligible to Receive Homestead Tax Relief Grant (HTRG)** (Rep. Larry O'Neal, R-146)

This bill exempts any county or city special service district created after 2004 from receiving homestead tax relief grants. Homeowners paying property tax for existing special service districts (e.g., unincorporated fire service district) would continue to receive their HTRG credit on their tax bill. This legislation will provide a disincentive for counties to create a special service district to replace funding for a service that is currently funded out of the general fund. This bill was amended to provide credit protection to anyone that sells their property when the new owner fails to pay the taxes due in the year of the sale.

*Status: Effective April 12, 2005*

**HB 203 Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Lease Purchased Farm Equipment** (Rep. Richard Royal, D-171)

This bill calls for a statewide referendum that would exempt lease-purchased farm equipment used on a family-owned qualified farm from property tax. Currently, the equipment must be owned by the family farmer to get the exemption. Some farmers finance their equipment using lease-purchase and cannot get the title to the equipment until the lease is paid. This bill seeks to give the family farmer the exemption regardless of the means used to finance their equipment.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2007 if passed in the 2006 statewide referendum*

**HB 211 Exempt Aircraft Held in Inventory for Resale from Personal Property Tax** (Rep. John Heard, R-104)

Under current law automobile, heavy equipment and farm equipment dealers are exempt from paying property tax on their inventory. This bill adds aircraft dealers to the inventory exemption list.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2006*

**HB 306 Exempt Use Tax on Materials Used in Public Works Projects** (Rep. Tom Rice, R-51)

This bill requires governments purchasing materials that are turned over to a contractor for construction or installation to provide the contractor with advanced written notice of the use taxes the contractor is responsible for paying. If the government fails to provide notification to the contractor, the government will be liable for paying the sales tax.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 341 Sales Tax Exemption on Jet Fuel**

(Rep. Mark Burkhalter, R-50)

This bill caps a qualifying airlines' state and local sales tax liability on jet fuel at \$15 million annually. After the qualifying airline has paid \$15 million in state and local sales taxes on jet fuel they are exempt from paying any more sales tax for the current fiscal year. This special exemption expires in 2007. The bill also exempts food and beverages purchased by the airlines for distribution on planes.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 364 Sales Tax on Vehicles Purchased Out of State Collected by Tax Commissioner**

(Rep. Roger Williams, R-4)

This bill requires the tax commissioner in each county to verify where a vehicle was purchased. If the vehicle is purchased out of state, the tax commissioner must verify that the sales taxes have been paid. If the sales taxes have not been paid the tax commissioner will reject the application for title.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2006*

**HB 487 Sales Tax Exemption on Fuel Used to Operate a Farm Irrigation System**

(Rep. Jay Roberts, R-154)

Existing law exempts electricity used for the operation of a farm irrigation system from sales tax. This bill extends the exemption to farmers using fuel instead of electricity to operate their irrigation system. The fiscal note is approximately \$200,000 statewide.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**HB 559 Sales Tax Holiday for Energy Efficient Appliances** (Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)

This bill exempts energy star appliances from state sales tax October 6 -9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The bill caps the sales price of the appliance at \$1,500. The exemption is granted on a noncommercial EPA designated "Energy Star" dishwasher, clothes washer, air conditioner, ceiling fan, incandescent or fluorescent light bulb, dehumidifier, programmable thermostat, or refrigerator. Unlike the back to school sales tax holiday, this holiday does not include local sales tax.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2005*

**SB 227 Interest Rate Swaps** (Sen. Casey Cagle, R-49)

This bill authorizes local governments to enter into derivative products (swaps, collars, hedges, etc.) to gain a more advantageous interest rate when issuing bonds. The bill also establishes the following minimum requirements that must be met by local governments before they can use these derivative products: (1) Establishes minimum credit rating for swap counterparties of AA- (or Aa3 from Moody's) from S&P/Fitch or requires counterparties of lesser credit to collateralize obligations; (2) Requires local government to adopt an interest rate management plan prior to executing a derivative product. Such plan consists of a) an analysis of the risks b) local government's plan to monitor risk going forward c) local government's procedure for maintaining records of such products and d) plans to review market conditions going forward. The plan shall also be reviewed by an independent financial advisor who is not associated with the counterparty prior to approval of the government entity; (3) Unless so approved by the local government entity, no swap may exceed 10 years (4) Provides that local government is not required to place a general obligation pledge behind any swap agreement (I.e. allows for revenue pledged obligations; (5) Provides so that a local government may enter into credit enhancement or liquidity agreements in connection with swap agreements 6) Requires that local governments disclose information regarding swap agreements in their annual financial statement.

