
Two Days Left This Session, April 27th and 29th

S.B. 235 Prohibits Coerced Microchip Implants

S.B. 235 introduced by Senator Chip Pearson in 2009 protects the general population from forced microchip implants, if such were ever required, which is a distinct possibility, if the governor were to call a state of emergency.

The microchip that most concerns us today is the product of three businesses that jointly developed and are marketing disease detecting radio frequency microchips (RFID), built with the capacity to identify infections, locate infected individuals and notify officials, all in real time, 24/7, 365 days per year. Such action would require microchip implants in the general population, and under current law, no personal permission for the implant is required. But, personal consent for a microchip implant would be mandatory, if S.B. 235 becomes law.

Status. S.B. 235 passed the House Judiciary Committee April 14th with no amendments, which is good, and is now in the House Rules Committee, that decides whether it goes to the full House for a vote and, hopefully, final passage.

- **Unless S.B. 235 passes**, prison inmates would remain the only people in Georgia who are protected from forced microchip implants.
- **Unless S.B. 235 passes**, the governor could declare an emergency and mandate microchip implants for the entire population or a portion of the population, whichever he decides.
- **Unless S.B. 235 passes**, microchips could be required as the most effective way to track infectious diseases in people who don't go to the doctor for treatment.
- **Unless S.B. 235 passes**, Georgians implanted with microchips against their will could suffer unnecessary health hazards – cancer, tumors, and infections – as found in research animals.

ACTION – Support. Ask the following to use their power to move S.B. 235 out of Rules and onto the House floor. Governor Sonny Perdue, 404 656-1776; Lieutenant Governor Cagle, 404 656-5030; House Speaker Ralston, 404 656-5020; Speaker Pro-Tem Jan Jones, 404 656-5072; Rules Committee Chairman Hembree, 404 656-5141; House Majority Leader Keen, 404 656-5053; Majority Caucus Chair Roberts, 404 656-5025; Majority Caucus Vice Chair Sheldon, 404 656-5025; Majority Caucus Secretary/Treasurer May, 404 656-7146; Judiciary Chairman Wendell Willard, 404 656-5125;

S.B. 529 Prohibits Coercive Abortions

S.B. 529 passed the Judiciary Committee April 21st, with only two days left. For it to become law, it must pass Rules Committee and the full House. It would prohibit abortions that are coerced or based on the race or sex of a child. Women could file suit if they are forced to abort; doctors would be protected from false accusations; and it adds criminal abortion to RICO laws.

Status. S.B. 529 is now in the House Rules Committee that will decide whether it goes to the floor for a vote.

ACTION – Support. (a) Ask Speaker Ralston (404 656-5020) to move S.B. 529 from Rules Committee onto House floor. (b) Ask Rules Chairman Hembree (404 656-5141) to move S.B. 529 out of his committee. (c) Ask your representative to vote YES when S.B. 529 comes to the House floor for a vote.

Passed: H.B. 567 Crime Victims' Bill of Rights

H.B. 567 introduced by Representative Don Parsons February 26, 2009 remained in committee until March 26th this year, when the House passed it 158 – 1. The Senate passed its committee substitute 49 – 0 April 14th, to which the House agreed on April 21st, completing its passage.

It's a "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights" clarifying the rights of victims of crimes committed by juveniles. In such cases, the court must inquire whether the victims were notified of their right to speak at pre-sentence hearings, as well as notify victims of other pertinent actions, such as restitution decisions scheduled for the juvenile's sentencing. If the accused are committed for mental problems, victims will be notified of their release, discharge, escape or re-confinement.

Victims will be notified of motions for new trials, appeals, release on bail or recognizance, appellate proceedings and outcomes. Also, victims may be present in courts with jurisdiction over the case and ask that mail from an inmate be blocked. Unless it's vetoed, it becomes law.

Passed: Two Flu Vaccine Bills

H.B. 1154 introduced by Representative Jerguson February 10th allows nasal spray flu vaccine to be used on patients 13 – 49 years of age without a doctor's prescription. However, patients choosing the nasal spray vaccine would sign a form stating that they have no medical condition that would make them high risks for the flu.

