



# Final Legislative Report

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# 2006 Session of the General Assembly

## April 2006

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**REVENUE AND FINANCE**  
 [Staff: Clint Mueller]

**HB 81 Homestead Exemption for Surviving Spouse**  
 (Rep. Burke Day, R-163)  
 If passed in the statewide referendum, surviving single spouses of peace officers or firefighters killed in the line of duty will qualify for a homestead exemption for the full value of their home. Also, if passed in the statewide referendum, all surviving spouses will continue to receive the base-year assessed value if they are living in a county that has a floating homestead exemption.  
*Status: Effective January 1, 2007 if passed in the statewide referendum*

**HB 848 Charities Exempt From Property Tax / New Senior Homestead Exemption**  
 (Rep. Mark Butler, R-18)  
 This bill provides clarification that charitable institutions can use their facilities to secure income without losing their property tax exemption as long as the income is used exclusively for the operation of the charitable institution. It also provides a homestead exemption for senior citizens age 65 and older for the full amount of state property taxes owed. Both of these provisions must be passed in the statewide referendum to become law.  
*Status: Effective January 1, 2007 if passed in the statewide referendum*

**HB 1012 Debt Reporting** (Rep. Fran Millar, R-79)  
 This bill makes improvements to the DCA Debt Issuance Report allowing counties to compare their debt issuance costs with other local governments that have issued debt of similar size and type. The bill also requires local governments and

authorities that issue bonds in excess of \$5 million to conduct a performance audit or review, or publish a legal advertisement stating that no performance audit or review will be conducted. The audit or review must be done by an outside auditor or consultant, show whether the bond funds are being spent efficiently and economically, and must be done annually until all bond proceeds are spent.  
*Status: Effective May 5, 2006*

**HB 1018 Sales Tax Exemption on Biomass Fuel**  
 (Rep. Jeff Lewis, R-15)  
 This bill exempts biomass fuel used in electric generation from state and local sales tax. Georgia does not currently have any electric generation plants fueled by biomass. Several counties are trying to recruit these plants and need the tax incentive to make them competitive with counties in surrounding states.  
*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1219 Sales Tax Holiday** (Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)  
 This bill renews last year’s back-to-school sales tax holiday and the Energy Star sales tax holiday. Both holidays will occur between August 3-6, 2006 and are exempt from state and local sales tax. It is estimated that the holiday will exempt over \$8 million in local sales tax revenues.  
*Status: Effective April 28, 2006*

**HB 1249 Watercraft Inventory Exemption**  
 (Rep. Stacey Reece, R-27)  
 This bill exempts all boats and other watercraft held in dealer inventory from personal property tax. The General Assembly over the last few years has exempted autos, heavy equipment, farm equipment and airplanes held in dealer inventory from personal property tax.  
*Status: Effective January 1, 2007*

**HB 1293 Penalty Waiver for Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA) Breach**  
 (Rep. Richard Royal, D-171)  
 This bill waives the penalty for breaching a CUVA covenant when the property owner entered into the covenant for the first time after reaching the age of 67 and has owned the property for at least 15 years or inherited the property and has kept the property in a qualifying use under the covenant for the last three years.  
*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1502 Tax Assessor Certification**

(Rep. Richard Royal, D-171)

This bill requires members of the county board of tax assessors to receive training and maintain minimum standards authorized in the law. The Department of Revenue Commissioner will set up a certification program for assessors. If an assessor fails to comply with the training requirements, their certification may be revoked. The bill also authorizes the Department of Revenue to establish conservation use value assessment (CUVA) application requirements.

*Status: Effective May 5, 2006***HR 1464 Comprehensive Study of the Georgia Tax Code**

(Rep. Larry O'Neal, R-146)

This resolution creates a House Study Committee composed of seven legislators to conduct a comprehensive study of the Georgia Tax Code and make recommendations for revisions.  
*Status: Effective upon appointment of study committee members*

**HR 1778 Tag and Tax Study Committee**

(Rep. Mark Burkhalter, R-50)

This resolution creates a House Study Committee composed of five legislators to look at the feasibility of phasing out the ad valorem tax on motor vehicles.

*Status: Effective upon appointment of study committee members***SB 525 Credit Protection for Property Sellers**

(Sen. Tommie Williams, R-19)

This bill helps protect the credit of a property owner who sells a property after January 1 of the current year and the new owner fails to pay the taxes owed.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2006***SB 585 Sale of Tax Executions**

(Sen. David Shafer, R-48)

This bill gives the tax commissioner in each county the option to sell tax executions to third party investors. If tax executions are sold, they must comply with new notice and collection procedures. Excess funds from tax sales shall be paid over to the state's unclaimed property division within five years of the sale.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006***SB 597 Tax Assessment Litigation Costs**

(Sen. Chip Pearson, R-51)

This bill makes it more likely that a county would have to pay litigation costs to a taxpayer appealing their residential property assessment. Currently counties pay litigation costs when the superior court establishes a final value that is 15%

less than the board of equalization's value. This bill requires the county to pay litigation costs when the superior court establishes a value that is 15% less than the original value set by the board of assessors.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2006***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

[Staff: Matthew Hicks]

**HB 363 Make Government License Plates Permanent**

(Rep. Jack Murphy, R-23)

This bill removes the five-year renewal requirement for license plates on government vehicles. It raises the initial tag fee to \$3.00 per vehicle but allows that tag to remain valid for the life of the vehicle in government service.

*Status: Effective April 27, 2006***HB 1106 Change Axle Weight Limit on Trucks**

(Rep. Tom Graves, R-12)

This bill allows trucks hauling construction aggregates to exceed current per-axle weight limits on state routes, but does not raise the maximum gross weight limit of 80,000 pounds. The Georgia Department of Transportation advises no new postings will need to occur due to previous legislation that raised the weight limits for other industries.

*Status: Effective April 21, 2006***HB 1236 Register Vehicle Where Used**

(Rep. Joe Wilkinson, R-52)

This bill allows a vehicle to be registered where it is primarily used. The legislation requires ad valorem taxes be paid in the owner's county of residence prior to registration in the county of use.