*Status: Effective May 2, 2005*

**HR 486 Study Committee on Business Inventory Personal Property Tax** (Rep. Chuck Scheid, R-22)

This resolution creates a House Study Committee to explore eliminating business inventory tax. Local governments generate approximately \$209 million annually from this tax.

*Status: Passed*

**HR 488 Education Funding Study Committee**

(Rep. Jerry Keen, R-179)

This resolution creates a House Study Committee to look at the possibility of replacing property taxes used to fund schools with a sales tax.

*Status: Passed*

**HB 85 – APPROPRIATIONS  
FY 2006: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**

(Reductions and savings in state funding or program eliminated in the FY2006 budget are in parenthesis)

Judicial Branch – Superior Court

- Providing funding for 5 new Judgeships and requirements in Southern, Gwinnett, Cherokee, Appalachian and Flint circuits
- (\$1,130,000) to reduce funding for the Senior Judge
- \$100,000 funding for Business Court in Fulton County
- \$1,000,000 for statewide to support Superior Court Judges' drug courts and other drug courts

Judicial Branch – Public Defender Standards Council

- \$12,271,017 to fully implement the Council. The Standards Council represents persons charged with the death penalty after January 1, 2005 and provides training, assistance and direct representation in Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity cases
- \$31,471,850 for Public Defenders to assure that adequate and effective legal representation is provided to indigent persons who are entitled to representation

Department of Community Affairs

- \$3,881,066 Local Assistance Grants for Economic Development, Education Development and Human Services\*  
[\$140,566 site work development in Columbia County Industrial Park; \$300,000 technology improvement; \$250,000 Autrey Mill historical restoration in Fulton County; \$272,000 expand senior center facility in Northeast Cobb County; \$100,000 construction and start-up costs for Harbor House in Upson County; \$250,000 Augusta Burn Center for indigent care; \$50,000 park renovations at Lake Tobosofkee in Bibb County; \$150,000 warehouse expansion at Saint Gobain in Hancock County; \$50,000 refurbish Live Oak Child Emergency Shelter in Carroll County; \$50,000 Health Access indigent initiative in Hall County; \$25,000 for Our House in Polk County; \$25,000 for the Boys and Girls Club in Polk County]
- \$1,500,000 for the Local Development Fund\*
- \$500,000 for Regional Economic Business Assistance grants to allow Georgia counties to be competitive in recruiting, expanding and retaining industries\*
- \$500,000 to establish an Infrastructure Grant Program to assist local governments
- \$47,123,333 continuation funding for the OneGeorgia Authority
- \$250,000 to initiate the litter clean up prevention program
- \$100,000 funding for Hands on Georgia

- \$25,000 for Leadership Southeast Georgia
- \$250,000 funds for the Georgia Medical Center Authority to attract, retain and support the growth of life sciences enterprise throughout the state
- \$254,142 to increase state funds to the State Housing Trust Fund (SHTF)

Department of Community Health

- \$590,000 additional funding to Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
- \$279,057,364 in state funds to cover projected 9% growth in Medicaid: Total funds = \$877,788,504
- Implement disease and case management process to improve medical management for up to 100,000 aged, blind and disabled populations, anticipate savings of \$23,262,935 in state funds
- \$1,100,000 in state funds to increase rates for ambulance services reimbursement
- \$1,900,000 contract for the Pharmacy Cost Reduction Initiative
- \$50,000 funding to the Georgia Partnership for Caring
- \$625,000 for HB 166 the 'Health Share' Volunteers in Medicine Act
- \$250,000 for the development of primary care sites, Community Health Centers
- (\$6,186,371) projected savings to require prior authorization for prescription drugs when an equivalent over-the-counter drug is available
- (\$2,940,212) projected savings to expand the emergency room utilization control to 8 hospitals
- \$1,042,759 state funds to provide 46 additional slots in the Independent Care Waiver Programs
- \$1,000,000 contract for Non-Custodial Parent Insurance Coverage Initiative
- \$3,732,041 contract for Case Management Organizations, Disease Management program and Medicaid Cost Settlements Support
- (\$3,517,844) projected state dollar saving by strictly enforcing income requirements for participation in the PeachCare for Kids

