
Voters Lose Control of Sunday Sale of Beer & Wine ... *Unless the Governor Vetoes H.B. 124*

The introductory paragraph of Representative Harrell's H.B. 124 explains how retail sales of distilled spirits and other alcoholic beverages are, currently, governed and *will be governed in the future*. H.B. 124 secures the right of malt beverage businesses to sell on Sundays by removing the right of future voters to EVER prohibit Sunday retail package sales of malt beverages and wine. Malt beverages are made from barley or other grain that's soaked and softened in water until it sprouts. Then, it's kiln-dried, brewed and distilled into beer and ale.

H.B. 124, actually, *nullifies* future election results in which the majority of voters disapprove of Sunday retail package sales of malt beverages and wine. However, it DOES authorize future voters to STOP Sunday retail sales of distilled spirits, *i.e.* liquor (alcoholic drinks made by distillation), rum (made from fermented sugar cane or molasses) and whiskey (strong alcoholic liquor distilled from fermented mash of grain, especially rye, wheat, corn or barley). Both provisions are included in H.B. 124, which passed March 4th.

H.B. 124, plainly, states: *If more than one-half of the votes cast on the question are for disapproval of Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine, and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M., such rejection shall not nullify the prior election results for approval of Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverages and wine on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M. pursuant to subsection (p) of this Code section.*" (Page 2, lines 40 – 44)

H.B. 124 expands the definition of "retailer" or "retail dealer" to include a business that, primarily, sells distilled spirits and unbroken packages of malt beverages and wine, not for consumption on the premises, and whose retail sale of such is at least 75 percent of its total annual gross sales. (Page 3, lines 64 – 66)

Unless the governor vetoes H.B. 124, these things will happen: (1) Sunday retail package sales of malt beverages and wine will continue, regardless of the outcome of future referenda. (2) Sunday retail package sales of malt beverages and wine are permanent, UNLESS future legislators amend this law and return power to voters. (3) Sunday sales of hard liquor and whiskey will be the only alcoholic beverage sales voters may prohibit.

Although it's obvious the bill protects beer, ale and wine businesses at the expense of community values, some retailers have been reluctant to open their business on Sunday for a very good reason – it's not worth the trouble! They've learned that Sunday customers are those that formerly bought alcoholic beverages Monday through Saturday, but now wait until Sunday to spend the same amount of money. So, opening on Sunday ADDS to the retailers' cost of doing business with no increased profit!

If H.B. 124 is not vetoed, it automatically becomes law July 1st.

ACTION – Before May 7th, call 404 656-1776 and ask Governor Deal to VETO H.B. 124.

New Law: H.B. 198 Georgia to License Obamacare¹ Navigators

H.B. 198 introduced by Representative Richard Smith passed the Georgia General Assembly on March 14th when the House agreed with changes made in the Senate. On April 1st it was sent to the governor, who could sign or veto it. If he signs it, it becomes law; if he does not sign it, it becomes law ... unless he vetoes it, which is highly unlikely.

The final paragraph states: *The provisions of this Act shall become applicable only upon the notification by the federal Department of Health and Human Services or other responsible federal agency or official to the Governor, the Commissioner of Insurance, or other responsible agency or official of the State of Georgia that a health insurance exchange has been created or approved to operate within the State of Georgia pursuant to the provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), and any amendments thereto, or regulations or guidance issued under those acts, or upon the initiation of operation of any such exchange within the State of Georgia.*

H.B. 198: Georgia Navigators Would Work for Obamacare Health Exchange

- Applicants for the position of health exchange navigator must be at least 18 years of age.
- Licensed Georgia navigators would advise individuals and groups to buy Obamacare health policies.
- They would be required to give “accurate information and advice” about “seeking” federal health insurance.
- They must complete a 35-hour Commissioner-approved training in health benefit insurance, Obamacare exchange provisions, Title 49 medical assistance and PeachCare for Kids.
- Experienced and qualified applicants will be exempt from the Commissioner’s examination.

