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## Bad News: Republican Plans for a Constitutional Convention

**S.R. 736.** It was no coincidence when Representative Braddock introduced H.B. 794 January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day before S.R. 736 passed its first committee hurdle. The two bills are Siamese twins. H.B. 794 is a plan to usher in and control an Article V convention that's proposed by S.R. 736.

**ACTION: Oppose S.R. 736.** Call Rules Committee members. Senators Mullis, Ch., 404 656-0057; Tolleson, V. Ch., 656-0081; Jackson, Sec., 651-7738; Butler, 656-0075; Chance, 463-1366 Ex Officio; Gooch, 656-9221 Ex Officio; Henson, 656-0085; Hill, Jack, 656-5038; Hill, Judson, 636-0150; Millar, Fran; 463-2260; Miller, Butch, 656-6578 Ex Officio; Murphy, 656-7127; Shafer, 656-0048 Ex Officio; Staton, 656-5039 Ex Officio; Tate, 463-8053; Unterman, 463-1368.

**H.B. 794** establishes a Compact Commission to encourage states to join the Compact and become "Member States" to cooperatively work toward a constitutional convention. If the General Assembly passes H.B. 794, it would amend Georgia law as OCGA Section 50-38-1.

The Compact Commission would serve as a "Compact for a Balanced Budget" – strange, with their push for the tri-focused S.R. 736 to (a) fiscally restrain the federal government, (b) limit federal power and jurisdiction, and (c) set term limits for federal officials, including Congress.

Also strange is the dismissal of the more narrowly focused S.R. 731 that passed the Senate last session, but remains alive in the House. S.R. 731 would restrict the total federal appropriations to the total estimated federal revenues for each fiscal year.

Because S.R. 736 proposes three amendments without including a balanced budget amendment, equally strange is this contradictory statement in H.B. 794: "... in no event shall any proposed amendment other than the Balanced Budget Amendment be transmitted."

The *Compact* authorizes *itself* to plan, oversee and control a constitutional convention, though *Congress* is the constitutional designee authorized to call a constitutional convention. Each Compact Member State would be entitled to three delegates – the Governor, Speaker of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate or designees of each. Delegates must solemnly swear to "... act strictly with the terms and conditions of the Compact for a Balanced Budget, the Constitution of the State I represent, and the Constitution of the United States ... [or forfeit] my appointment and ... subject me to other penalties as provided by law."

**George Washington's Mount Vernon** home was where one senator and nine representatives from Georgia<sup>1</sup> gathered with strategists who are working to create a Compact Commission and convene a constitutional convention. The 97 hand-picked legislators from 32 states met on Saturday, December 7, 2013, the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ironically, plans of the 97 might result in an unexpected, but devastating, attack on the *Constitution of the United States*. One senator and nine representatives from Georgia<sup>1</sup> attended at their own expense.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call House Judiciary Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Fleming, V-Ch., 656-0152; Allison, Sec., 404 656-0188; Bruce, 656-0314; Caldwell, 656-0325; Evans, 656-6372; Golick, 656-5943; Jacobs, 656-5116; Jones, 656-7859; Kelley, 656-0287; Lindsey, 656-5024; Mabra, 656-7859; Oliver, 656-0265; O'Neal, 656-5052; Powell, 656-7855; Rutledge, 656-0109; Stephenson, 656-0126; Welch, 656-0109; Weldon, 656-0213; and Wilkinson, 463-8143.

<sup>1</sup> Georgia attendees: Senator Bill Cowser, Representatives Stephen Allison, Timothy Barr, Buzz Brockway, Josh Clark, Kevin Cooke, Delvis Dutton, Jason Spencer, Andy Welch, and Bruce Williamson

## *Marijuana*

*“I have some concerns about it quite frankly but I think, let’s take the politics out of it, and look at the science and hear the medical professionals.”*

– Representative David Ralston, Speaker, Georgia House of Representatives

### **S.R. 756 Study Committee for Medicinal Marijuana for Serious Medical Conditions**

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Senator Josh McKoon, who introduced S.R. 756, referred to a 1980 Georgia law allowing medical marijuana to be used by people with cancer and glaucoma as part of a state research program. Although Governor George Busbee signed it into law, it never got off the ground, because the medical board needed to oversee implementation was never staffed and the federal facility supplying the marijuana closed down shortly after the bill passed.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia have enacted medical cannabis laws and many other states are considering it.

S.R. 756 would create the Senate Prescription of Medicinal Marijuana for Serious Medical Conditions Study Committee composed of the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and four members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The committee would report its findings by December 1, 2014, at which time it would stand abolished.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Health & Human Services Committee Senators Unterman, Ch., 404 463-1368; Balfour, V.Ch., 656-0095; Millar, 463-2260; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Carter, 656-5109; Henson, 656-0085; Hill, Judson, 656-0150; Hufstetler, 656-0034; Jackson, Lester, 463-5261; Ligon, 656-0045; Orrock, 463-8054; and Shafer, 656-0048.

