

# Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler  
www.georgiainsight.org  
"She hath done what she could."  
Mark 14:8a  
"...and having done all ... stand."  
Ephesians 6:13c

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## Thanks, to the Founding Fathers, U.S. Dodged another Bullet! 38 Votes Protected U.S. from Dangerous U.N. Treaty

*The U.N. helped negotiate over 300 international treaties to expand international law, ranging from human rights treaties to agreements governing the oceans, outer space and diplomatic relations among nations.*

– 1995 United Nations Association of the U.S.A.

The issue on December 4<sup>th</sup> was whether disabled children and adults in the U.S. could by-pass parents, care-takers and doctors to complain, directly, to the U.N. and give the U.N. control over their treatment and care. Also, any person or group could contact the U.N. on behalf of a disabled person, whether or not the disabled person authorized them to contact the U.N.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) has been signed by 153 countries and ratified by 117. President Obama signed it July 24, 2009 and 61 U.S. senators voted FOR it on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Except for the Constitution's required two-thirds vote and 38 Senators who voted NO, care of disabled U.S. citizens would be subject to U.N. rules.

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin thought UNCRPD was good for the U.S. and moved for passage by "unanimous consent" September 19<sup>th</sup>, with no debate and no roll-call vote. Mr. Durbin's proposal was blocked when Utah Senator Mike Lee objected from the Senate floor.

The next day, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 36 senators, including Senator Lee, sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, asking the Senate to refrain from the consideration of treaties during the lame duck session, stating they would oppose any effort to consider a treaty until after the new Congress is seated in January. The request of those 36 senators was not honored and on December 4<sup>th</sup> the Senate vote of 61 to 38 defeated UNCRPD. Thankfully, Georgia Senators Chambliss and Isakson voted NO!

### Why did the treaty fail, with 61 of 99 votes?

To ratify a treaty, the *Constitution of the United States* requires a two-thirds vote of senators present. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, of the 99 senators responding to the roll-call vote, 38 voted against it and the 61 voting for it were six shy of the constitutionally required two-thirds.

### Homeschoolers are very concerned about Article 7 of UNCRPD.

CRPD allows government to take away parental rights, such as home-schooling for children with disabilities, if the government thinks homeschool is not "in the best interest of the child."

### Treaties threaten U.S. sovereignty.

A treaty signed by the President, is not effective until ratified by two-thirds of the Senate. It does not go to the House. Many dangerous treaties<sup>1</sup> have been around for years, but have been kept at bay. Obama wants all of their provisions enacted, whether by executive order or treaty.

**ACTION – Thank Georgia senators for voting against UNCRPD! Ask them to vote NO on the treaties listed below.**

- **Senator Saxby Chambliss:** Toll-free in D.C., 1 800 234-4208; Savannah, 912 232-3657; Augusta, 706 738-0302; Macon, 478 741-1417; Atlanta 770 763-9090; Moultrie, 229 985-2112; Washington, D.C., 202 224-3521
- **Senator Johnny Isakson:** Toll-free D.C. 1 877 851-6437; Atlanta, 770 661-0999; Washington, D.C., 202 224-3643

<sup>1</sup>International Covenant on Environment & Development; Law of the Sea; International Criminal Court; UN Small Arms Treaty; Rights of the Child; Code of Conduct in Outer Space; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## *Prefiling Began November 15th*

### *First Bill out of the Block: Horse-Racing & Pari-Mutuel Betting*

#### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

**H.R. 1**, Pari-Mutuel Betting on Horse Races by Representative Geisinger, was prefiled for the 2013 session. As a constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly, then a majority vote on the 2014 ballot. If the amendment passes in 2014, H.B.4 would provide the legal framework for horse racing and pari-mutuel gambling in Georgia.

#### **Enabling Legislation: Horse-Racing and Pari-Mutuel Betting**

**H.B. 4**, Representative Geisinger's bill to govern horse racing and pari-mutuel betting, would become law *only* after H.R. 1 gets a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly and a majority of votes in the 2014 General Election. H.B. 4 may change, but currently provides the following:

**A seven-member Georgia Racing Commission would be appointed by the governor** by February 1, 2015, subject to confirmation by the House and Senate. Initially, commissioners would serve one-to-five-year staggered terms, with future terms set at five years and a possible reappointment. Senators and representatives would *not* be eligible *while serving*.

