



Final Legislative Report

2007 Session of the General Assembly

June 2007

ACCG Legislative Staff:

Economic Development & Transportation: Matthew Hicks – mhicks@accg.org
General County Government: Jim Grubiak – jgrubiak@accg.org
Health & Human Services: Suzanne Nieman – snieman@accg.org
Natural Resources & Environment: Todd Edwards – tedwards@accg.org
Public Safety & The Courts: Kem Kimbrough – kimbrough@accg.org
Revenue & Finance: Clint Mueller – cmueller@accg.org

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED	
Revenue and Finance	2
Economic Development and Transportation	4
Health and Human Services	5
Natural Resources and Environment	6
Public Safety and the Courts	7
General County Government	8
APPROPRIATIONS	10
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: VETOED	13
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: CARRIED OVER	14

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Staff: Clint Mueller]

HB 78 Agritourism Authorized on Property Assessed as Conservation Use

(Rep. Richard Royal, R-171)

This legislation authorizes land in a conservation use covenant (CUVA) to be used for agritourism purposes without breaching the covenant. Agritourism is defined as charging admission for persons to visit and participate in the operation of a farm or dairy for entertainment or educational purposes and includes selling farm or dairy products to persons who visit.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 107 Public Disclosure of Municipal Franchise Fees

(Rep. Jan Jones, R-46)

Currently, unincorporated residents and businesses pay franchise fees on their utility bills and these revenues go to the municipalities to help pay for their general operating budgets. In many cases, these fees are not visible on the customer's utility bill. This legislation will require the fees to be shown on the utility bill when the provider does not include the fee in its rate base.

Status: Effective January 1, 2008

HB 128 Sales Tax Holiday

(Rep. Lynn Smith, R-70)

This legislation renews the “Back to School Sales Tax Holiday” and the “Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday” for this year. The Back to School Sales Tax Holiday will be held August 2 through August 5 and will exempt from sales tax the same clothing, computer equipment, and school supplies that were exempt last year. The Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday will be held October 4 through October 7 and will exempt from sales tax energy efficient products with a sales price of \$1,500.00 or less per product purchased for noncommercial home or personal use. Both sales tax holidays exempt state and local sales tax on eligible items purchased.

Status: Effective May 18, 2007

HB 169 Sales Tax Exemption for Donated Food

(Rep. Chuck Martin, R-47)

This legislation creates a sales tax exemption on prepared food and beverages which are donated to a qualified nonprofit agency and used for hunger relief purposes or donated following a natural disaster and used for disaster relief purposes. The exemption includes state and local sales tax and sunsets June 30, 2009.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 186 Sales Tax Exemption for Bio Fuel Plants

(Rep. Jim Cole, R-125)

This legislation creates a sales tax exemption on materials used in the construction of an alternative fuel facility primarily dedicated to the production of ethanol, biodiesel, butanol, and their by-products, when such fuels are derived from biomass materials such as agricultural products, or from animal fats. The exemption includes state and local sales tax and sunsets June 30, 2012.

Status: Effective May 24, 2007

HB 219 Collection of Local Sales Tax on Motor Fuel

(Rep. Richard Royal, R-171)

This legislation moves the collection of local sales tax on motor fuel from the retail level to the distributor level. The state changed their collections in 2003 and has seen an increase in revenues due to improved collection compliance. This legislation was one of ACCG’s priorities for this year.

Status: Effective January 1, 2008

HB 222 Prohibit Tax Commissioner from Purchasing Property at Tax Sales

(Rep. Billy Mitchell, D-88)

This legislation makes it illegal for a tax commissioner or an employee of the tax commissioner to buy any real property sold at public auction by the county unless they had an ownership interest in the property at the time the taxes became delinquent.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 227 Cable/Video TV Franchise Reform

(Rep. Jeff Lewis, R-15)

This legislation completely reforms the cable franchise law. Currently, county governments negotiate a local agreement with the cable providers servicing their unincorporated area. This legislation sets up a state franchise through the Secretary of State's office. New and existing cable/video providers can apply for a state franchise to provide service anywhere in the state. Cable/video providers could continue to operate under an existing/new local agreement or immediately terminate their local agreement and opt into the state agreement. The 5 percent franchise fee will continue to be paid directly to each local government by the providers. Customer service will be locally enforced until competition exists in at least 50 percent of the jurisdiction. Public access channels will be grandfathered in until 2012, then they will have to meet new programming standards. A detailed summary of this legislation can be found on the ACCG website (www.accg.org).

Status: Effective July 1, 2007; but can not be used until January 1, 2008

HB 232 Impact Fees

(Rep. Edward Lindsey, R-54)

This legislation authorizes local governments to collect stormwater impact fees at the time of development approval that authorizes site construction or improvement. It also increases the representation from development, building, or real estate industries on the Development Impact Fee Advisory Committee from 40 percent to 50 percent. Finally, it requires the accounting records to specify the address of each property which paid development impact fees, the amount of fees paid in each category in which fees were collected, and the date that such fees were paid. For any exemptions granted the accounting records must specify the address of each property for which exemptions were granted, the reason for which such exemption was granted, and the revenue source from which the exempt development's proportionate share of the system improvements is to be paid.

The remainder of the changes in the legislation applies only to the City of Atlanta.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 321 Conservation Use Valuation Assessment (CUVA)

(Rep. Richard Royal, R-171)

This legislation clarifies the law based on a court decision that came out of Effingham County allowing each person owning an individual interest in a family-owned farm entity to only count their percentage interest against the 2,000-acre cap. The cap for a family-owned farm entity could exceed 2,000 acres based upon the number of people owning an interest in the farm with each person potentially increasing the cap by 2,000 acres.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 380 Late Tax Payment Notification

(Rep. Calvin Hill, R-21)

This legislation exempts the purchaser of new property from paying a late penalty or interest on late taxes until 60 days after the tax commissioner has forwarded them the tax bill in the first year of purchase.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 445 Ad Valorem Tax Exemption on Timber Land Held in a Charitable Trust

(Rep. Richard Royal, R-171)

This legislation clarifies when an ad valorem tax exemption should be granted to a charitable 501(c)(3) corporation. After a new law took effect this year, some timber owners have interpreted the law to allow them to set up a charitable trust and use it to shelter their timber land from ad valorem taxes. This was not the intent of the legislature and this legislation more clearly defines the original intent to exempt the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

Status: Effective May 23, 2007

HB 486 Tax Commissioners: Collection-Municipal Taxes

(Rep. Wendell Willard, R-49)

Current law provides that tax commissioners may receive additional compensation for collecting municipal taxes by contracting with the city. The law also allows the county to recover costs of providing the service to the city. Rather than two contracts, this legislation provides, for counties with 50,000 or more tax parcels, there be one contract between the county and the city and

any additional compensation to the tax commissioner would be addressed in that contract and paid to the tax commissioner by the county.