Department of Corrections

- \$9,653,491 in state funds to reimburse counties for the costs of incarcerating state prisoners in their local facilities, Total funds = \$12,154,999
- \$998,470 for 6 months funding for 4 day reporting centers, including 28 additional positions
- \$6,964,820 to provide a 4% inflationary increase for Health Service Purchases to cover the Medical College of Georgia contract
- \$5,392,000 for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Programming and allocate funding for inmate mental health care cost
- \$1,047,732 to expand D. Ray Private Prison by 90 beds, increasing the capacity to 1,640

Department of Economic Development

- \$200,000 additional funding for marketing to promote the State of Georgia in the recruitment of International Industries to create jobs and revenue statewide
- (\$34,732) reduce pass-through funding for local welcome center by 10% as a first step in phasing out state funding, Bainbridge local welcome center \$10,925; local welcome center grant program \$23,807

Department of Education

- \$30,000,000 for school nurses to provide appropriate health procedures to allow students to remain in school and increase opportunities for academic success

Office of the Governor

- \$3,469,576 for the Governor's Emergency Fund when disasters create extraordinary demands on government
- \$10,482,554 for the Georgia Cancer Coalition for ongoing research and preventative measures

Department of Human Resources

- \$5,399,000 in state funds to begin hiring 500 Child Protective Services (CPS) staff to reduce CPS caseloads and to work with families whose children are at risk of out of home placement
- \$125,000 for the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority to fund an awareness program that addresses sickle cell, diabetes and stroke
- \$653,556 for 79 individuals that desire to move from nursing homes into the Community Care Services Program (CCSP)
- \$899,154 state funding for an additional 200 slots for elderly clients on the waiting list that are Medicaid eligible and meet nursing home level of care requirements for the CCSP
- \$3,284,597 state funds/Olmstead, 925 MRDDAD slots to Unlock the Waiting List
- \$100,000 for all state sponsored Hope Houses
- (\$2,705,662) anticipated savings of state fund by consolidating mental health state and regional staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness
- \$2,126,526 in state funds to expand community capacity and services for approximately 625 children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and addictive diseases
- Anticipate savings of \$2,705,622 in state funds to consolidate mental health state and regional staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness
- (\$76,077) reduce personal services and technical assistance to community participation in the Family Connection Partnership Program [Governor had recommended reduction of \$276,077]
- \$300,000 funding for all rape crisis centers
- \$500,000 to alleviate the current waiting list of 35 persons in the AIDS Drug Assistance program for a new drug treatment called Fuzeon

- \$576,000 to establish 12 Kinship Care Resource networks for information and referrals, case management, social support and support groups to meet the needs of an increasing number of grandparents raising grandchildren
- \$96,000 funds for training for the 12 Area Agencies on Aging to establish day care and/or respite services within their communities
- \$685,735 to fill 5 vacancies and operating expenditures associated with the new lab in Waycross (Ware County) scheduled to open December 2005
- (\$463,483) eliminate the primary health care program within the Refugee Health Program within the Division of Public Health
- (\$9,277,377) reduce funding for the tobacco cessation program whose purpose is to reduce the number of youth and adults who smoke
- Reevaluate the public health grants to counties funding formula according to the latest census data

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- \$1,425,654 to fill vacant positions of 12 scientists and 8 lab technicians and operating expenses to reduce backlog in the Crime Lab
- (\$1,363,259) savings by eliminating the firearms program, including 14 positions, and utilizing the FBI firearms program
- \$500,000 to establish a Local Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Grants program to assist local governments\*

Department of Motor Vehicle Safety

- \$1,412,055 increase personnel services by filling 46 vacant Driver's License Examiner positions and 6 vacant call center receptionist positions at full service centers
- \$100,000 for the Georgia Motorcycle Safety program
- \$250,000 for rental agreements with local governments for replacement facilities of Driver License Customer Service Centers

Department of Natural Resources

- \$250,000 for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
- \$240,000 increased funding for development of the comprehensive statewide water management plan
- \$4,004,923 increase for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund and the Solid Waste Trust Fund to investigate and clean up abandoned hazardous sites
- \$1,500,000 for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund and the Solid Waste Trust Fund. A funding source to administer the Scrap Tire Management Program, enables emergency, preventative and corrective actions at solid waste disposal facilities, and promotes statewide recycling and waste reduction programs

- \$50,000 to fund SB 283, deadhead logging pilot program
- \$50,000 restores funding for the Civil War Commission