*Status: Effective May 5, 2006***HB 1313/HR 1306 Reform Eminent Domain Laws**

(Rep. Rich Golick, R-34)

This legislation dramatically reforms condemnation laws in the state and is expected to promote lawsuits and increase the costs of using eminent domain for any purpose. In addition to a number of procedural changes, the bill provides for increased court review and supervision of condemnation cases, increases compensation for condemnees, implements new notice requirements including personally serving property owners of proposed condemnations, narrowly defines blight, and removes the power of eminent domain from non-elected authorities. A summary of the legislation is available on ACCG's website: [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org).

*Status: HB 1313 Effective April 4, 2006; HR 1307 Referendum on Ballot November 7, 2006*

### **HB 1361 Tax Allocation District Revisions**

(Rep. Chuck Martin, R-47)

This bill makes several changes to the law governing tax allocation districts. First, it exempts personal property, motor vehicles, public utilities and railroad companies from the tax increment to the district unless specifically authorized by each local governing authority. Payments in lieu of taxes can be required by the local governing authority establishing the tax allocation district, however the payments cannot exceed the tax allocation increment in any given year. The roll back rate calculated by each local government will also apply to the tax allocation districts.

*Status: Effective May 5, 2006*

### **HR 1128 Establish House Business Incentive Study Committee**

(Rep. Larry O'Neal, R-146)

This bill establishes a five-person study committee made up of state representatives to examine tax and other incentives offered to recruit, retain and expand businesses in Georgia. The committee will be studying the state's current incentive structure and proposing recommendations to improve its effectiveness.

*Status: Effective upon appointment of members; expires December 1, 2006*

### **SB 150 Create Five-year Grant program for Streetcars**

(Sen. Sam Zamarripa, D-36)

This bill creates a five-year grant program housed in the State Road and Tollway Authority to provide assistance to local governmental authorities, as well as public-private partnerships, in the creation of streetcar transportation projects. The grant program begins when funding becomes available for such purposes. No state funds or bonds can be issued for the program unless approved by an act of the General Assembly.

*Status: Effective April 27, 2006*

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

[Staff: Suzanne Nieman]

### **HB 873 Physician Assistants Render Assistance**

(Rep. Len Walker, R-107)

This bill authorizes a licensed physician's assistant to respond to a need for medical care created by a state of emergency or public health emergency. Physician's assistants may be included as part of a state or local safety plan for a state of emergency. The authority granted to the physician's assistant would last no longer than 48 hours or

such time as the board may establish under guidelines for supervision of the physician's assistant rendering medical care.

*Status: Effective April 27, 2006*

### **HB 959 Mallory's Act**

(Rep. Gene Maddox, R-172)

This bill provides for permits issued to permanently disabled minors. A parking permit issued to a minor must prominently display the word "minor" and show an expiration date, the same as the date of his or her eighteenth birthday or two years from the date it is issued, whichever occurs last.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **HB 1008 Georgia's Hospice Law**

(Rep. Earl Carter, R-159)

This bill allows hospices to provide palliative care to patients with advanced and progressive diseases. Advanced and progressive disease means a serious life-threatening medical condition which is irreversible and which will continue indefinitely, where there is no reasonable hope of recovery, but where the patient's medical prognosis is one in which there is a life expectancy of up to two years.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **HB 1092 Suicide Prevention Program**

(Rep. Judy Manning, R-32)

This bill creates the Suicide Prevention Program to be managed by the injury prevention section of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources. Every year in Georgia, approximately 850 people die from suicide and more teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza and chronic lung disease combined. In Georgia, three out of four suicide deaths involve a firearm. Factors such as alcohol and drug abuse, unemployment, mental illness, aging, isolation and bullying in school contribute to causes of suicide. \$150,000 was appropriated in the 2007 state budget to start a state suicide prevention program.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **HB 1145 Change Provisions for Juvenile Proceedings**

(Rep. David Ralston, R-7)

This bill changes provisions relating to mental health proceedings for juveniles. The child's age or immaturity may be used as the basis for determining the child's competency. It further clarifies "mentally ill" and "mental retardation". A hearing to determine mental competency must be conducted within 60 days after the initial court order for evaluation. The bill includes

Amy's Law, which provides that if a child is committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice for murder the court may commit the children until their twenty-first birthday.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1178 Program to Distribute Unused Prescription Drugs** (Rep. Cecily Hill, R-180)

The bill establishes the Utilization of Unused Prescription Drugs Act. The State Board of Pharmacy, the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Community Health shall jointly develop and implement a state-wide program through which unused prescription drugs, other than prescription drugs defined as controlled substances, may be transferred from health care facilities to pharmacies for the purpose of distributing the drugs to Georgians who are medically indigent. The bill also includes SB 507 designed to increase the number of physicians in rural areas by making loans available for those actively practicing or beginning active practice in rural areas of the state. The bill defines rural county as a county having a population of less than 35,000, except for counties which contain a military base. The military personnel and their dependents would be excluded from the total population for determining rural county. This bill will benefit Liberty County/Hinesville

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1223 Provisions for Community Service Boards**

(Rep. Jeff Brown, R-69)

This bill reconstitutes community service boards; however, governing authorities would still make the appointments to the community service boards ensuring that the members reflect the cultural and social characteristics of the board area. The bill will allow community service boards to contract to provide services through the State's managed care program for Medicaid recipients.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1224 Revisions to the Health Share Volunteers in Medicine Act** (Rep. Mickey Channell, D-116)

This bill revises the definition for low-income and volunteer in the Health Share Volunteers in Medicine Act. Low-income includes those whose family income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Volunteer means any person who provides goods or clerical services, computer services or administrative support services, with or without monetary or material compensation.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1257 Revise Certain Change-of-Address Filings for Insurance**

(Rep. Tom Knox, R-24)

The original bill related to fees and exempting certain changes of addresses filings by agents, subagents, counselors

and adjuster. This final bill revises the definition of emergency medical provider to include any provider of emergency medical transportation licensed or permitted by the Department of Human Resources. Additionally, the term "emergency health care provider" includes without limitation an emergency services provider and a licensed ambulance service providing 911 emergency medical transportation.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1272 Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Volunteer Health Clinics**

(Rep. Tom Graves, R-12)

This bill provides nonprofit clinics that treat the uninsured a break from sales taxes, the same exemption that currently applies to nonprofit hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. The volunteer health clinics must be tax exempt organizations under the IRS to qualify for the exemption. The exemption sunsets June 30, 2008 for nonprofit volunteer clinics in addition to nonprofit nursing homes, nonprofit licensed in-patient hospital and nonprofit general or mental hospitals. Because of the unintended consequences of providing a sunset provision applicable to the entities that presently receive the sales and use tax exemption, the Governor vetoed the bill.