Status: Effective May 24, 2007

SB 200/ SR 309 Infrastructure Development Districts

(Sen. Johnny Grant, R-25)

This legislation calls for a constitutional amendment to create a new tool for financing public infrastructure necessary for a master planned development. If passed in the 2008 statewide referendum, counties and cities would be able to create infrastructure development districts (IDDs). The local government sets the requirements for the public infrastructure financed within the district to ensure the agreed upon master plan is carried out. These districts give the county commission much more control over large master planned developments and allows counties to require a developer to construct schools, fire stations, roads, water and sewer, parks, libraries, and other public facilities and infrastructure necessary for new growth. The county commission can also require the district to pay for the maintenance of the infrastructure after it is built. This tool can be used to require new growth to pay for itself without burdening existing residents with additional taxes or inadequate public infrastructure. A detailed summary of this legislation can be found on the ACCG website (www.accg.org).

Status: Effective January 1, 2009 if passed by a constitutional amendment in a state-wide election November 2008.

SR 482 Communications Taxes and Fees Study Committee

(Sen. Chip Rogers, R-21)

This resolution establishes a Senate Study Committee to look at telecommunication taxes, fees, and franchising processes.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

[Staff: Matthew Hicks]

HB 2 Annexation Reform Compromise

(Rep. Doug Holt, R-112)

This legislation was supported by the leadership of both ACCG and GMA to replace the current nonbinding dispute resolution process in annexation law. The new binding process provides counties and unincorporated residents a more meaningful, fair avenue to have their concerns

considered if they are negatively impacted by a proposed annexation. Under the new law, a county will have 30 days to review a proposed annexation and file an objection if warranted. A county can object if there is a material change in zoning, land use, density or infrastructure demands. An independent five-member arbitration panel, made up of local government experts from outside the county, is appointed to hear the complaint. In arriving at a determination, the panel must consider a number of factors pertaining to current land-use, zoning, infrastructure, and related community impacts. If the county complaint is substantiated, the panel may set conditions on the annexation related to zoning, land use or density. If the county, city and landowner whose property is at issue come to an agreement prior to the panel issuing its decision, the agreement will stand as the panel's decision. The conditions set by the panel will have a binding effect for one year. The panel's decision can be appealed to Superior Court for an expedited review. The legislation takes effect September 1, 2007 to give time for DCA to create and train pools of arbitrators.

Status: Effective September 1, 2007

HB 192 Raise the Limit for Negotiating Transportation Contracts

(Rep. Vance Smith, R-129)

This legislation removes a little known requirement in transportation contracting law that requires counties to hold bonds for bidding, payment, and performance from engineering companies even when the contract is only for design services on transportation projects. It also increases the threshold by which GDOT must bid a transportation construction or maintenance contract to \$100,000 or more. The increase was requested in response to inflation in the price of asphalt, concrete and other construction materials, which has hindered GDOT in negotiating "quick response" transportation projects.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 519 Allow Permits for Taxicabs

(Rep. Harry Geisinger, R-48)

This legislation allows counties and cities to require the owner/operator of a taxicab or vehicle for hire to obtain a certificate of public necessity in order to operate. The county may establish the requirements as allowed under Georgia law and the certificate is transferable if all requirements are met by the new owner/operator.

Status: Effective May 29, 2007

HB 536 Adjust Fines for Overweight Vehicles

(Rep. Johnny Floyd, R-147)

This legislation adjusts the fines for overweight vehicles to be five cents per pound for all excess weight over the allowed weight limitations, including any applicable variances. Many trucking industries have a 5 percent cushion before being charged with violating posted weight limits.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 19 Require Timely Utility Relocation in Transportation Projects

(Sen. James Whitehead, R-24)

This legislation enables GDOT to hold utilities accountable when relocating utility facilities as part of transportation projects. GDOT reports a significant percentage of all project delays are due to utility relocations. This bill requires utilities to work with GDOT earlier in the planning process, authorizes the department to pay utility relocation costs, imposes a time frame for relocation by utility companies, allows damages to be collected if a utility fails to comply, and provides for mediation if a dispute arises between utility companies and the department.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 282 Create Alternative Tourism Routes

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This legislation orders the State Transportation Board to designate roads that traverse the state and pass through historic sites or tourist attractions as alternative tourism routes. The initial alternative tourism routes designated in the bill are U.S. Highway 27 and U.S. Highway 441. The Georgia Department of Economic Development shall promote the routes, sites, and attractions along the corridor. In addition, welcome centers shall be built within 20 miles of the state line on each end of the route within five years.

Status: Effective May 23, 2007

SR 365 Establish Study Committee on Transportation Funding

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This resolution creates a joint legislative study committee to examine transportation funding needs and make recommendations for new transportation revenue sources. The study committee will be composed of the Chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees and three House members and three Senate members to be appointed by the Speaker and the Lt. Governor, respectively.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[Staff: Suzanne Nieman]

HB 505 Authorizes DHR to Charge Fees Relating to the Licensure of Adult Day Centers

(Rep. Mark Butler, R-18)

The legislation authorizes the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to charge reasonable application fees, license fees, renewal fees or other similar fees relating to the licensure of adult day centers. The DHR Board will establish rules and regulations with input from consumers, providers of adult day health services and advocates and will establish fees. The fees will be used to support the licensing, inspecting and monitoring of adult day centers. Section 1 of the Act is effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for that purpose. The bill also includes procedures for the recovery of assistance from third parties liable for sickness, injury, disease or disability.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HR 49 Mental Health Professionals Study Committee