Restrictions on Georgia Navigators

- No navigator shall solicit a person or business currently insured by an existing health plan.
- Navigators will not receive a commission, but will be paid as provided by the federal act.
- They **MUST** give facts about premium tax credits under IRS law and federal cost-sharing.
- Off-the-job licensed navigators shall **NOT** give advice about benefits, terms and features of a particular health plan or advise which plan is better or worse for an individual or business.
- On-the-job licensed navigators may recommend which health benefit plan to choose.

Thomas More Law Center² represents Four Businesses in Cases against Obamacare

Karen and Rod Mersino’s dewatering business of 184 employees³ will be penalized an annual \$7 million for Obamacare noncompliance – \$2,000 per year per employee (cumulatively, \$308,000 annually), *plus* \$6.7 million annually to IRS (\$100 daily per employee). (Lifenews.com)

Eden Foods, the oldest natural foods company in North America, has 128 employees. Blue Cross inserted “Life Style Drugs” (contraceptives and abortion-inducing medication) into the company’s coverage without the owner’s knowledge or consent. So, lawsuit was filed.

¹ In the 111th Congress, Republicans King of Iowa and Bachman of Minnesota introduced bills to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), as did Senator DeMint. None of their bills was considered.

² Source: RNCforLife E-Notes, April 4, 2013

³ Businesses that cut part-time workers to 29 hours to avoid paying mandatory health insurance include: Applebee’s, Olive Garden, Denny’s, Red Lobster, Papa John’s Pizza and some Wendy’s and Taco Bell franchises; the State of Virginia; as well as colleges in Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Jersey.

Beckwith Electric Company founder, Thomas Beckwith, is fighting religious persecution in Obamacare. His 178 full-time employees have generous employee benefits and a Company chaplain who visits weekly and is available to employees in difficult times, as well. If he refuses to comply with HHS demands, he would be fined \$2,000 per employee (\$336,000 per year), plus \$100 *per employee per day per year* to the IRS, totaling over \$6 million annually.

Domino's Pizza founder and owner of Domino's Farm Corporation, a property management company, has received a court order to prevent enforcement of the HHS mandate, while his lawsuit continues against the Obama administration for forcing religious employers to purchase drugs that may cause abortions for their employees. Federal District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the Eastern District of Michigan protected *Domino's* by granting a Motion for a Preliminary Injunction against enforcement of the HHS Mandate against both businesses.

Beckett Fund for Religious Liberty represents Hobby Lobby Case against Obamacare.

Hobby Lobby founder David Green and his family have influential allies¹ as they oppose Obamacare's infringement on religious liberty. Nine U.S. Senators and two Representatives filed an *amicus* brief on Hobby Lobby's behalf and the Oklahoma State Senate Business and Commerce Committee unanimously passed onto the floor a bill that blocks employers from having to "provide or pay for any benefit or service related to abortion or contraception through the provision of health insurance to his or her employees."

By rejecting HHS mandates, Hobby Lobby reports it will begin accruing fines of \$1.3 million a day in July for its 22,000 employees and asks the appeals court to expedite its case.

Hobby Lobby Founder & CEO Responds to Obamacare Mandates

We're Christians, and we run our business on Christian principles. I've always said that the first two goals of our business are (1) to run our business in harmony with God's laws, and (2) to focus on people more than money. And that's what we've tried to do. We close early so our employees can see their families at night. We keep our stores closed on Sundays, one of the week's biggest shopping days, so that our workers and their families can enjoy a day of rest. We believe that it is by God's grace that Hobby Lobby has endured, and He has blessed us and our employees. We've not only added jobs in a weak economy, we've raised wages for the past four years in a row. Our full-time employees start at 80% above minimum wage.