#### State Board of Pardons and Paroles

- \$704,357 to fill 16 existing parole officer positions to improve public safety
- \$200,000 to replace the loss of federal funds used to test parolees for substance abuse
- \$500,000 state funding to replace federal funds in Global Positioning System monitoring

#### Department of Public Safety

- \$1,000,000 to purchase patrol vehicles to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors to Georgia
- \$1,065,292 to fund a Trooper School with 50 initial candidates (the school is 7 months long)
- \$1,065,292 to fund a second Trooper School with 50 initial candidates
- \$120,041 for 2 positions, 1 vehicle and operating expenses to implement SB 169 requiring the Firefighter Standards and Training Council to certify volunteer firefighters
- \$52,371 to increase Peach Officer Training Grants for basic training at regional academies

#### Board of Regents

- \$176,677 maintenance and operating funds for the Cooperative Extension Service for the Rural Development Center in Tifton
- \$626,224 to create a new Forestry Cooperative Extension Service Program
- \$882,879 to provide assistance in the mitigation of factors that place minority businesses in a disadvantaged position
- \$2,000,000 to establish the Public Library Fund for repairs, renovations, equipment and media materials\*

#### Department of Revenue

- \$52,290,501 to enhance the Homeowners Tax Relief Grants to cover expenditures : Total funds = \$432,290,501

#### Department of Transportation (An additional \$19,028,754 for local governments in FY 2006)

- \$500,000 for Airport Aid Program to maintain and improve statewide airports
- \$38,000,000 for LARP
- State Fund Construction Project Categories: Off-System (which funds county/city contracts) - \$18,562,534; On-System (which funds state roads) - \$0; Most Needed (which funds local projects) - \$6,583,667
- \$203,500 to study a High-Speed Rail from Atlanta to Charlotte
- (\$1,000,000) delete the one-time appropriation for the Atlanta-Lovejoy rail line

#### General Obligation Debt Sinking Funds

- \$20,000,000 in 5-year bonds for the State Aid Maintenance Assistance Program (DOT)
- \$383,800,000 in 20-year bonds for the Governor's Fast Forward Transportation Program (DOT)
- \$6,470,000 in 20-year bonds for improvements for ports and waterways in Savannah (DOT)
- Bonds are not included for the Brunswick Beach restoration (DNR)
- \$5,320,000 in 20-year bonds for the deepening of the Brunswick Harbor (Ports Authority)
- \$20,505,000 in 20-year bonds for bed space expansion ( Department of Corrections)
- \$3,000,000 in 5-year bonds to procure an integrated tax system (Department of Revenue)
- \$11,000,000 in 20-year bonds for the Columbus Trade Center (Department of Economic Development)
- \$3,000,000 in 5-year bonds to procure an integrated tax system for DOR
- \$52,000,000 in 20-year bonds to provide low interest loans for local water and sewer construction projects through GEFA (DNR)
- \$1,035,000 in 20-year bonds to construct the Henry County McDonough library (Regents)
- \$1,765,000 in 20-year bonds to construct the Tifton-Tift County public library (Regents)
- \$2,000,000 in 20-year bonds to construct the Gilmer County Library (Regents)