(Rep. Richard Royal, R-171)

This resolution creates the House Mental Health Professionals Study Committee to examine the financing and delivery of mental health services. The availability of a sufficient number of qualified, licensed mental health professionals is a critical foundation to the success of any system designed to improve the quality of mental health services. The study committee is directed to determine whether legislative action is needed to identify the shortage of mental health professionals in Georgia and ways to increase their numbers and maximize their ability to provide the best mental health services.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

HR 350 Study Committee on State Health System

(Rep. Ben Harbin, R-118)

This resolution creates a House Study Committee on the State Health System. The purpose of the study committee is to strengthen the state's health infrastructure from health professional education through quality personal and public health services available to all citizens. The Georgia health system must respond to a growing population, the threat of infectious pandemics and new infectious diseases, environmental hazards, increasing numbers of uninsured persons, decreased funding from all sources, dangerously significant variation in core public health protection and access to services between counties and regions. The committee will have six members appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

HR 721 House Study Committee to Incentivize Indigent Health Care by Physicians

(Rep. Sharon Cooper, R-41)

This resolution creates the House Study Committee to incentivize indigent health care by physicians composed of six members. The number of Georgia's uninsured citizens continues to grow and payments for physician services provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients do not cover the cost of treating those patients. The committee will try to determine the methodologies which will provide maximum incentives for physicians to ensure quality health care for indigent patients.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

SB 60 The Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission

(Sen. Cecil Stanton, R-18)

This legislation creates the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, made up of nine members, with the goal of strengthening the trauma system. The trauma network includes physicians, emergency medical services, designated and certified trauma centers, trauma care readiness costs and start-up costs for providers seeking a trauma care designation or certification. The Commission is the first step in developing a sustainable statewide quality trauma system. The Trauma Care Network Commission is assigned to the Department of Human Resources for administrative purposes.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SR 66 Senate Study Committee on the Shortage of Doctors and Nurses in Georgia

(Sen. Cecil Staton, R-18)

The resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on the Shortage of Doctors and Nurses in Georgia, composed of seven members. Georgia is faced with a medical crisis in the staffing of hospitals and health care facilities and a lack of physicians to care for the citizens of Georgia. There is a need to ensure that all Georgians have access to quality health care that cannot be met with the existing number of practicing nurses and doctors. The study committee will examine the issue and prepare a report on or before December 31, 2007.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

SR 403 Senate Study Committee on EMS Recruitment, Retention and Training in Georgia

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on EMS recruitment, retention and training in Georgia to ensure that all Georgians have access to the lifesaving measures that EMS professionals provide. The committee will have five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. A report of the committee is due December 31, 2007.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

SR 637 Senate Study Committee on Health Care Transformation

(Sen. Judson Hill, R-32)

This resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on Health Care Transformation, composed of four members. Access to services, and availability and affordability of health insurance have a direct impact on the lives and well-being of the residents of Georgia. A report will be made by December 31, 2007.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

[Staff: Todd Edwards]

HB 247 No Water Tie-ins to Existing Single Family Residences or Farms

(Rep. Bob Smith, R-113)

This legislation prohibits cities and counties from requiring a water connection, or charging an availability fee, to any existing single family residence or farm that is already on a private well unless that well's water is demonstrably unfit for human consumption. The property owner must be mailed notice of his or her right to opt out of the connection or availability fee and respond within 45 days. Nothing in the bill precludes a local government's ability from requiring connections for new residences or subdivisions. Public systems serving over 70,000 connections or averaging more than 200 connections per square mile are exempted, as are any projects for which revenue bonds have been issued and sold prior to January 1, 2008. Also exempted are any public systems funded primarily through a federal or state grant that requires the system to levy available fees.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 463 E&S Certification, LIA Amendments and Septage Land Disposal

(Rep. Tom McCall, R-30)

This legislation revises the new erosion and sedimentation (E&S) control certification requirements, clarifying which persons involved in land disturbing activities must be certified. It also subjects land-disturbance activities by local issuing authority (LIA) projects to the same ordinances required of private persons, to be enforced by the EPD (this is already required in law); requires Soil and Water Conservation Districts to review the actions of LIAs "semi-annually;" extends from 30 days to 90 days the time by which an

LIA must initiate corrective action if given a notice of noncompliance by the EPD or the LIA's certification "shall" be revoked; and prevents LIAs from altering the project-size threshold under which E&S certification is required under state law.

Lastly, SB 221, which failed to pass the Senate, was amended into HB 463. This language, resulting from a Senate Study Committee over the 2006-2007 interim, allows for a septage land disposal site to be located in a county, without the county having to approve it, so long as it meets local zoning and land use standards and is permitted by the state Environmental Protection Division. As also recommended by that study committee, the septage hauling manifest system is being enhanced by the Department of Human Resources and illegal dumping penalties have already been strengthened to a felony offense under 2006 revisions to the litter law.
Status: Effective May 14, 2007

SB 263 Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors (Sen. John Bulloch, R-11)

This legislation originally ended the practice of electing a portion of soil and water conservation district supervisors to having them all appointed by the SWCD Commission. It was amended in the Senate to now only clarify and revise the terms of both appointed and elected supervisors, allow supervisors to be elected during general elections, and state how supervisor vacancies are filled.
Status: Effective May 18, 2007

PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

[Staff: Kem Kimbrough]

HB 168 Qualifications of Associate Juvenile Court Judges (Rep. Robert Mumford, R-95)

This legislation requires all appointees to associate juvenile court judge meet the same minimum qualifications as a person eligible for appointment as presiding juvenile court judge. The qualifications require the person must be 30 years of age or older, have resided in the state for 3 years or more, and have practiced law for 5 years or longer.
Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 394 Revision of the 9-1-1 Code for New Technologies (Rep. John Lunsford, R-110)

This legislation changes the definitions of telephone service such that all technologies capable of delivering voice communications and accessing a 9-1-1 public safety answering point are subject to a 9-1-1 surcharge collected for the benefit of local governments. This includes Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and pre-paid wireless telephones.