*Status: Vetoed by Governor, May 9, 2006*

**HB 1372 Termination Coverage of State Health Benefit Plan** (Rep. Ben Harbin, R-118)

This bill provides for a mechanism for terminating coverage for nonpayment of premium for the state health benefit plan. Additionally, the bill provides that certain county officials may elect to be included in a health insurance plan, health maintenance organization or other health benefits plan offered or provided by a county. The governing authority of a county may elect to provide for payment in a uniform manner of all, any portion or none of the employer's required premiums or payments. If the governing authority elects not to provide for any payment of the premium the county official is responsible for the full payment. The bill also includes HR 1732 that creates the House Asthma Strategic Planning Study Committee. A report from the study committee is due on or before December 31, 2006.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006; the study committee upon appointment of members*

**HB 1451 Long-term Care Partnership Program**

(Rep. Donna Sheldon, R-105)

This bill establishes the Long-term Care Partnership Program, administered by the Department of Community Health with assistance from the Commissioner of Insurance and the Department of Human Resources.

The purpose of the program is to provide incentives for individuals to insure against the costs of providing for their long-term care needs. The bill brings state law in compliance with federal regulations.

*Status: Effective April 19, 2006*

#### **HR 1287 House Public Libraries Study Committee**

(Rep. Chuck Sims, R-169)

The resolution creates the House Public Libraries Study Committee to examine the state public library system established in Georgia in the 1940s. Over \$30 million of state funds and over \$165 million of local funds are expended annually to support public libraries. This will be a formal study of public libraries; the committee will have nine members, one to be appointed by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia. The report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006.

*Status: Effective upon appointment of members*

#### **HR 1663 House Study Committee on Public Health**

(Rep. Donna Sheldon, R-105)

The resolution creates a House study committee to examine the county health department grant-in-aid funding formula, the uses of current funding including the salaries of local public health workers, identify local public health needs and address other related issues. The committee will have five members; the report of the committee is due on or before December 31, 2006.

*Status: Effective upon appointment of members*

#### **SB 208 Central Registry for Traumatic Brain/Spinal Injuries**

(Sen. Michael Meyer Von Bremen, D-12)  
This bill provides that all persons with traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries are registered through a state-wide Central Registry for Traumatic Brain and Spinal Injuries. The purpose is to ensure that all such persons are able to obtain information about rehabilitative, independent living and other services or goods provided by existing state agencies, departments, other organizations and individuals. The Commission shall establish procedures whereby a person with a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury shall be informed of all services available to them.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

#### **SB 529 Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act**

(Sen. Chip Rogers, R-21)  
This bill contains numerous provisions concerning undocumented persons. The bill denies some state benefits to undocumented adults and after January 1, 2008 uses the tax code to penalize employers with undocumented people on their payrolls. The bill includes language from the 1996 federal law referring to the Attorney General's specification

of state and local services that remain available to undocumented people and will not require verification. Among these are medical and public health services, including treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries and mental health, disability, or substance abuse assistance necessary to protect life or safety and delivered in-kind in the community without being conditioned on patients' income or resources. The bill requires that a contractor or subcontractor doing business with any state or local government agency use a federal work authorization program to verify the legal status of all new hires.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2007*

#### **SB 572 Medical Assistance Managed Care Fraud**

(Sen. Greg Goggans, R-7)

This bill was requested by the Department of Community Health (DCH) to address the issue of Medicaid fraud to include the Care Management Organizations (CMO's) that will deliver care to the Medicaid population. The bill became the vehicle for HB 1473. The bill requires DCH, its board, or any other representative of the state to notify the legislature of any request for a waiver affecting 20,000 or more individuals in the Georgia Medicaid population. The bill also incorporates the language of HB 1498 to alleviate the impact on families when the State attempts to recover Medicaid costs from the estates of people who have received Medicaid long-term care services. The bill prevents the State from trying to collect against the first \$100,000 of the estate's value and also prevents it from collecting for services delivered prior to the effective date of the new law.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2006*

#### **SB 581 Training for Emergency Medical Personnel**

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This bill authorizes the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to provide training for emergency medical personnel, as funds are available. Emergency medical personnel includes emergency medical technicians or emergency rescue specialists who are certified or seeking certification as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, tactical emergency medical officers and cardiac technicians. Nothing in this legislation shall prevent the Department of Technical and Adult Education from providing any course of instruction.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

#### **SR 785 Joint Comprehensive State Trauma Service Study Committee**

(Sen. Eric Johnson, R-1)  
The resolution creates a Joint Comprehensive State Trauma Service Study Committee to determine how to

improve the state trauma network. The study committee will have 10 members, five appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate with a report due on or before December 31, 2006.

*Status: Effective upon appointment of members*

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

### **HB 1097 Change Billboard Laws and Remove Tree Cutting Restriction** (Rep. Tom McCall, R-30)

This law prohibits billboards that advertise entertainment appealing to the prurient interest. It also allows LED multiple messages boards, removes current tree cutting restrictions in front of billboards, and lowers the height of billboards. Of great concern to counties, an amendment was tacked on to this bill in the late hours of the session's final day that prohibits local governments from regulating political campaign signs in terms of how many are posted on private property and the duration that they may be posted.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2006*

### **HB 1107 Land Conservation Tax Credit**

(Rep. Jay Roberts, R-154)

This law establishes a state income tax credit for those making qualified property donations for land conservation purposes. The credit is limited to a maximum of \$500,000 or 25 percent of the property's fair market value. Property otherwise required to be dedicated pursuant to local government regulations are not eligible. The total amount of the tax credit allowed cannot exceed \$250,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for corporations.