H.B. 1154 passed the House March 9th by a vote of 163 – 1 and the Senate passed it 48 – 0 on April 13th, but by a substitute version. That sent the bill back to the House for agreement with the Senate and the House voted 156 – 0 to agree on April 21st. It becomes law, unless the governor vetoes it.

H.B. 1179 introduced by Representative Dempsey on February 16th requires hospitals to offer flu vaccines to their employees who have contact with patients, at no cost to the employee. Hospital workers may opt-out if they wish, since the program is entirely voluntary.

The House voted to pass it 133 – 27 on March 9th and on April 14th the Senate voted 38 – 10 to pass a committee substitute, to which the House agreed April 21st with a 135 – 22 vote. That vote completed the process and, unless the governor vetoes it, H.B. 1179 will become law.

Did NOT Pass: Bullying Bills

H.B. 882, prefiled in November by Representative Jacobs, was never officially introduced. It directed the Department of Education to develop a model bullying policy and required prompt notification of law enforcement if a student committed a physical assault or battery on a student, teacher or school employee. Obviously, it was replaced by H.B. 927, a similar bill by Jacobs.

H.B. 927 introduced by Representative Jacobs remains in committee at this writing. It does not define bullying but allows local school boards to adopt policies to allow transfer of sixth through twelfth graders to alternative schools, if they're caught bullying three times in one school year. With no defined parameters, school boards could give various segments of the school population special protection against teasing or negative comments.

H.B. 940 was introduced January 14th, requiring, as did H.B. 927, over-broad definitions of bullying and extending school oversight of students to non school off-campus locations. If either passes, children teasing children could be viewed as intimidation, harassment or bullying.

Gun-Carry Bill Now In Rules Committee

S.B. 291 introduced by Senator Shafer April 3rd last year, was held in committee for action this session. It passed the Senate 43 – 10 on March 24, 2010 by committee substitute with a floor amendment. Then, it passed into the House, where it was assigned to Representative Day's House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee that favorably reported it into the House Rules Committee April 20th, where it remains at this writing.

It authorizes any individual with a gun-carry permit to transport the licensed firearm onto airport or airport facility property when dropping off or picking up a passenger. Immigration and Customs officials would verify the eligibility of applicants that apply for renewal licenses, although applicants who are not U.S. citizens could be denied licenses. This bill protects legal carry and possession of firearms at all times, including in times of declared states of emergency.

No state officer or employee or government entity, while acting during a declared official state of emergency, could seize or authorize seizure of a firearm that is not prohibited under Article 4 Chapter 11 of this title. No state officer or employee or government entity could require registration or prohibit the possession of any firearm that is not prohibited by Article 4 Chapter 11 of this title.

ACTION – Support. Ask the chairman and several other members to vote YES on S.B. 291. Call Rules Committee Representatives Hembree, Ch., 404 656-5141; Willard, 656-5125; Mills, 656-5099; Hugley, 656-5058; Porter, 656-5058; Barnard, 656-5138; Bearden, 656-0287; Benton, 656-0177; Burkhalter, 656-7146; Casas, 656-0254; Chambers, 656-3949; Channell, 656-7856; Coan, 656-6801; Cole, 651-7737; Cooper, 656-5069; Dempsey, 656-0213; Drenner, 656-0202; Ehrhart, 463-2247; Greene, 656-0314; Hanner, 656-7859; Jacobs, 656-052; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Keen, 656-5052; Bob Lane, 656-5115; Lunsford, 656-0213; Manning, 656-7857; Millar, 656-5064; Morris, 657-8441; Mosby, 656-0287; Parrish, 463-2247; Randall, 6560-0109; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-7153; Austin Scott, 656-0188; Shaw, 656-7859; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Bob Smith, 656-0126; Smyre, 656-0116; Stephens, 656-5099; and Len Walker, 656-5146.