Such fees will still be remitted directly to local governments, except for the pre-paid fees. The pre-paid fees will be remitted to the Department of Community Affairs to be placed in a state assistance grant fund for 9-1-1 improvements in needy areas. The grant applications would be approved by the Governor's 9-1-1 Advisory Council, which is heavily populated with local representation. The bill also contains a provision creating a criminal offense for obstructing the 9-1-1 system by prank or abusive calls.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 527 Registration Fee for Probation Companies and Agencies

(Rep. Billy Horne, R-71)

This legislation removes the requirement that all probation providers pay a registration fee to the County & Municipal Probation Advisory Council.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 586 Appointment of Conflict Counsel in Capital Cases (Rep. David Ralston, R-7)

This legislation changes the provisions for the appointment of conflict counsel in death penalty cases so as to limit the number of attorneys that may be appointed and paid for out of state or county funds. The bill originally limited the presiding judge to two attorneys paid out of state funds at a rate set by the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, allowed for the county to supplement those attorneys' fees, and also allowed for the presiding judge to appoint an unlimited amount of additional attorneys to be paid out of county funds at a rate set by the judge. As amended in committee at our request, the number of attorneys which may be paid out of county funds is now limited to one, and that attorney must be paid at the same rate set by the Council as for other attorneys. SB 67 was also amended onto HB 586 and clarifies that expenses for providing indigent defense are NOT expenses that a superior court judge can order paid out of county funds.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HR 609 House Study Committee on Pre-Paid Telecommunications Homeland Security Interests

(Rep. John Lunsford, R-110)

This legislation establishes a six-member study committee to evaluate the pre-paid cellular industry and to specifically examine the use of pre-paid cell phones for illicit conduct.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

SB 62 Update of the GCIC Code

(Sen. Jeff Mullis, R-53)

This legislation provides authorization for the electronic submission of fingerprints to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC), and authorization for the submission of fingerprints to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) by local governments once they have enacted an appropriate ordinance. The legislation further authorizes GCIC to release crime statistics directly to local law enforcement agencies or the general public.

Status: Effective May 11, 2007

SB 139 Making Public Defenders Part of the Executive Branch

(Sen. John Wiles, R-37)

This legislation transfers the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council from the judicial branch to the executive branch, for purposes of administration. Such transition provides the Governor greater oversight of the program and more flexibility as it relates to the management of their budget.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SR 246 Joint Comprehensive Study Committee on Indigent Defense

(Sen. John Wiles, R-37)

This resolution creates a joint House & Senate Study Committee to comprehensively evaluate the current system for providing indigent defense throughout the state. The committee's mission would be to decide whether the current system is providing an appropriate defense for an appropriate expense and would include a broader field of stakeholders in the review than were included in the effort to create the current system. County commissioners and our viewpoints will be included in the review. The committee would be empaneled at the close of this legislative session and report by the end of the calendar year.

Status: Effective upon appointment of members

GENERAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

[Staff: Jim Grubiak]

HB 16 Whistleblower Suits Against Local Governments

(Rep. Rich Golick, R-34)

This legislation extends law currently applicable to state employees to county, city and school board employees. The legislation authorizes a local government employee to sue his or her employer if the employee is fired, demoted, suspended or not hired if he or she believes it was in retaliation for reporting fraud, abuse or other wrongdoing.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 101 Open Records Act: Exempt Agricultural and Food System Records

(Rep. Penny Houston, R-170)

This legislation creates an exemption from the Open Records Act regarding agricultural or food system records, data, or information that are considered a part of the critical infrastructure. Also exempted are records, data, or information collected, recorded, or otherwise obtained for the purposes of the national animal identification system.

Status: Effective May 16, 2007

HB 109 Consolidation of County Without Cities

(Rep. Ellis Black, D-174)

This legislation establishes a procedure whereby a county that does not have any cities within its boundaries may be classified as a consolidated government.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 134 Increase Procurement Letter of Credit Limit

(Rep. Terry England, R-108)

This legislation increases the threshold (from \$300,000 to \$750,000) by which an irrevocable letter of credit may be accepted, in lieu of a bid bond, by a government entity taking bids on public works projects. The government entity still has the sole discretion over whether to accept the letter of credit.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 274 Qualifications for Notaries Public

(Rep. Ed Lindsey, R-54)

This legislation establishes additional qualifications for serving as a notary public, requires notaries to advise the clerk of superior court of certain changes in personal information, and provides penalties for failure to comply with requirements.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 318 Public Retirement Systems

(Rep. Tommy Benton, R-31)

This legislation amends the Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law. It provides that public retirement systems may invest in certain foreign corporations, allows the investment of public retirement system assets in certain real estate trusts, and increases the percentage of the assets that large public retirement systems may invest in foreign corporations.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

HB 383 Revisions to Georgia Condominium Act: Land Use and Zoning

(Rep. James Mills, R-25)

This legislation amends several provisions of the Georgia Condominium Act. Among other provisions the bill adds a new provision that specifies the effect of subdivision ordinances, zoning and land use regulations on expandable condominiums.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 40 Elections: Increase Penalties for Fraudulent Acts

(Sen. Cecil Staton, R-18)

This legislation increases the penalties for certain election offenses from a misdemeanor to a felony. These offenses include voting absentee; false registration; interference with primaries and elections; intimidation of electors at any primary or election; voting by an unqualified elector; and fraud by poll workers.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 101 Ag Uses Not a Nuisance

(Sen. Ross Tolleson, R-20)

This legislation amends existing law which specifies that agricultural facilities, agricultural operations and forest land uses cannot be considered nuisances as a result of changes in land use including urbanization by including commercial operations that manufacture, package, label, distribute, or store any forest product or that manufactures, packages, labels, distributes, or stores any building material made from gypsum rock within the term, "Forest products processing plant."