**\*Funding source for local governments and communities**

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: CARRIED OVER**

<b>Economic Development &amp; Transportation</b>		
HB 137	Enact Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 152	State Sales Tax Abatement for Redevelopment	Rep. Ed Setzler
HB 160	Change Signage Requirements at End of Highway Work Zones	Rep. Burke Day
HB 218	Exempt Economic Development Client Negotiations from Disclosure	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 361	Transfer One Percent Sales Tax on Motor Fuel to Local Assistance Road Program	Rep. Paul Smith
HB 363	Make Government License Plates Permanent	Rep. Jack Murphy
HB 436	Create Georgia Environment and Infrastructure Financing Authority	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 468	Change Business Headquarter Tax Credit Provisions	Rep. Jeff Lewis
HB 469	Allow Per Diems to be Paid to Development Authority Directors	Rep. Mike Barnes
HB 478	Remove Replacement Requirement Government License Plates	Rep. Bob Holmes
HB 523	Require 10 Years Operating Expenses On Hand for Commuter Rail Projects	Rep. Steve Davi
HB 525	Transfer \$4.5 million from Georgia Highway Authority to State Infrastructure Bank	Rep. John Lunsford
<b>General County Government</b>		
HB 7 / HB 8 / HB 47 / SB 10	Whistleblower Cause of Action for County Employees	Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver / Sen. Michael Meyer von Bremen
HB 42	Zoning Decisions Affecting School Systems: Require Consultation with School Board	Rep. Hugh Floyd
HB 62 / HB 63	Nonpartisan Elections for County Officers	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 96	Graffiti: Abatement of Unfit or Unsafe Structures	Rep. Pete Marin
HB 241	Nonpartisan Races for Sheriffs	Rep. Gene Maddox
HB 261	No Nuisance Provision Expanded to Include Wildlife Habitat and Hunting	Rep. Tommy Smith
HB 304	Individualized Regulatory Fees for Permits and Licenses	Rep. Sue Burmeister
HB 305	Nonpartisan Races for County Commissioners, County Officers and Coroners by Local Act	Rep. Penny Houston
HB 403	Nonpartisan Elections for Clerks of Superior Court and Coroners	Rep. Lester Jackson
HB 508	Establish Salaries for Coroners and Deputy Coroners	Rep. Chuck Sims
HB 684	Open Records: Requests in Writing	Rep. Mark Hatfield
HB 720	Alcoholic Beverage Licenses: Increase Maximum to \$10,000	Rep. John Lindsey
HB 833	Georgia Procurement Registry: Official Organ for Advertising Local Government Public Works or Other Procurement RFPs/bids	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 874	Revise Open Records Exemption Relative to Records Exempt by the Federal Government	Rep. Jill Chambers
HB 892	Nonpartisan Races for County Commissioners, County Officers and Coroners by Local Act	Rep. Tommy Smith
HB 894	Nonpartisan Races for Juvenile Court Judges	Rep. Stacey Reese
HR 87	Limitation on Use of Condemnation Powers for Economic Development Projects	Rep. Bill Hembree
SB 5	Allow and Regulate Public-Private Infrastructure Partnerships	Sen. Dan Moody
SB 26	Existing Agricultural Facilities: No Nuisance Provision Expanded to Include Poultry or Meat By-products Processing	Sen. Casey Cagle
SB 30	Expand Basis for Inverse Condemnation	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 32	Nonpartisan Races for Probate Judges	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SB 80	Nonpartisan Races for Sheriffs	Sen. Tommie Williams
SB 86	Limitation on Use of Condemnation Powers for Economic	Sen. Jeff Chapman

	Development Projects	
SB 169	Contracts for Public Works: Only Citizens of the U.S. to be Employed	Sen. Chip Rogers
SB 183	Zoning Decisions Affecting School Systems: Require Consultation with School Board	Sen. John Douglas
SB 275	Creation of Municipal Villages or Townships	Sen. Mitch Seabaugh
<b>Health and Human Services</b>		
HB 35	Create Community Service Board Overview Commission	Rep. Billy Mitchell
HB 39	Create the Council on Affordable Housing	Rep. Bob Holmes
HB 206	Provisions for Assisted Living Facilities	Rep. Len Walker
HB 317	Procedures to Require Counties to Reimburse Hospitals for Nonresident Indigent Patient Care	Rep. Pat Gardner
HB 426	Georgia Smokefree Air Act	Rep. Stacey Reece
HB 467	DHR Establish Grading Sheet for Food Service Establishments	Rep. John Heard
HB 500	Amend Provisions for Public Guardians of Adults	Rep. Len Walker
<b>HB 909</b>	Ambulance Services reimbursement	Rep. Jeff Brown
SB 116	Limitations and Restrictions on the Sale of Products Containing Pseudoephedrine	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SB128	Procedures to Require Counties to Reimburse Hospitals for Nonresident Indigent Patient Care	Sen. Steen Miles
SB 181	Death Investigation of Person Receiving Compensate Care	Sen. Bill Hamrick
SB 192	Indemnification of Certain Emergency Medical Personnel	Sen. Don Thomas
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Environment</b>		
HB 23	Repeal of the Scrap Tire Management Fee	Rep. Calvin Hill
HB 53	Restricting Interbasin and Intrabasin Water Transfers	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 55	Restricting Interbasin Water Transfers	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 352	Septage Hauler Permitting and Manifest Requirements	Rep. Al Williams
HB 550	Public Water and Sewer Service to Satellite Areas	Rep. Bob Smith
HB 533	Increase Minimal Distance of Landfills from Adjoining Jurisdictions	Rep. Jeff Lewis
HB 550	Water Discharge Permit Fees	Rep. Wendell Willard
HB 640	Allowing Liens for Defaults on Stormwater Utility Bills	Rep. Karla Drenner
HR 170	Create Solid Waste Trust Fund Study Committee	Rep. Karla Drenner
SB 163	Counties Required to Provide for Septage Disposal	Sen. Casey Cagle
SB 294	Restricting Local Tree Ordinances	Sen. Chip Pearson
HB 23	Repeal of the Scrap Tire Management Fee	Rep. Calvin Hill
<b>Public Safety &amp; The Courts</b>		
HB 6	Local Traffic Fines to be Deposited in the State Treasury	Rep. Ben Bridges
HB 29	Ban on the Use by Law Enforcement of Electro-shock Devices	Rep. Tyrone Brooks
HB 30	Measures to Prevent Racial Profiling	Rep. Tyrone Brooks
HB 49	Authorizing Department of Corrections (DoC) to Charge Inmates for the Cost of Incarceration	Rep. Rob Teilhet
HB 60	Creating a Department of Probation/Parole Community-Based Supervision	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 65	Creating a Division of Probation/Parole Community-Based Supervision within DoC	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 92	Removing the Requirement for Local Officers Operating Speed Detection Devices to be Visible	Rep. Tim Bearden
HB 148	Requiring Local Government Reports of 9-1-1 Subscriber Fee Revenue	Rep. David Lucas
HB 174	Requiring Service Providers Collecting 9-1-1 Fees to Remit to the Correct Jurisdiction	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 294	Authorizing the Use of Speed Measuring Cameras for Traffic	Rep. Phyllis Miller