*Status: Effective April 21, 2006*

### **HB 1319 Enabling GEFA to Administer the Land Conservation Program**

(Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)

This law allows the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) to make grants and loans to local governments for all land conservation projects under the Land Conservation Program. Currently, GEFA is set up to administer grants and loans for water, sewer and solid waste management facilities.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **HB 1320 Litter Prevention and Abatement Act**

(Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)

This Act consolidates 25 different references to litter in the existing code into one comprehensive Litter Prevention and Abatement Act. The Act also considers littering a crime, not

just an offense against the environment; establishes a clear definition of litter and two classes thereof (litter and egregious litter); institutes a "shame provision," publicizing litter convictions; holds drivers responsible for litter leaving their vehicles; allows additional courts to hear littering violations; increases the penalties for serious littering violations; and requires the annual monitoring and reporting of the status of littering in Georgia.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **SB 191 Expedited EPD Permit Review**

(Sen. Ross Tolleson, R-20)

An applicant for an environmental permit may now retain a qualified professional to review an application prior to submittal to Environmental Protection Division. If the qualified professional certifies an application as complete, EPD is compelled to "act expeditiously" on the application. The law also revises the agricultural irrigation permit system for the Flint River Basin – an area which has been under a permit moratorium for the last several years.

*Status: Effective April 20, 2006*

### **SB 578 Amend Grease Manifest Law**

(Sen. Jim Whitehead, R-24)

This bill would have amended the commercial waste (grease) manifest law, allowing a local health department to inspect and issue permits for trucks hauling grease. Presently, only local government authorities are allowed to issue these permits. A permit issued by any local government authority or health department is good throughout the state. Concerns were raised that this bill would have allowed haulers to avoid paying the statutory permit fees, avoid having to be bonded, and that the bill blurred the issues of hauling waste and hauling septage.

*Status: Vetoed by Governor on May 9, 2006*

### **SR 818 Senate Septage Disposal Study Committee**

(Sen. John Bulloch, R-11)

This resolution is a compromise to the failed SB 163, which would have required each of the state's 159 counties to provide adequate disposal facilities for all septage generated from within that county. The resolution establishes a Senate study committee to examine the adequacy and need for reasonable and appropriate facilities for the legal and environmentally sound disposal of septage waste generated throughout the state.

*Status: Effective upon signature of study committee members*

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

[Staff: Kem Kimbrough]

### HB 513 Authorizing GBI Access to Certain Drivers License Information

(Rep. Austin Scott, R-153)

This bill clarified the GBI's authority to obtain drivers' histories from the Department of Driver Services, in order to pass them on to previously authorized local fire and law enforcement agencies through GCIC.

*Status: Effective April 27, 2006*

### HB 692 Amendments to Probation Management Act

(Rep. Ellis Black, R-174)

This bill prohibits a judge from banishing a probationer from any specific county of the state, but only to a specific judicial circuit, and also prohibits a judge from banishing a person to a judicial circuit where the services or programs required by their probation is not offered. Finally, the bill extends the sunset for the Department of Corrections' Probation Options program by two years, to June 30, 2008.

*Status: Effective April 28, 2006 (Sec. I) and June 15, 2006 (Sec. II)*

### HB 728 "Mattie's Call/Kimberly's Call" Act

(Rep. Bobby Franklin, R-43)

This bill authorizes GEMA and the Lottery Corporation to implement alert systems for the dissemination of information to media outlets and lottery sales points, in efforts to find missing elderly persons (Mattie's Call) or rape/murder suspects (Kimberly's Call). These alerts would be patterned after the current Amber Alert/Levi's Call system, and be available to local law enforcement agencies.

*Status: Effective April 28, 2006*

### HB 1019 Taser Certification Act

(Rep. Burke Day, R-163)

This bill requires that the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council develop a certification for the use of any electronic control weapon (such as a "TASER"). Further, it requires that any agency deploying such devices have written policies on their use and any officer using such a device be certified by POST to do so. Further, it requires that the state Public Safety Training Center implement the training developed in conjunction with POST. The requirements of the bill are subject to funds being appropriated by the General Assembly (not included in this year's budget).

*Status: Effective January 1, 2007 presuming funding is available*

### HB 1209 State Patrol Motorcycle Enforcement Unit for Metro Atlanta

(Rep. Jill Chambers, R-81)

This bill diverts revenue from citations written by the State Patrol's proposed motorcycle enforcement unit on the "urban interstate loop" to the state treasury. Only fines from GSP motorcycle citations and only those from the interstates within the I-285 perimeter are affected.

This legislation could lead to a severely increased administrative burden on the courts affected, and could also potentially lead to a loss of revenue for the operation of our courts. Further, it opens the door for future diversions of county revenues.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006 and expiring June 30, 2011*

### HB 1216 Authorizing All-Terrain Vehicles for Law Enforcement Use

(Rep. Alan Freeman, R-140)

This bill authorizes law enforcement (only) officers and agencies to utilize all-terrain vehicles on the public roads of the state, if properly registered, marked and equipped with emergency equipment.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### HB 1497 State-wide Regulation of Vicious Dogs

(Rep. David Knight, R-126)

This bill is essentially a statewide leash law, which requires the owner of a "vicious dog" to keep said animal within a "proper enclosure" or on a leash, subject to immediate confiscation by an authorized dog control officer or law enforcement official and prosecution for a misdemeanor. The new law explicitly provides that local governments may provide for more stringent restrictions without being pre-empted. Local governments are not liable for any failure to enforce the law, as alleged by a person injured by a vicious dog.