**Each commissioner would receive \$173.00 per diem, plus \$.555 per mile travel expense, for a total daily meeting cost of at least \$1,211 plus travel expense, plus meeting space, plus staff,** with unlimited numbers of days and meetings. To operate, the Commission would establish/maintain/staff a general business office, hire a full-time executive secretary and an unlimited number of employees to visit, investigate and have free access to the offices, race track(s), facilities, satellite locations or other places of business of licensee or permit holders.

**The Commission will issue business licenses and write the rules, regulations and penalties** for horse racing and pari-mutuel gambling. Commissioners will govern audio/video simulcasts of horse races and require licensees to post a toll-free Gamblers Anonymous phone number for compulsive gamblers. Simulcasts of races at licensed horse racetracks or satellite facilities in Georgia must comply with the federal Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978. Holders of unlimited licenses must annually schedule at least 60 live racing days, subject to adjustment.

**Advance deposit account wagering, from which commissioners would collect a license fee,** will be authorized. In addition, a ten percent tax on bets placed in advance would be collected and divided – half to licensees and half to representatives of recognized horsemen groups. Another one percent tax would be sent to Georgia Breeders Funds and the Commission will determine the percentage of state and federal income tax to withhold from winnings.

**Commissioners may hire and set salaries for their stewards, chemists, veterinarians, inspectors, accountants, guards and other necessary employees.** Stewards hired by the commission as racing officers would oversee licensed horse races and simulcasts at satellite facilities, interpret and enforce Commission rules, and decide all racing questions.

**The Commission may contract with foreign or domestic governments or their agencies** for information exchanges concerning the proper operation of horse racing.

**Money and revenue received by the Commission would be deposited in a State Racing Operations Fund.** Interest accrued would benefit the fund. The Commission would report to the governor, annually, by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ***Prefiled H.B. 9 Lowers Mandatory School Entry to Age 5***

*“You know we want the children by the time they’re two!”*

– President Emeritus, Westminster School, Atlanta

**H.B. 9 Lowers Age for Mandatory School Attendance.** It was prefiled November 26<sup>th</sup> by Representative Keisha Waites to lower the mandatory school entry from age six to five and to raise the exit from age 16 to 17. If passed, students would be subject to two extra years of politically correct “socialization” and schools get two extra years of (FTE) funding per student.

H.B. 9 would accomplish at least two major goals of liberals, that might be unintended by the author. (a) Family training and nurturing would be interrupted a year earlier, making younger children more susceptible to politically correct re-socialization. (b) Additional money would be shoveled into public schools, with no promise that academic failings would be corrected.

**In the year 2000**, if I had asked the first person I met to tell me the mandatory age for entry into school, six would have been the most likely answer. Though it was seven, down from age eight, when pupils are slightly more mature and their eyes can better focus on close work.

Lowering the mandatory school age to six, though previously defeated, was accomplished by former Governor Roy Barnes, who tucked it inside his 150-page H.B. 1187 that passed as part of his legislative package. While it furthered the implementation of Goals 2000 and school-to-work, that bill accomplished major changes liberals had tried to pass for years, but could *not* get through as single-issue legislation. So, in April 2000 the school entry age was lowered to six and a myriad of other changes became law the day Governor Barnes signed H.B. 1187.

**In 2012**, the National Education Association repeated education’s goal for children as follows: *“NEA Resolution B-1. Early Childhood Education. The NEA supports early childhood education ... from birth through age eight ... a high-quality program of transition ... from home and/or preschool to the public kindergarten or first grade ... for parents/guardians and children, including child-care, child development, developmentally appropriate and diversity-based curricula, special education and appropriate bias-free screening devices ... mandatory kindergarten with compulsory attendance.”* *H.B. 9 is a giant step toward that goal of NEA.*  
**ACTION – Oppose. Contact House Education Committee Chairman Representative Coleman, 404 656-9210.**