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 146 Amendments to State Procurement Law

(Sen. Mitch Seabaugh, R-28)

This legislation amends state procurement law, requiring project owners to list, in the bid plans, whether all anticipated environmental permits and right-of-way easements have been acquired, or an indication of their status; provide reasonable advance notice of any mandatory pre-bid conference; provide conceptual program information in an RFP in a "level of detail appropriate to the project delivery method selected for the project;" provide criteria for prequalification for each project that requires prequalification; and disclose in plans whether a project will be awarded by base bid or base bid plus selected alternates. Please review bill as several other changes have been made.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 156 Trust Fund for Post-Employment Benefits

(Sen. Don Balfour, R-9)

This legislation authorizes local governments to set up a trust fund for other post-employment benefits. The trust fund will help local governments comply with the financial reporting, disclosure, and actuarial requirements of new governmental accounting standards. Section 3 of the bill helps the University System come into compliance with these standards.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 194 Tabulation of Absentee Ballots

(Sen. Cecil Staton, R-18)

This legislation applies to the safekeeping, certification and validation of absentee ballots. The bill outlines how an absentee ballot is certified by the registrar and how they are opened and kept in safe keeping until time for tabulating the ballots. In order to open absentee ballots prior to the close of the polls, the registrar would have to publish a written notice at least one week prior to the primary, election or runoff. This amended bill includes provisions for changing the date of the presidential preference primary in Georgia to the first Tuesday in February beginning February 5, 2008, and changes the date by which the parties must submit names to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the ballot.

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

SB 212 Open Records: Records Containing Personal Information of Public Employees Made Confidential

(Sen. Don Balfour, R-9)

This legislation provides that personal information of all non-elected employees of the State of Georgia, counties and municipalities is considered confidential. Personal information, which includes social security numbers, mother's maiden name, credit card information, debit card information, bank account information, financial data or information, and insurance or medical information, and day and month of birth, must be redacted prior to the disclosure of any records otherwise available under the Open Records Act.

Status: Effective May 11, 2007

APPROPRIATIONS

[Staff: Suzanne Nieman]

HB 95 – Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008:

Total \$20,230,620,936

(Reductions or elimination of state funding in the FY 2008 budget are in parenthesis)

Judicial Council

- \$400,000 additional for the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts for DUI/Drug Courts
- \$750,000 additional for the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts for Felony and Juvenile Drug Courts

Juvenile Courts

- \$42,500 for a Juvenile Judge for the Coweta Circuit, Cobb and Gwinnett Judicial Circuits

Judicial Branch – Superior Court

- \$1,297,223 additional for new judgeships for the Cobb, Dublin, Gwinnett, Enotah and Cordele Judicial Circuits
- \$100,000 to continue the Fulton County Business Court created in FY05 for one additional year

Public Defender Standards Council

- \$35,430,140 continuation to assure that adequate and effective legal representation is provided independently of political considerations on private interests to indigent persons who are entitled to representation; the appropriations is \$4.5 million less than requested or collected. To the extent that any reduction in state funding will force a reduction in the amount of services that the Public Defenders will be able to provide, counties may be held responsible by the courts to assume responsibility for funding those obligations.

Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

- \$1,311,000 for two time-limited positions for the Local Update of Census Addresses project to ensure Georgia's citizens are accurately counted in the 2010 Census
- \$6,045,903 for grants or loans to eligible recipients or qualified local governments
- \$330,160 additional for the Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) program to assist local redevelopment authorities in creating comprehensive economic development plans
- \$42,337,944 grant funds to acquire lands for the preservation and protection of Georgia's critical and essential watersheds and wildlife habitats within the Governor's Land Conservation program
- \$500,000 for incentive grants for the reuse of treated wastewater to support growth and economic development
- \$400,000 to establish the E-85 Grant Program for gasoline additives for retail sale

Department of Community Health (DCH)

- \$1,300,000 to implement the Health Information Technology pilot, a partnership with the federal government to promote health care information transparency on a state-wide basis.
- Eliminate one-time funds for the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition (\$200,000)
- \$1,350,000 tobacco funds to improve access to primary health care in rural Georgia
- \$500,000 additional to the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), \$163,000 to support student housing while on community based clinical rotations and \$337,000 to

- increase core operating resources for the six regional AHEC centers
- \$1,500,000 for “new start” Community Health Centers (sites: Norcross, Gwinnett County; LaFayette, Walker County; Augusta-Richmond; Chatsworth, Murray County; Alma, Bacon County; Macon, Bibb County; Lakeland, Lanier County
- \$1,250,000 for behavioral health services integrated within existing Community Health Centers in multi-county sites in Southwest Georgia, East Georgia, West Georgia, Southeast Georgia
- \$750,000 additional to the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care to complete the statewide Electronic Medical Records system to link together the Federally Qualified Community Health Centers
- \$1,500,000 at \$250,000 for each of the six Regional Cancer Coalitions of Excellence
- \$1,154,396 in state funds [total funds \$2,929,940] to implement a Medicaid Buy-In Program

Department of Driver Services

- \$750,000 to construct, on land provided by Glynn County, a Brunswick Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Center

Department of Human Resources (DHR)

- Reduce funds from state hospital and utilize saving to fund 170 Mental Retardation Waiver Program slots
- \$7,200,000 additional for eighty-three additional secure forensic beds at various state hospitals
- \$225,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to serve additional children
- \$2,079,800 for an additional 500 slots in the Community Care Service Program (CCSP) for eligible elderly clients that enable them to live at home

- \$7,000,000 for antiviral medications to treat pandemic flu
- \$100,000 increase funding for the Georgia Poison Center at Grady Hospital
- \$1,500,000 additional for vaccines for underinsured children
- \$536,907 to annualize the cost of operating the Public Health Laboratory in Waycross/Ware County

Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)

- \$1,226,092 to add six Special Agent positions and fill nine vacant Special Agent positions for the Meth Force to investigate methamphetamine related crimes
- \$845,791 to add eight Special Agent positions, five support positions to implement the Child Safety Initiative to investigate child internet predator and child pornography cases
- \$201,996 to add three Special Agent positions to implement the Georgia Secure ID initiative

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- \$6,000,000 continuation funding for the Solid Waste Trust Fund
- \$7,600,000 continuation funding for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund
- \$300,000 for six positions in environmental protection for plan review and permit issuance to address needs in high-growth areas of the state
- \$1,350,000 additional to renovate aging coastal docks
- \$680,000 additional to support the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDL) to improve water quality
- \$2,500,000 to repair, renovate and construct state cottages and campgrounds
- \$5,000,000 new funding to develop the Governor’s “Go Fish Georgia” initiative as a means to promote and improve boating and fishing tourism around the state

State Board of Pardons and Paroles

- \$992,619 additional for a residential option for substance abuse treatment for parolees and one additional position