*Status: Effective April 27, 2006*

### HR 1396 House Study Committee on State and Local Law Enforcement Salaries

(Rep. Willie Talton, R-145)

This resolution creates a study committee to examine the pay and benefits of state and local law enforcement officers with the aim of enhancing the state's ability to recruit and retain better qualified personnel. While the committee itself is not empowered to mandate minimum salaries for local officers, the committee will proffer proposals for legislation upon its conclusion that may include mandates that will infringe on home rule.

*Status: Effective upon the appointment of the study committee members*

### **HR 1560 House Study Committee on Pandemic Preparedness**

(Rep. Clay Cox, R-102)

This resolution creates two study committees: one to study the needs for state and local governments to plan and prepare for the onset of a pandemic of disease, and another to study the pay and benefits of state law enforcement officers. The second study committee is a duplicate of that created in HR 1396, except that it is specific to state law enforcement officers routinely exercising the power of arrest.

*Status: Effective upon the appointment of the study committee members.*

### **SB 44 Authorizing DoC to Contract for Private Probation Detention Centers**

(Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

This bill explicitly authorizes the Department of Corrections to contract with private companies for the operation of probation detention/diversion centers and to establish rules and regulations for any such entities operating under a contract. An added section of the bill also subjects county and municipal probation officers to the same conditions, under the law and regulations set forth by the County and Municipal Probation Management Council, as private probation officers.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **SB 64 Reauthorizing "Slicktop" Patrol Vehicles for Traffic Enforcement**

(Sen. John Douglas, R-17)

This bill reauthorizes the State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies to utilize vehicles without a roof-mounted lightbar for purposes of traffic enforcement. The bill limits the State Patrol to deploying not more than two such vehicles per Patrol Post, and limits a local law enforcement agency providing full-time service to one such vehicle per agency. The bill authorizes such deployment only when the "slicktop" unit is equipped with an "illuminated agency identifier" displaying the type of agency, in addition to its other emergency lighting. Finally, the bill also provides that a driver who is in fear of being stopped in an unsafe location may continue to drive after seeing a display of emergency equipment for a reasonable distance, at a safe speed and with their flashers blinking, to a location where they feel safer.

*Status: Effective April 20, 2006*

### **SB 203 Authorizing Counties to Recover the Cost of Indigent Defense**

(Sen. John Wiles, R-37)

This bill authorizes counties and the state to seek restitution of money expended to provide indigent defense for persons with the means to have provided their own defense. The bill

clarifies the commitment of recovered funds to counties, and the entitlement of counties to application fees. The bill was amended so that it also specifies that fine add-on funds collected at the local level for local purposes would remain at the local level and only be reported to the state, rather than remitted for processing. The amended bill further clarifies the definitions of "civil filing" for the purposes of add-ons to be collected in probate courts.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **SB 462 Sheriffs Responsibility for Courthouse Security** (Sen. Joseph Carter, R-13)

This bill requires that the sheriff create and implement a comprehensive plan for the security of the county courthouse and any courthouse annex. The sheriff must conduct a formal review of the plan every four years. The plan must be submitted to the chief judge of the circuit, who has 30 days to review it; the judge may adopt the plan in the form of an order of the court. The sheriff shall provide an estimate of the cost for the plan and a schedule for implementation to the county governing authority, 30 days prior to the adoption of such plan. The plan shall be subject to the annual budget approved for the sheriff by the county governing authority. The sheriff shall be the official custodian of the plan and maintain it confidentially. Any judge who has a courtroom in the county and any commissioner of the county shall have access to the plan for review in the sheriff's office or in executive session. The plan itself shall be exempt from the Open Records Act, and any meetings held to discuss the plan shall be exempt from the Open Meetings Act.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

### **SB 503 Updates to the Indigent Defense Act**

(Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

This bill provides for several administrative changes to the Indigent Defense Act, as requested by the Public Defender Standards Council. The changes include staggered terms for members of the council, and authorization for the application fee to be collected as a condition of probation, in addition to previously authorized means. Further, by new language in the bill, eligibility for indigent defense is capped for persons charged with a felony at an income level of 150% of the federal poverty level and for persons charged with misdemeanors at 125% of the federal poverty level. Later amendments also restrict public defenders from displaying any badge or other symbol that would cast the impression that they are a peace officer, and allows for a judge to continue any case in which the lawyer is a

member of the General Assembly engaged in official duties.  
*Status: Effective May 3, 2006*

**SR 793 Public Defenders Initial Standard for Removal from Office** (Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

**SR 954 Public Defenders Initial Standard for Performance in Adult Cases**

(Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

**SR 955 Public Defenders Initial Standard for Performance in Juvenile Cases**

(Sen. Bill Hamrick, R-30)

These resolutions presented to the General Assembly the first of many standards promulgated by the Public Defender Standards Council which, now that they are ratified, carry the full force of law. Having these standards ratified now empowers the Council to take action against a circuit public defender and his/her personnel for failing to perform their duties.

*Status: Effective May 3, 2006*

**GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

[Staff: Jim Grubiak]

**HB 304 Building Inspections: Regulatory Fees/ Fireworks Ordinances Preempted** (Rep. Ron Dodson, I-75)

Regulatory Fees: As introduced last session, HB 304 would have required that fees for inspection services be calculated on an individualized job basis taking into account actual time spent on each job and other expenses related to the specific inspections. ACCG strongly opposed the original version of the bill. However, a substantially improved substitute bill passed. As amended, the bill establishes several methods for calculating regulatory fees including flat fees according to occupation, flat fees according to type of permit or inspection, fees based on hourly rates, fees based on hourly rates plus administrative expenses; and fees based on number of square feet of construction in conjunction with building valuation data published by the International Code Council. This bill also amends existing law which allows regulatory fees to be paid within two days after commencing the service being provided when the services are necessary for the health or safety of the individuals seeking the service. The new language allows the deferred fees when commencing service is necessary for the “comfort” of the individuals seeking the service. The revised bill is a product of deliberations between the building inspectors’ professional organization, ACCG, GMA, utility contractors and the author.