But now, our government threatens to change all of that. A new government healthcare mandate says that our family business MUST provide what I believe are abortion-causing drugs as part of our health insurance. Being Christians, we don't pay for drugs that might cause abortions, which means that we don't cover emergency contraception, the morning-after pill or the week-after pill. We believe doing so might end a life after the moment of conception, something that is contrary to our most important beliefs. It goes against the Biblical principles on which we run this company since day one.

The government has exempted thousands of companies from this mandate, for reasons of convenience or cost, but will not exempt Christian organizations including the Catholic church.

¹ Congressional members submitting the brief are all Republicans: Senators Orrin Hatch, Utah; Daniel Coats, Indiana; Thad Cochran, Mississippi; Michael Crapo, Idaho; Charles Grassley, Iowa; James Inhofe, Oklahoma; Mitch McConnell, Kentucky; Pat Roberts, Kansas; Richard Shelby, Alabama; Congressmen Lamar Smith, Texas; & Frank Wolf, Virginia.

Is your child's school observing the LGBT day of silence on April 19th?

Every year in April the Gay, Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) sponsors a national day of silence to promote homosexuality in schools. It's advertised on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace and participants register online. This year it's set for Friday, April 19th.

Promoters of the day of silence target younger and younger children each year, though it was started by college students in 1996 when a few University of Virginia students refused to speak in class as a "coming out" strategy. It went nationwide in 1997. Since then, the homosexual firm, Lambda Legal, has provided Q & A sheets of students' rights NOT to speak, but to wear pro homosexual buttons or T-shirts and put pro homosexual posters and exhibits in school.

In 2001 *The Sticks and Stones Project* was initiated in Georgia to promote homosexuality and stop negative comments about alternate lifestyles. For students, teachers and administrators it was a gag order. Then, in 2002, 15 high schools and 5 colleges in Georgia participated in the day of silence. By 2007, 37 Georgia high schools had gay-straight alliance clubs to promote the day of silence and desensitize students and staff to homosexuality and its variations.

For years, GLSEN and LGBT proponents have used anti-bullying policies to promote alternate lifestyles, teaming up with the National Association of Elementary School Principals to put "No Name-Calling Week" lesson plans in elementary schools. In February 2011, the National Conference on Bullying in Orlando, Florida confirmed Kevin Jennings as a speaker. You may know Jennings as Obama's "Safe Schools Czar" and founder of GLSEN that displays and sells pro homosexual material at National Education Association (NEA) conferences.

In a 1995 speech, Safe Schools Czar Kevin Jennings explained how he used "safety" to deceive the Massachusetts legislature into adopting the pro-homosexual agenda for schools. This is what he said: "Titling our report 'Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth,' ... automatically threw our opponents onto the defensive and stole their best line of attack ... short-circuited their arguments and left them back-pedaling from day one."

On National Coming-Out Day in October 2012, three groups – Teach for America, GLSEN, and the Trevor Project – partnered in asking teachers to pledge to make classrooms Safe and Affirming for Everyone and to sign the SAFE pledge. Teachers who signed have access to variant lifestyle posters and material for classrooms and activities, but the goal of SAFE is not safety, but to **affirm and validate lifestyles of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals**.

In 2012, the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition (GSSC), a major alternate lifestyles supporter, had an online course, *LGBTQQ Youth 101: A Comprehensive Manual for School Counselors*, the University of Georgia Vice President's Office of Public Service and Outreach funded in 2009. The course fosters safe and affirming school environments for LGBTQQ youth and families, with no concern for constitutional rights lost by those who disagree with alternate lifestyles.

After-the-day Reports: Students provide the number of day of silence participants, the school name and location. They estimate the percentage of straight (non-homosexual) participants, the level of student/teacher/administrator support, and actions taken to promote the day.

ACTION – Learn whether a day of silence will be observed at your child's school. Remind administrators of the "moment of silence" law restricting silent observances to a minute at the beginning of the school day.

Georgia Insight is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.