Department of Public Safety

- \$1,248,000 increased funds for network charges for interoperability to allow public safety service and support providers statewide to communicate via voice and/or data
- \$1,750,000 for 50 standard trooper cars

Regents, University System of Georgia

- \$4,083,333 from tobacco funds for the continued development of the Quality Information Exchange for the Georgia Cancer Coalition
- \$297,294 increase for the Public Library State Grants formula due to an increase in the state population
- \$900,000 for repair and renovation needs at facilities within the Georgia Public Library System
- \$10,000,000 additional to support the Georgia Gwinnett College (one-time change)
- \$2,838,996 additional for the Board of Regents to expand Medical School capacity
- \$10,000,000 additional for life sciences vaccine research
- \$5,000,000 additional for the planning and design of the Charlie Norwood Dental School at MCG in Augusta
- \$400,000 additional for a study evaluating the establishment of previously merged counties and townships in Georgia through GSU and CVIG

Department of Revenue

- \$428,290,501 continuation funding to provide homeowner tax relief grants to counties and local school districts, the eligible assessed value of each qualified homestead is \$8,000 for the taxable year beginning January 1, 2007

- \$1,364,084 to pay the employer portion of retirement benefits for local tax officials
- \$737,196 additional to add twelve tax compliance auditors
- \$3,300,000 additional for the implementation of a data warehouse to allow for the identification of underreporting and non-reporting taxpayers

Department of Technical Education

- \$3,124,900 increase operating and customized training funds to prepare the workforce related to the Kia project
- \$650,000 additional for fast track nursing initiative to increase the number of nursing graduates in the workforce
- \$1,500,000 additional for five start-up or existing Career Academies under the "Career Academies Act" of 2007

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- \$5,000,000 additional to support the state's airports
- \$60,000,000 continuation LARP (Local Assistance Road Program) funding
- \$27,000,000 continuation for State Fund Construction – Off System
- \$20,787,879 continuation for State Fund Construction – Most Needed

General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund – New

- \$2,082,783 (\$24,380,000 in principal 20 year bonds) - Department of Corrections to expand bed space by 1024
- \$226,390 (\$2,650,000 in principal 20 year bonds) - GBI to design, construct and equip a new Summerville Medical Examiners Office and Morgue
- \$1,196,020 (\$14,000,000 in principal 20 year bonds) – DNR to construct an Education and Visitor Center and Hatchery for "Go Fish Georgia"

Status: Effective July 1, 2007

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: VETOED

Economic Development and Transportation		
HB 202	Stop Transportation Contractors from Bidding if Behind Schedule	Rep. Ben Harbin
HB 430	Prohibit Taking of ROW	Rep. David Ralston
HB 451	Give Sales Tax Refund to Tourism Operations	Rep. Jeff Lewis
Health and Human Services		
HB 242	Exemption for Certain High Deductible Health Plans	Rep. Tom Knox
SR 363	Mental Health Service Delivery Commission	Sen. Johnny Grant
Revenue and Finance		
HB 162	Sales Tax Exemption for Volunteer Health Clinics	Rep. Chuck Martin
HB 374	Hotel/Motel Tax Definitions	Rep. James Mills
SB 225	Tax Allocation District Training	Sen. Doug Stoner
General County Government		
HB 386	Superior Court Fees: Fees/ Cross Indexing	Rep. Roger Lane
SB 193	Compensation for County Officers/ Technical Correction County Commissioners COLA	Sen. Jeff Mullis

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS: CARRIED OVER

Economic Development and Transportation		
HB 33	Change ARC Board Structure	Rep. Steve Davis
HB 268	Abolish the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority	Rep. Steve Davis
HB 269	Require Voter Approval to Fund Commuter Rail Projects	Rep. Steve Davis
HB 293	Cap Motor Fuel Tax at 15 Cents	Rep. Steve Davis
HB 307	Income Tax Credit for Using Transit	Rep. Chuck Martin
HB 426	Require Review of Railroad Crossings	Rep. Sheila Jones
HB 434	Regional SPLOST for Transportation	Rep. Chuck Martin
HB 441	Statewide Sales Tax for Transportation	Rep. Vance Smith
HB 541	Mandate Biofuel Purchase by Counties	Rep. Tommy Smith
HR 228	Appropriate Aviation Fuel Tax Revenues to Airports	Rep. Carl Rogers
SB 233	Expand Use of Motor Fuel Tax	Sen. Curt Thompson
SB 284	Allow Weight Shifting in Overweight Vehicles	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SR 154	Human Services Transportation Study Committee	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SR 341	Change Control of Motor Fuel Tax	Sen. Curt Thompson
Health and Human Services		
HB 37	Provide That Certain Prisoners Await Trial in a Mental Health Facility	Rep. Bobby Parham
HB 47	Create the Department of Health	Rep. Ron Stephens

HB 73	Require DCH to Assist with Emergency Transportation	Rep. Burke Day
HB 151	Amend Manner of Filling Vacancies for Hospital Authorities	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 217	Modify Standards for Soil Reports	Rep. Carl Rogers
HB 249	Provide an Exemption from CON for New Acute Cancer Treatment Centers	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 263	Repeal the Requirements for CON	Rep. Jill Chambers
HB 324	Children's Health Insurance Act	Rep. Judy Manning
HB 340	Revise Threshold for Eligibility for PeachCare for Kids	Rep. Glenn Richardson
HB 376 SB 189	Revise Definition for New Institutional Health Services/CON	Rep. Tom Rice Sen. Don Thomas
HB 396	Require DCH to Contract to Verify Eligibility for PeachCare for Kids	Rep. Mickey Channell
HB 404	Provides Exemption from State and Local Insurance Premium Taxes for Certain Health Plans	Rep. Mickey Channell
HB 427	Provide for Inspection of Certain Records at Nonprofit Hospitals	Rep. Jill Chambers
HB 456	Care Management Organizations and County Health Departments	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 461	Require DHR to privatize West Central Georgia Regional Hospital	Rep. Donna Sheldon
HB 514	Create State Commission on Government Health Service Reform	Rep. Mark Butler
HB 535	Create Mental Health Patient Advocacy Board	Rep. Mark Butler
HB 581 HB 568 HB 210 SB 164	Extensive Revisions to the CON Program	Rep. Mickey Channell Rep. Rich Golick Rep. Austin Scott Sen. Don Balfour
HB 715	Change the Procedure for the Appointment of Local DFCS Directors	Rep. Austin Scott
HB 745	Provisions for Telephone Systems for Physically Impaired	Rep. John Lunsford
HB 752	Create the Georgia Assignment Pool Underwriting Authority	Rep. Tom Knox
HB 793	Establish the Georgia Methamphetamine Offender Registry	Rep. Mike Coan
HB 802	Provisions for Methamphetamine Clean Up	Rep. Mike Coan