Fireworks Ordinances: The bill was also amended to address an unrelated topic. Specifically, HB 304 amends existing law relating to the regulation of fireworks. It provides that any county or city ordinance that attempts to regulate the sale of fireworks beyond what is allowed by state

law under Code Section 25-10-1 is expressly preempted and void.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 941 Authorizing Posting of Historical Documents** (Rep. Tommy Benton, R-31)

Authorizes counties and cities to post a display known as the Foundations of American Law and Government in a visible and public location in the judicial facilities of the county or city. The documents include the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Carta, the Ten Commandments, the Bill of Rights, and other documents.

*Status: Effective July 1, 2006*

**HB 1385 Private Employment of Professional Engineers and Architects for Plan Review**

(Rep. John Heard, R-104)

If a county that manages a building code inspection department is unable to provide plan review within 30 business days of receiving a request for review, the builder or developer, at its own expense, may retain the services of an independent professional engineer or architect to undertake the review. The review by the outside party will have to meet at least the same standards as the review performed in-house. All fees otherwise due the county will still be due the county. If the plan meets all requirements, the engineer or architect retained to conduct the review will prepare an affidavit that the plan meets standards provided in law. The bill also authorizes counties to pre-qualify and de-certify engineers or architects to serve as independent third-party reviewers. ACCG, GMA, DCA, the state insurance department and the building inspectors’ professional association (BOAG) worked with the general contractors’ association and others in ensuring that the public’s interest are protected.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2007*

**SB 84 Voter ID** (Sen. Cecil Staton, R-18)

SB 84 revises the voter ID legislation passed during the 2005 legislative session. The changes are intended to address flaws found in the original law by the federal courts. Of significance to counties, SB 84 would require each county board of registrars to establish at least one place in each county where voter ID cards containing a color photograph of the applicant can be obtained. SB 84 would prohibit the charging of a fee for the application for or the issuance of an ID card. The voter ID card would be issued upon presentation and verification of the following identification information by the board of registrars: (1) a photo identity document or a non-photo identity document that includes both the person’s full

legal name and date of birth; (2) documentation showing the person's date of birth; (3) proof of the person's social security number; and (4) documentation showing the person's name and address. Once issued, the ID card does not have to be renewed so long as the person's address remains the same. In order to avoid creation of a substantial financial burden on county taxpayers, SB 84 also specifies that the State Election Board shall provide each board of registrars with the necessary equipment, forms, supplies and training for the production of the voter ID cards. The bill also requires the state to maintain the equipment.

*Status: Effective January 26, 2006*

#### **SB 450 Compensation Adjustments for County Officers, Magistrates, Commissioners and Coroners**

(Sen. Brian Kemp, R-46)

This bill addresses compensation of sheriffs, probate judges, tax commissioners, clerks of superior court, magistrates and county commissioners as follows:

(1) The bill rolls the four previously approved annual COLAs provided to county officers and magistrates since 2001 into a new base salary. This will improve the process of calculating salaries this coming year.

(2) The bill makes adjustments in salaries of the probate judges, tax commissioners, clerks of court and magistrates by making the salary schedules uniform for each population category for each position. Some county officers and magistrates will get additional compensation as a result of applying uniformity. Note that sheriffs will continue to have a higher salary schedule than the other three county officers and the magistrates recognizing the inherent risks associated with the sheriffs' responsibilities.

(3) Rather than wait until the next decennial census, county officers and magistrates will be entitled to compensation under higher population brackets whenever a county moves into the higher population bracket according to DCA population estimates in effect on July 1 of any year.

(4) All county officers and magistrates will get a

2 ½ % increase in compensation across the board.

(5) A longevity increase provision is enacted for county commissioners whereby compensation will be automatically increased by 2 ½ % every four years upon being reelected similar to the longevity raises county officers and magistrates get upon being reelected. For commissioners that serve two - year terms, the automatic longevity increase is 1 ¼ %. For commissioners that serve six-year terms, the automatic longevity increase is 3 ¾ %. The first longevity increase for commissioners will take effect for commissioners reelected in the November 2006 general election.

(6) Finally, coroner fees will be increased from \$125 to \$175 per investigation where no jury is impaneled. The \$250 coroner fee for investigations where a jury is impaneled remains unchanged.

**Note:** While SB 450 becomes law on July 1, 2006, O.C.G.A. Section 1-3-4.1 provides that all county compensation increases are effective January 1 of the year following the year in which the compensation law is enacted.

*Status: Effective January 1, 2007*

#### **SR 1315 Recognizing Annexation Problems and Urging ACCG and GMA to Propose Corrective Legislation**

(Sen. Don Balfour, R-9)

SR 1315 recognizes that annexation is a problem especially in urban and urbanizing areas of the state. The resolution "strongly urges that the Georgia Municipal Association and ACCG make every effort to resolve the problems created by annexation for counties, school districts, and the public." In addition, the resolution urges that legislation to resolve the problems of annexation be jointly prepared and proposed by the two associations in time for consideration in the 2007 session of the General Assembly.