Good News: Online Voter Registration Bill Sent Back to Committee

S.B. 406 won't pass this session and that's a very good thing. Think how voter registration on the Web would be another way for voter fraud to flourish. Anyone who has a valid Georgia driver's license or ID card and is qualified to vote in Georgia may submit a voter registration application on the Secretary of State's Web site. Applicants must supply their name, home address, driver's license or ID card number, birth date, citizenship status, and agree for them to use the signature on the applicant's driver's license or ID card. After verifying the information, the Secretary of State would void and reject those with contradictory data.

On March 17th it passed from the Senate into the House Science and Technology Committee that promptly passed it into Rules. But, thankfully, the Rules Committee recommitted it to the Science and Technology Committee, where it is at this writing and, hopefully, will remain.

ACTION – Oppose. Ask committee members to hold this in committee. Call Science and Technology Representatives Amerson, Ch., 404 657-8443; Keown, 656-0177; Byrd, 656-0298; Battles, 656-0109; Kidd, 656-0325; Levitas, 656-0202; Loudermilk, 656-0152; Chuck Martin, 463-2247; Massey-Reece, 656-7859; and Oliver, 656-0265.

English-Only Driver's License Tests

S.B. 67 requires written and oral drivers' license exams to be given in English only, but allows individuals eligible for a temporary license to be tested in a language other than English. This passed the Senate March 20, 2009 and the House March 30, 2009 but in different versions. It could pass this session, if House and Senate agree on current versions. What can we do? Wait!

Remembering Nancy Schaefer, A Christian In Politics

Some of you may remember the song about the three Hebrew boys tossed into the fiery furnace – Shadrach, Meshech and Abed-nego. This story of Jewish children taken captive by Israel’s enemies is told in Daniel, an Old Testament book in the Bible. When tested by Pagan officials, the three boys, gladly, faced death for the Lord God, whom they served. The faith and bravery they demonstrated in that fiery trial was dramatically described in these lyrics: “They wouldn’t bend, they wouldn’t bow, they wouldn’t burn.”

Although she was never cast into a literal furnace of fire, I can honestly say that Nancy Schaefer who went to be with the Lord on March 26th, didn’t bend or bow when she was tested. And, if she was afraid of circumstances or had weak moments, she didn’t appear weak or afraid.

She fearlessly stood boldly for the Word of God and her Christian convictions, wherever she was. Her four years in the Georgia State Senate tested her resilience and integrity as an ambassador for Christ in a most difficult public arena – politics – where a majority of her bills went down to defeat in that politically correct atmosphere. But be that as it may, on April 20th her fellow senators introduced and passed a resolution honoring her life and memory.

S.R. 1462 introduced by Senator Butterworth, who currently represents her district, describes Nancy as one of Georgia’s most distinguished citizens, who diligently and conscientiously devoted her time, talents and energy to representing the citizens of District 50 in Northeast Georgia.

S.R. 1462 reached back to the time she was born in Rabun County, but jumped over the years during which she was educated, married and became a mother. Then, it picked up her story in 1986, when she founded her nonprofit organization, Family Concerns, Inc., with its noble purpose – strengthening and protecting families at home and abroad. To do that, Nancy focused on educating citizens and leaders on the value of obeying God’s moral law.

Her Family Concerns Pregnancy Center served over 5,000 girls and women in metro Atlanta, where she hosted several radio programs and authored daily commentaries. Nancy was an eight-year trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention’s National Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and served as vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

But with all her political, community and spiritual service, she was first and foremost a devoted wife and mother of four sons and a daughter. Her five offspring gave her 13 grandchildren, whom she adored.

Even in the political arena, where many put character and religious convictions on the back burner, Nancy’s reputation remained one of integrity, intelligence, fairness and kindness. She was a talented and compassionate woman who will be remembered for her love of family and friendship with multitudes of people in various walks of life.

Nancy Schaefer was one of God’s creations who held fast to His Word and to His calling in her life. The many people who have known her through the years will miss her. The State of Georgia will miss her and so will I. She was my friend.