SB 28	Insuring Georgia's Families Act	Sen. Judson Hill
SB 78	Changes Duties and Power of DCH	Sen. Bill Hamrick
SB 129	Provide Limited Co-Payments by Inmates for Prescription Drugs	Sen. Johnny Grant
SB 153	Georgia Consumer Driven Health Insurance Plan	Sen. Judson Hill
SB 285	Revised PeachCare for Kids Act of 2007	Sen. Greg Goggans
SR 22	Hospital Health Care Standards Commission	Sen. Judson Hill
SR 355	Joint Study Committee on Health Care Transformation	Sen. Judson Hill
Public Safety and the Courts		
HB 51	Clarify Frequency of Courthouse Security Plan Review	Rep. Mike Jacobs
HB 71	Mandatory Emergency Management Training for Local Officials	Rep. Burke Day
HB 74	Peace Officer Power to Arrest in Mutual Aid	Rep. Burke Day
HB 77 HB 892	Repeal Red-Light Cameras	Rep. Bobby Franklin Rep. Mark Hatfield
HB 113	GA Fire Officer Development Act	Rep. Burke Day
HB 119	Increase Salaries of Certain Judges	Rep. Wendall Willard
HB 149	Prohibit Racial Profiling by Officers on Traffic Stops	Rep. Tyrone Brooks
HB 319	Increase DA's Salaries	Rep. Barry Fleming
HB 338	Increase Fees for Sheriff's Service of Process	Rep. Clay Cox
HB 525	Require Recording of In-Custody Statements	Rep. Tim Bearden
HB 560	Require Permit from DPS for Installation of Red-Light Cameras	Rep. Burke Day
HB 590 HB 883	Reduce Civil Penalty from Red-Light Camera	Rep. Barry Loudermilk Rep. Bobby Franklin

HB 609 HB 884 HB 885 HB 886 SB 22	Increase County Jail Per Diem	Rep. Bob Holmes Rep. Debbie Buckner Rep. Debbie Buckner Rep. Debbie Bucnker Sen. Regina Thomas
HB 669	Add PBA to Peace Officer Standards & Training Council	Rep. Mark Williams
HB 699	Take Red-Light Camera Revenue to Fund LE Tuition & Training	Rep. Burke Day
HB 722	Prohibit Racial Profiling by Officers on Traffic Stops	Rep. Bob Holmes
HB 751	Increase Minimum Per Diem Pay for Court Bailiffs	Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam
HB 795	Increase Minimum Pay for Court Bailiffs	Rep. Amos Amerson
HB 826	Income Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters	Rep. Gene Maddox
HB 838	Increase Penalties for Illegal Aliens Convicted of Other Felony	Rep. Clay Cox
HB 860	Allow Regional Grand Juries	Rep. David Ralston
HB 861	Allow Multi-County Circuits to Opt Out of Public Defender System	Rep. James Mills
HB 890	Reduce Civil Penalty From Red-Light Camera	Rep. Barry Loudermilk
HR 424	Peace Officer Power to Arrest Study Committee	Rep. Burke Day
HR 534	Dedicate Trust Fund for Pre-paid 9-1-1 Fee Revenue	Rep. John Lunsford
SB 33	Create State-Wide Building Mapping System for Emergencies	Sen. Ed Harbison
SB 44	GA Fire Officer Development Act	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SB 48	Allow Sentenced Inmate to be Turned Over to DoC Pending Appeal	Sen. Joseph Carter
SB 67	Clarify Definition of Contingent Expenses of Court	Sen. John Wiles
SB 125	Create Penalties for "Super-Speeders"	Sen. Ronnie Chance
SB 140	Add County Commissioners to Circuit Defender Selection Panel	Sen. Preston Smith
SB 141	Add County Commissioners to GPDSC	Sen. Preston Smith
SB 142	Clarify County Budgetary Authority Regarding Public Defenders	Sen. Preston Smith

SB 143	Allow Any Circuit to Opt Out of Public Defender System	Sen. John Wiles
SB 223	Increase Juvenile Court Judge Salary Supplement	Sen. Preston Smith
SB 249	Change Conditions for Registration of Sex Offenders	Sen. Jim Whitehead
SB 266	Increase Penalties for Clerks Failure to Remit Fines, Fees & Add-Ons	Sen. John Wiles
SB 305	Expand Immunity Granted to Non-Governmental Rescue Organizations	Sen. David Shafer
Revenue and Finance		
HB 124	Business Inventory Tax Exemption	Rep. Ron Stephens
HB 140	Binding Arbitration for LOST Renegotiations	Rep. Wendell Willard
HB 141	Sales Tax Exemption for Textbooks	Rep. Bill Hembree
HB 187	Authorize ESPLOST to Pay for Necessary Road Infrastructure	Rep. Martin Scott
HB 201 SB 291	Changes to Taxpayer Bill of Rights Law	Rep. Bob Smith Sen. Jeff Mullis
HB 207	Exempt Counties From Paying Municipal Franchise Fees	Rep. Jan Jones
HB 260	County Approval for Certain Authorities to Issue Debt	Rep. Mike Jacobs
HB 289	Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Railroad Equipment	Rep. Jay Roberts
HB 421	Expand Conservation Use Assessment to Timber Companies	Rep. Debbie Buckner
HB 428	Require Utilities to Hide Franchise Fees in the Rate Base	Rep. Jeff Lewis
HB 585	Eliminate Ad Valorem Taxes on Personal Vehicles	Rep. Mark Burkhalter
HR 3	Property Tax Assessment Cap	Rep. Ed Lindsey
HR 900	Replace Property Taxes with Income and Business Value Added Taxes	Rep. Glenn Richardson
SB 71	Reduce Options for SPLOST Election Dates	Sen. Tommie Williams
SB 92	Improve Sales Tax Reporting Accuracy	Sen. Chip Pearson
SR 20	State Tax Expenditure Limitation	Sen. Chip Rodgers