### ***Prefiled: Civil Rights Status for Gender, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation***

**H.B. 12**, prefiled November 28<sup>th</sup> by Representative Keisha Waites, gives civil rights status for gender, gender identity and sexual orientation and requires judges to increase up to 50-percent the penalties for crimes against anyone claiming those sexual orientations. Since H.B. 12 does not include definitions of the above-mentioned words, they are defined below:

- “Gender” does not have the same meaning as “sex.” “Sex” identifies males and females. Gender identity implies rejection of and deviation from natural sexual identity.
- “Gender,” “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” involve sexual behaviors that are, currently, against Georgia law, including, but not limited to voyeurism (Peeping Toms), exhibitionism (flashers), pedophilia, necrophilia, bestiality, transvestites and transsexuals.
- States with such laws allow persons claiming trans-status to use *any* public rest room or public facility *anywhere*, including churches and religious sites, unless exempted by the law.

**ACTION – Oppose. Call Judiciary Committee Chairman Representative Wendell Willard at 404 656-5125 and Non Civil Judiciary Chairman Representative Rich Golick at 404 656-5943. Their secretaries will take your messages.**

## ***Is There An Ulterior Motive for Amending the Bully Law?***

**H.B. 15**, prefiled November 28<sup>th</sup> by Representative Keisha Waites, would modify Georgia's bullying law that, currently, protects all students equally, without add-on penalties for sexual orientation. Though H.B. 15 does not mention sexual orientation, it could be amended to do so.

Different or negative opinions are *not* bullying, but since the "safe school" movement of the 1990s included negative comments about sexual orientation in the definition of bullying, statements that do not indicate support for alternate lifestyles are classified as bullying.

In 2007 the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) extended to all K – 12 schools its "no name-calling week" middle school curriculum to squelch negative comments about alternate lifestyles. The connection between alternate lifestyles and bullying is very obvious on the federal government's bully web site that features links to sexual orientation sites.

**Pertinent Fact.** In May, President Obama said, "We led a global campaign to ensure 'sexual orientation' was included in the ... UN resolution that specifically mentions LGBT people." Since the president applied world-wide pressure for it, expect the same to happen in Georgia.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Contact House Education Committee Chairman Representative Coleman, 404 656-9210. Current law is sufficient for public school policy.

## ***New Year, New Leaders, New Appointments***

In Georgia, a new year means a new legislative session, new representatives and new senators, including new floor leaders to carry the governor's legislative package. In September, Governor Deal appointed Representative Coomer of District 14 to be his new Georgia House floor leader, replacing Representative Collins who was elected to Congress. Then this month, Governor Deal appointed Senator Jeffares of Locust Grove and Senator Bethel of Dalton to join Senator Jackson of Appling as his Senate floor leaders in 2013.

Of the 180 members of the Georgia House of Representatives, 119 are Republicans, leaving them one vote shy of a two-thirds majority. Representative Kidd, the lone Independent in the General Assembly, could be the swing vote. The Republican Caucus elected Representative Ralston to continue as House Speaker and Representative Jan Jones as Speaker Pro Tem. Both will resume their duties after their House confirmation January 14<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the session.

The Republican Party's new Senate majority leader is Ronnie Chance of Tyrone, who was elected at a Republican retreat, where the Republican Caucus also adopted Caucus rules and proposed Senate rules for 2013. Senator David Shafer of Duluth was elected President Pro Tem, to be confirmed on January 14<sup>th</sup>, along with other Senate officers-elect.

House Democrat Caucus leaders continuing in their respective offices are Representative Abrams, Minority Leader and Representative Hugley, Minority Whip. Representative Fludd, is Minority Caucus Chairman. Senate Democrat officers are Senators Henson, Minority Leader; Senator Fort, Minority Whip; and Senator Tate, Caucus Chairman.

These officers and committee chairmen – 43 in the House and 29 in the Senate – can expedite a bill or stop it in its tracks. The 180 representatives and 56 senators, including the officers, will introduce from 2,500 to 3,000 bills and resolutions during the 40-day session that could, easily, extend into April to accommodate recesses and committee meetings.

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