*Status: Effective March 27, 2006*

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: FAILED TO PASS**

<b>Economic Development &amp; Transportation</b>		
<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
HB 137	Enact Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 152	Use State Sales Tax Abatement for Redevelopment	Rep. Ed Setzler
HB 294	Permit Speed Cameras in School Zones	Rep. Melvin Everson
HB 1033	Require Referendum Prior to Funding Commuter Rail	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 1090	Prohibit Bidding by Delinquent DOT Contractors	Rep. Ben Harbin
HB 1323	Create Infrastructure Development Districts	Rep. Larry O'Neal
HB 1337	Permit Leasing of Property Adjacent to Rest Areas	Rep. John Lunsford
HR 1094	Appropriate Aviation Fuel Taxes to Airports	Rep. Chuck Scheid
HR 1338	Authorize Infrastructure Development Districts	Rep. Larry O'Neal
SB 414	Create Residential Community Improvement Districts	Sen. Cecil Staton
SB 431	Require Timely Utility Relocation in Transportation Projects	Sen. Jim Whitehead
SB 453	Mandate Use of Biodiesel in Government Vehicles	Sen. Brian Kemp
SB 483	Study Traffic Signals Along State Roads	Sen. Valencia Seay
SR 682	Authorize Residential Community Improvement Districts	Sen. Cecil Staton
<b>General County Government</b>		
HB 475	Clerk of Superior Court as Clerk of All Courts	Rep. Robert Mumford
HB 547	Maximum Development Impact Fee on Single Family Residential Construction	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 684	Open Records: Requests in Writing	Rep. Mark Hatfield
HB 833	Procurement Registry	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 962	Fair Annexation Act	Rep. Doug Holt
HB 1049	Collection of Regulatory Fees After Commencing Services	Rep. Ron Dodson
HB 1071	Open Records: Attorneys Fees	Rep. Austin Scott
HB 1100	Whistleblower Suits Against Public Employers	Rep. Mike Jacobs
HB 1101	Limit Additional Annexation to Areas of a City in Adjoining Counties	Rep. Doug Holt
HB 1230	Transportation Impact Fees: Expend Fees on Projects in Proximity to Development	Rep. Ed Lindsey
HB 1369	Whistleblower Suits Against Public Employers	Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver
HB 1386	Providing Access to Family Burial Grounds	Rep. Charles Jenkins
HR 1791	Urging ACCG and GMA to Propose Annexation Legislation by 2007 Legislative Session	Rep. Donna Sheldon
SB 383	Clerk of Superior Court as Clerk of All Courts	Sen. Preston Smith
SB 569	Incorporation of New Cities: Forced Sale of County Infrastructure and Facilities to City	Sen. Dan Weber

SR 1040	Inverse Condemnation/Regulatory Takings: Compensation to Property Owners	Sen. Chip Pearson
SR 1194	Urging ACCG and GMA to Resolve Differences Regarding Land Use, Service Delivery and Revenues	Sen. Don Balfour
SR 1282	Senate Annexation Study Committee	Sen. Don Balfour
<b>Health and Human Services</b>		
HB 991	Abolish Community Service Boards	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 1009	Policy for Public Benefits to aliens	Rep. Melvin Everson
HB 1220, 1221	Additional Funds for Uninsured Trauma services	Rep. Harry Geisinger
HB 1266	Transfer of Persons in Jail Under the Supervision of DHR	Rep. Bobby Parham
HB 1311	Insurance for Mental Health Treatment	Rep. Pat Gardner
HB 1331	State Grant-In-aid Funds for Certain Counties	Rep. Donna Sheldon
HB 1481	Establishes the Georgia Methamphetamine Offender Registry	Rep. Mike Coan
HR 1299	Trauma Care Trust Fund	Rep. Ron Stephens
HR 1664	Joint Study Committee on Public Health	Rep. Donna Sheldon
<b>Public Safety and the Courts</b>		
HB850	Additional Fees for Local Indigent Defense Funding	Rep. David Ralston
HB1250	Extending the Department of Corrections' Probation Options Program	Rep. Terry Barnard
HB1266	Persons Receiving Mental Health Care To Be Transferred from Jail to State Custody	Rep. Bobby Parham
HB1340	Creating an Indigent Defense Coordinator Position	Rep. Mack Crawford
HB1431	Additional Requirements for Public Defenders	Rep. John Lunsford
HR1692	House Study Committee on Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness and Training	Rep. Burke Day
SB 433	Increasing the Per Diem Rate Paid to Counties for Housing State Inmates	Sen. Regina Thomas
SB 494	Additional Fees for Court Technology and Security	Sen. Jeff Mullis
<b>Natural Resources and Environment</b>		
HB 510	No Water System Availability Fees	Rep. Bob Smith
HB 1116	Severance Tax on Minerals for County Purposes	Rep. Debbie Buckner
HB 1203	Establish Trust Fund for Erosion and Sedimentation Fees	Rep. Stephanie Benfield
HB 1453	Allow Dumping of Yard Waste in Municipal Landfills	Rep. Tom McCall
HR 1054	Inverse Condemnation Constitutional Amendment	Rep. Burke Day
SB 163	County Septage Disposal Mandate and Hauler Subsidization	Sen. Casey Cagle
SB 294	No Local Government Tree Ordinances Applying to Private Property	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 492	No Stream Buffers Beyond State 25' and 50' Minimums	Sen. Chip Pearson

SB 493	No Ad Valorem Tax on Land in Stream Buffers	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 510	Variance and Exemption Procedure for State 150' (Part V Water Supply Watershed) Stream Buffer	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 512	Expedite EPD Variances and Permits from 90 Days to 60 Days	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 575	Local Governments to Pay for Metro Atlanta Plumbing Retrofits	Sen. Seth Harp
SB 599	Expand Scope of Practice for Land Surveyors on Water/Sewer/Stormwater Design	Sen. Ross Tolleson
SB 604	Expand CUVA to all Lands in Stream Buffers or 100 Year Floodplains	Sen. Seth Harp
SR 1040	Inverse Condemnation Constitutional Amendment	Sen. Chip Pearson
<b>Revenue and Finance</b>		
HB 1063	Exempt Business Inventory from Personal Property Tax	Rep. Chuck Scheid
HB 1065	Municipal Operations Sales Tax (MOST)	Rep. Chuck Scheid
HB 1306	Limit SPLOST Referendum Dates	Rep. Jeff May
HR 162	Constitutional Amendment to Cap Property Assessment Increases	Rep. Edward Lindsey

## APPROPRIATIONS

[Staff: Suzanne Nieman]

### HB 1027

FY 2007: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007  
(Reductions in state funding or program eliminated in the FY 2007 budget are in parenthesis)

#### Judicial Branch – Superior Court

- Provide funding for 4 new judgeships and requirements in Houston, Blue Ridge, Coweta and Paulding circuits (Conference Committee language: add Cobb and Laurens in FY 2007 Amended budget)