	Enforcement	
HB 316	Requiring the Appointment of Additional Assistant Public Defenders in Each Circuit	Rep. Dubose Porter
HB 363	Increasing Registration Plate Fees for County Vehicles	Rep. Jack Murphy
HB 419	Redirecting Fine Revenue from Citations Written by Local Officers to State Treasury	Rep. Burke Day
HB 475	Establishing the Clerk of Superior Court as the Clerk for all Other Courts	Rep. Robert Mumford
HB 477	Increasing Per Diem Reimbursement to Counties for State Inmates in County Jails	Rep. Bob Holmes
HB 478	Remove Requirement for Government License Plates Be Replaced	Rep. Bob Holmes
HR 256	Constitutional Amendment to Declare that Governmental Services Are for U.S. Citizens Only	Rep. Roger Williams
SB 21	Requirement of a Carbon Monoxide Detector in Every Home	Sen. Gloria Butler
SB 44	Allowing DoC to Contract For, and Regulate, the Operation of Private Probation Detention Centers	Sen. Bill Hamrick
SB 59	Authorizing Counties to Establish Probation Diversion Centers	Sen. Bill Hamrick
SB 64	Removing the Requirement for Traffic Enforcement Vehicles to Have Blue Lights on the Roof	Sen. John Douglas
SB 113	Authorizing the Use of 9-1-1 Subscriber Fee Revenue for the Operation of a 3-1-1 Call Center	Sen. Gloria Butler
SB 203	Authorizing Counties to Recover the Cost of Indigent Defense	Sen. John Wiles
SB 240	Take 75% of All Fines from Local Citations and Fund Additional State Patrol & HERO Units	Sen. Jeff Mullis
<b>Revenue and Finance</b>		
HB 136	Eliminate Excise Tax on Rental Vehicles	Rep. Chuck Sims
HB 173	Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Organizations	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 370	Expanding Eligibility for Charities Exempt from Property Tax	Rep. Jane Kidd
HB 493	Allow a Portion of SPLOST to be Used for Maintenance and Operation	Rep. Austin Scott
HB 527	Tax Commissioners Responsible for Tax Sales	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 547	Limit Impact Fees	Rep. John Lunsford
HR 1,2, and 3	Ad Valorem Tax Cap of Millage and Assessed Value	Rep. Richard Royal
HR 58	Replacing Property Tax for Schools with a Sales Tax	Rep. Jerry Keen
HR 85, 162	Assessment Freeze	Rep. Allen Powell / Rep. Edward Lindsey
HR 634	Eliminate State Property Tax	Rep. Mark Butler
SB 50	Personal Property Tax Exemption	Sen. Bill Hamrick
SB 65	DOR Regulate Assessment Valuations	Sen. Robert Brown

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