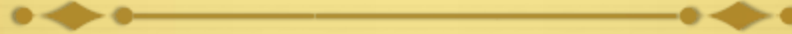


Legislative Update



Georgia General Assembly
2011 Session

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House Bills



667 Bills Introduced.

1,093 Resolutions Introduced.

Of those 667 bills, 190 passed the House and Senate,
Governor Deal signed 187 of them and vetoed only three.

Senate Bills



291 Bills introduced.

641 Resolutions introduced.

Of those 291 bills, 67 passed the Senate and House,
Governor Deal signed 61 of them and vetoed only 6.

Successful Legislation



I will provide a summary of legislation that passed both the House and Senate, and that Governor Deal signed into law.

The Governor has 40 days from the last day of the session to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without his signature. Rarely does a Governor not exercise his power to sign or veto.

Budget



FY 2012 - \$18.3 Billion budget, which begins July 1, 2011.

Virtually every every state agency has sustained cuts to their pre-downturn budgets, or to their per capita spending.

82% of the state's budget is education, healthcare and criminal justice.

GDoT - FY 2012



LMIG - \$100 Million

\$6 Million in Bonds for Rail Improvements

- ✦ Vidalia to Swainsboro - \$1 Million
- ✦ City of Dawson - \$900,000
- ✦ Ogeechee River Bridges - \$600,000
- ✦ Valdosta to Willacoochee - \$1 Million
- ✦ Heart of Georgia Rail Road - \$1 Million
- ✦ McIntyre Sighting - \$1.5 Million

Courts



HB 24 – modernized the Georgia Evidence Code for court proceedings and bring it into line with federal rules of evidence.

HB 265 – creates the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform for Georgians and the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Justice Reform to overhaul the state's criminal sentencing laws.

Education



HB 326 – addressed the Georgia Lottery shortfall by decoupling the Hope Scholarship from college tuition rates so that most students with 3.0 grade point average will no longer receive full scholarships.

Estimated Hope will now cover 90% of tuition at public colleges, with no grants for fees or books.

Environment & Water



HB 40 - will require a bitter tasting chemical to be added to antifreeze sold in Georgia.

HB 274 – will allow a waste management company to accept yard trimmings at its landfill and extends for another three years the solid waste trust fund tire fee.

Environment & Water

Continued



SB 122 – will allow public-private development of reservoirs by authorizing governments to contract with private companies for financing, development and operation of such projects.

HB 179 – will allow billboard owners to cut trees in the public right-of-way if they block the visibility of signs.

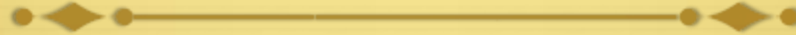
Ethics



HB 232 – salespersons shall not be required to register as a lobbyist or otherwise considered to be a lobbyist. Further, you are not considered to be a lobbyist unless you spend more than 10% of your time on lobbying activities.

SB 160 – will allow utility companies to contribute directly to General Assembly candidates.

Elections



HB 454 –allows Secretary of State Brian Kemp to name the date of Georgia’s 2012 presidential primary. A decision that must be made by December 1st. The primary date cannot be any later than the second Tuesday in June or any sooner than January 30th.

Gambling and Alcohol



SB 10 – will let local communities vote on whether to allow retail beer, wine and liquor package sales on Sundays.

SB 19 – regarding changes to the operation of Coin Operated Amusement Machines, passed the House and Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Deal.

Health



SB 36 – will create a state administered database of the dispensing of controlled substance subscriptions to help combat “pill mills” and doctor shopping by drug abusers.

HB 214 – will create a separate Dept. of Public Health.

HB 47 – will allow consumers to buy health insurance policies from other states.

Immigration



HB 87 – Arizona inspired immigration control measure that empowers police to investigate immigration status of suspects.

It also sets new hiring requirements for employers and penalizes people who transport or harbor illegal immigrants here

HB 87 – July 1 Effective Date



- ✦ Local and state police will be empowered to arrest illegal immigrants and take them to state and federal jails.
- ✦ People who use fake I.D.s to get a job could face up to 15 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.
- ✦ People who, while committing another crime, knowingly transport or harbor illegal immigrants or encourage them to come to GA could face penalties. First time offenders, up to 12 months and up to \$1,000 in fines.

HB 87 – July 1 Effective Date Continued



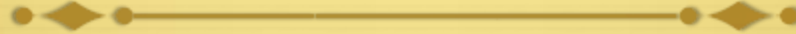
- ✦ A seven member Immigration Enforcement Review Board will be established to investigate complaints about local and state government officials not enforcing state immigration laws.
- ✦ Government officials who violates state laws requiring cities, counties and state government agencies to use E-Verify could face fines of up to \$1,000 and removal from office.
- ✦ The State Agriculture Dept. is directed to study the possibility of creating Georgia's own guest-worker program

HB 87 – January 1 Effective Date



- ✦ State and local government agencies must start requiring people applying for public benefits – such as food stamps, housing assistance and business licenses – to provide at least one “secure and verifiable” document, which could be a state or federally issued form of identification.
- ✦ The State Attorney General’s office is required to post a list of acceptable documents on its website by August 1st.

HB 87 – Phased In Provisions



- ✦ Georgia Businesses will be required to use the federal E-Verify Program to determine whether their new hires are eligible to work legally in the U.S.
- ✦ Businesses with 500 or more employees must start complying with this provision January, 2012.
- ✦ Businesses with 100 or more employees, but fewer than 500 must start complying with this provision July 1, 2012.
- ✦ Businesses with between 11 and 99 employees must start complying with this provision July 1, 2013.
- ✦ Businesses with 10 or fewer employees are exempt.
- ✦ Businesses without a business license are exempt.

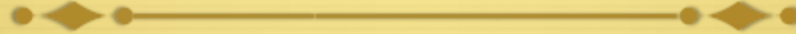
Transportation



HB 137 – GDoT Housekeeping Bill

- ✦ Increased indemnification benefits for state highway employees, retroactive to recent HERO operator death.
- ✦ Clarified duties of treasurer and term of Planning Director.
- ✦ Clarified procedures for removing asbestos pipe.
- ✦ Changed requirements for cities and counties to send updated information to GDoT.

Transportation Continued



SB 54 – added hauling poultry waste to the permits for extra weight and dimensions for loads and allows for the issuance of multi-trip permit, if the permitted load returns to its original destination on the same permit, within ten days and follows the same route.

Bills Not Passed



Tax Reform Package – major hurdle was figuring out the real fiscal impact of various changes.

✦ The Reform Package did include a sales tax exemption for energy used in manufacturing. Another attempt will be made at this in the 2012 Session.

HB 131 – would have exempted DoT contractors from being fined for polluting waterways through soil runoff at construction sites.

Bills Not Passed

Continued



SB 86 – would have eliminated most comprehensive planning and DRI requirements, passed the House and Senate, but vetoed by Governor Deal.

Bills regulating inter-basin transfers of water to the metro Atlanta area.

Legalizing betting on horse racing.

Thank You



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