#### Judicial Branch – Public Defender Standards Council

- (\$14,246,938) general reductions in operating expenses

#### Department of Agriculture

- \$309,278 to fill 7 vacant positions: pathologist at the Athens/Tifton Veterinary Lab, inspector, veterinary

district supervisor, food safety and plant protection positions

- \$121,399 for diagnostic equipment and supplies at the Oakwood Poultry Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and branch laboratories to increase the total number and quality of tests

#### Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

- (\$116,500) reduce annual contacts to the 16 Regional Development Centers
- \$300,000 for 2 time-limited positions and funding to support the development of a strategy for sound economic development and conservation for Georgia's coastal region by DCA's Coastal Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee
- \$100,000 additional funding for the Hands on Georgia contract for community challenge grants
- \$2,950,738 in specific grants or loans to numerous counties for Local Assistance (Total \$6,540,903)

- \$110,508 to add 1 position and travel expenses to implement economic development strategies in rural Georgia
- \$5,000,000 to expand the Life Sciences Facilities Fund for investment in entrepreneur-led startup businesses to promote job growth in Georgia's bioscience industry
- \$500,000 additional funding to the Georgia Cities Foundation
- \$5,000,000 grant funds for local governments in the Governor's Land Conservation program, include a land conservation position
- \$150,000 additional contract funds to the Georgia Rural Water Association
- \$90,108 fund 1 position in GRTA Transit Implementation program to coordinate transit services and policy

#### Department of Community Health

- \$150,000 to upgrade the cancer treatment center at Oconee Medical Center
- \$750,000 one-time funding to the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care to establish a statewide EMR system to link the federally qualified Community Health Centers
- \$150,000 additional funds to support the Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network
- \$200,000 for the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition
- \$3,750,000 support the operation of Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital – transfer funds from Indigent Care Trust Fund
- \$1,100,000 increase operating grants at Mercer School of Medicine, \$1,100,000 and Morehouse School of Medicine, \$405,665

#### Department of Corrections

- \$1,389,359 start-up fund and 3 months operating for the Bainbridge Probation Substance Abuse Treatment Center's 192 bed expansion
- \$9,613,895 additional funding for Health Services Purchases

- \$500,000 funding for Hepatitis B Immunizations
- (\$4,854,999) reduce funding for County Subsidy for Jails to reflect reduction in county jail backlog
- \$4,267,522 for 3.5% CPI increase in the per diem rate for contracted prison beds and 470 additional beds
- \$1,026,148 additional funding to reflect annualized cost of 4 Day Reporting Centers opened in FY 2006

#### Department of Driver Services

- \$945,665 increase personal services by adding 35 examiner positions in the License Issuance program
- \$100,000 fund complimentary Photo Identification cards to qualifying individuals
- \$358,942 increase operating expenses to expand agency services available on the Internet
- \$700,000 to provide for a new Blue Ridge Customer Service Center
- \$200,000 to renovate the Athens and Newnan Customer Service Centers

#### Department of Economic Development

- \$200,000 funding to promote Georgia Film, Music and Video
- \$250,000 funding for Global Commerce Development
- \$1,000,000 funding to the Innovation and Technology program for a bioscience collaboration project o identify and design public/private partnering opportunities that will leverage private funding to stimulate bioscience industry growth in Georgia

#### State Forestry Commission

- \$233,903 for 4 additional foresters to address forest pests and diseases in order to preserve the health of Georgia's forest lands
- \$93,982 create a bioenergy program to address Georgia's energy needs through the development of bioenergy markets and greater use of forest resources
- \$208,500 for 2 foresters to preserve water quality through education,

- training and evaluation of best management practices
- \$455,000 fill 15 vacant positions to provide adequate staffing for a moderate fire season

#### Office of the Governor

- \$3,000,000 for the Office of Consumer Affairs to implement a statewide customer service initiative

#### Department of Human Resources

- \$400,000 supplemental Public Health grant-in-aid funding to the counties that are spending the lowest per citizen based on population – Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Fayette, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Paulding
- \$400,000 for relocation of the Bryan Gordon, Banks and Randolph County DFCS facilities
- \$1,000,000 for provider training and treatment services for 200 methamphetamine-addicted adults with children in Adult Services program and the Adult Addictive Disease Services program
- \$240,000 operation of the Emanuel Regional Detoxification Center
- \$1,452,545 for the Adult Essential Health Treatment Services program to treat low-income, uninsured or underinsured patients with survivable cancers
- \$1,523,479 for one adult crisis stabilization unit in the Adult Mental Health Services program so that consumers can be served in the community rather than at a state hospital
- \$250,000 one-time funding to support the new building project for the Savannah Area Behavioral Health Collaborative
- \$1,000,000 initiate trauma care funding to subsidize designated trauma centers uncompensated care costs for the provision of direct patient care to victims of traumatic injuries
- \$225,000 for 3 new rape crisis centers in the areas of most need of the

- northern, southern and eastern regions of the state
- \$150,000 to begin a state run program providing suicide prevention services through the Division of Public Health
- \$250,000 evaluation and technical assistance funding to Family Connection Partnership

#### Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- \$1,018,090 establish the Meth Force to investigate methamphetamine-related crimes by funding an agent school to fill 15 vacancies and associated operating expenses
- \$200,000 establish a Local Law Enforcement and Fire Protection Grants program to assist local governments

#### Department of Natural Resources

- \$400,000 enhance water modeling and monitoring in the Environmental Protection program
- \$4,500,000 increase funding for the Solid Waste Trust program from \$1.5 million to \$6 million

#### Department of Public Safety

- \$277,500 to implement a 10 Trooper Motorcycle unit located in the Metro Atlanta area
- \$150,000 funds to develop the Dalton Diversion Center as a Training Center

#### Department of Transportation

- \$1,213,950 increase grant funding for the Airport Aid program to provide needed maintenance and improvements at Georgia's public airports
- \$55,187,266 for local road initiative by increasing the local assistance road program (LARP) from \$38 million to \$67.9 million, state fund construction/off-system (to \$34 million) and state fund construction/most-needed (to \$23 million)
- \$2,000,000 increase funding for mass transit grants in the Transit program leveraging additional local and federal funds

*Status: Effective May 8, 2006*

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