General County Government		
HB 8	Penalties for Elections Tampering	Rep. Tim Bearden
HB 9	Electronic Voting Permanent Record	Rep. Tim Bearden
HB 12	Prohibit Governments from Barring Celebration of Christmas	Rep. Clay Cox
HB 39	Open Records: Clarify When Records That Are Confidential Under Federal Become Confidential Under State Law	Rep. Jill Chambers
HB 43	Require Proof of Citizenship for Voting	Rep. Chuck Sims
HB 58	Nonpartisan Elections for Certain Officials Provided by Local Law	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 60	Election Qualifications	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 62	Absentee Voting	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 80	Audits and Revenue Requirements for Public Libraries	Rep. Chuck Sims
HB 102	Creates Taxpayer Funded Financing Of Judicial Elections	Rep. Ed Lindsey
HB 200	Allow Courts to Hear Evidence of Seatbelt Use in Apportioning Liability	Rep. Harry Geisinger
HB 241	Cities Control Zoning 3 Miles Outside Boundary	Rep. Harry Geisinger
HB 265	Repeal Law Requiring Election of County Surveyors	Rep. Roger Lane
HB 275	Require the Approval by All Voters of a County for Creation of a New City	Rep. Michele Henson
HB 283	Allow Counties to Require Open Records Requests Be in Writing/Penalties	Rep. Mark Hatfield
HB 306	Shielding Proposed Incorporations from Preemptive Annexations	Rep. Virgil Fludd
HB 381	Election of Sheriffs, District Attorneys and Solicitor Generals	Rep. Kevin Levitas
HB 468 SB 26 SB 137 SB 245	Authorize Counties and Cities to Allow Package Sales of Beer and Wine on Sundays Subject to a Referendum	Rep. Roger Williams Sen. Seth Harp Sen. Seth Harp Sen. Doug Stoner
HB 479	Amend Public Nuisance and Abatement Law Relative to Graffiti	Rep. Pedro Marin
HB 487	Reform Primaries/ Runoff System	Rep. Austin Scott

HB 531	Minimum Salaries for Full Time County Commissioners	Rep. Richard Smith
HB 640	Defacing Public Monuments	Rep. Tommy Benton
HB 642	Authorizing Counties and Cities to Require Registration of Residential Rental Properties	Rep. Clay Cox
HB 657	Creation of Townships	Rep. John Meadows
HB 672	Bids Must be Posted on State Procurement Registry	Rep. Wade Starr
HB 716	Allow Counties to Require Open Records Requests Be in Writing/Attorneys Fees	Rep. Austin Scott
HR 12	Authorize Creation of New County	Rep. Jan Jones
HR 200	Amend Constitution to Define Coroner as a "County Officer"	Rep. Chuck Simms
HR 592	Local BOE Reimburse Appropriate Governing Authority For Election expenses	Rep. Bob Holmes
HR 60	Unfunded Mandates: Require 2/3 Vote of General Assembly	Rep. Rob Teilhet
SB 50	Require that Notaries Public be U.S. Residents	Sen. John Douglas
SB 83	Require Transfer of County Property to Newly Created Cities	Sen. Dan Weber
SB 86	Require Use of Seatbelts in All Vehicles	Sen. Don Thomas
SB 89	Authorize the Creation of Townships	Sen. David Adelman
SB 110	Establish Meaningful Deannexation Procedure	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 243	Ethics in Government: Require Electronic Filing of Campaign and Personal Disclosure Reports	Sen. Renee Unterman
SB 248	Prohibit Counties from Levying Taxes on City Residents for Certain Services Also Provided by City	Sen. David Shafer
SB 264	Elections/Primaries: Qualify For A Party's Nomination/Run For Public Office	Sen. John Wiles
SB 281	Protect Counties from Liability from Misuse of State Funds by Subrecipients of State Grants	Sen. Horacena Tate
SR 4	Electoral Process/Photo ID	Sen. Cecil Staton
SR 130	Authorize Delegation of Planning and Zoning Powers to Townships	Sen. David Adelman
SR 344	Creation of Citizens Board for Redistricting House and Senate Seats	Sen. Ronnie Chance

Natural Resources and Environment		
HB 59	No Sales tax on local Water/Sewer Purchases	Rep. Alan Powell
HB 54 HB 55 SB 69	Regulating Interbasin Transfers	Rep. Alan Powell Rep. Alan Powell Sen. Preston Smith
HB 70	Redefining Member of Metro Water Planning District	Rep. Tommy Benton
HB 288	Return Water Deposits after 24 Months	Rep. Tom Graves
HB 500	50-Foot Buffer around Coastal Marshlands	Rep. Harry Geisinger
HB 565	Beaver Dam Removal Exempt from E&S Act	Rep. Matt Dollar
HB 569	New Landfills Require Local Legislation Approval	Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague
HB 596	Return Water to Streams or Face Penalties	Rep. Richard Smith
HB 610 SB 256	Billboard Inverse Condemnation	Rep. Vance Smith Sen. Jeff Mullis
HB 760	Water and Sewer Authorities to be LIAs	Rep. Tim Bearden
HB 789	Private Water Systems to be Bonded	Rep. David Ralston
SB 69	Regulating Interbasin Transfers	Sen. Preston Smith
SB 154	Honoring Waste Hauling Contracts after Annexation/Deannexation	Sen. Jack Murphy
SB 187	Speeding EPD Variance and Permit Application Process	Sen. Chip Pearson
SB 197	No Landfill within 2 Miles of Adjoining County	Sen. Mitch Seabaugh
SB 198	No Landfill within 7 Miles Upstream of Water Intake	Sen. Mitch Seabaugh
SB 256	Billboard Inverse Condemnation	Sen. Jeff Mullis
SR 283	Create Joint Non-point Source Pollution Study Committee	Sen. Ross Tolleson