### ***H.B. 885 Legalizes Medical Marijuana***

**H.B. 885**, introduced by Representative Allen Peake on January 28<sup>th</sup> is for “the compassionate potentially life-saving use of medical cannabis ... [is] not intended to sanction, encourage ... [or move] toward the legalization of recreational cannabis.” The bill provides the following:

- It replaces the word “marijuana” with “cannabis,” that it defines as tetrahydrocannabinol.
- OCGA Article 43-34-121 provides limitations on clinical trials and research into therapeutic applications of cannabis for the treatment of seizure disorders, glaucoma, and cancer, as well as the side effects of cancer treatment.
- Cannabis (tetrahydrocannabinol) doses for medical patients would be in a nonsmoking form – liquid, pill, vaporization, injection or other prescribed method, except smoking.
- Research hospitals with medical residency programs would screen applicants for treatment to determine which patients with cancer, glaucoma or seizures qualify for the drug.
- Patients admitted to the program would have full disclosure of its experimental nature.
- A limited number of people would know the identity of cannabis recipients in the program.
- An appointed Patient Qualification Review Board would rate applications for cannabis.
- An academic medical center would (a) receive cannabis from the National Institute On Drug Abuse or (b) obtain cannabis, cannabinoid, or derivatives, compounds or substantially similar products from available sources. Then (c) test the products, and (d) report to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency.
- Immunity from arrest and penalty is provided for personnel operating this program.
- State employees may be eligible for reimbursement for attorney fees, if they are incurred.

**ACTION – Delay legislation until the S.R. 756 study committee makes its report December 1, 2014.**

## Georgia Power agrees to replace customers' smart meter with an analog!

*Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols announced in January that the PSC voted 5-0, to approve smart meter opt-out for Georgia Power customers. For details contact Georgia Power at 1 800 642-5172 or G2SMARTMTR@southernco.com. That sounds SO good, but BEWARE of replacements for smart meters! Smart stealth meters pictured on this page are analog meters with hidden transmitters.*

### Analog Meters & Hidden Transmitters

The models pictured may be available as analog meters, but they may be equipped with transmitters. To identify which is which, look closely for a transmitter that may be on a circuit board mounted inside the electrical meter.

An electromechanical (analog) electrical meter has a rotor inside, which spins as electricity passes through the meter. The rotor turns gears, which count the revolutions and turn the dials.

Some meters have a slot to insert a little circuit board with a transmitter. The circuit measures electricity by counting the turns of the rotor, which is often done optically with a little white dot on the spindle. The circuit board transmits back to the utility using wireless or PLC (powerline communication).

Key words such as LAN, AMR and Network mean either PLC or wireless. A PLC meter does not have an FCC ID, unless it has a wireless transmitter.

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### Health & Stealth Smart Meter

Whether they use wireless or PLC, health problems are about the same for smart meters and smart stealth meters.

### How to ID Stealth Meters

Stealth meters resembling basic analog meters have been used for well over a decade. Some analog electric meters transmit to a utility company, as a digital smart meter does, so some people may not know a transmitter is on their house.

Usually, a smart meter is defined as having two-way communication, but stealth smart meters have two-way communication, also, if they use TWACS or Turtle TS2.

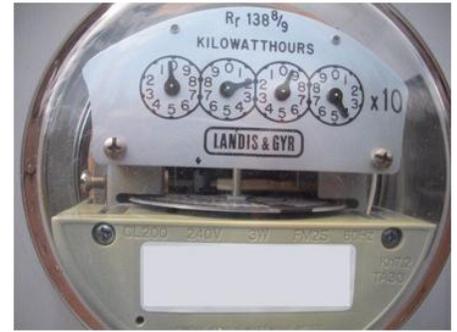
Simpler stealth meters have names such as ERT, AMR, "bubble-up," "wake up" and Turtle TS1.

TWACS stands for Two-Way Automatic Communication System. It allows the utility company to communicate with smart meters on buildings they serve. Some TWACS equipment is marketed under the DCSI name. The system can be used to read meters remotely and transmissions may contain information on the amount of power used each hour or every 15 minutes.

Meters may transmit throughout the day to (a) detect problems, (b) remotely control utility equipment such as capacitor banks (Volt and Var Control) and (c) remotely disconnect electricity to a household or an appliance.

If it has a label stating that the meter complies with FCC regulations, but no FCC ID, there is probably no wireless transmitter inside.

**Source: Stealth Smart Meters (online)**



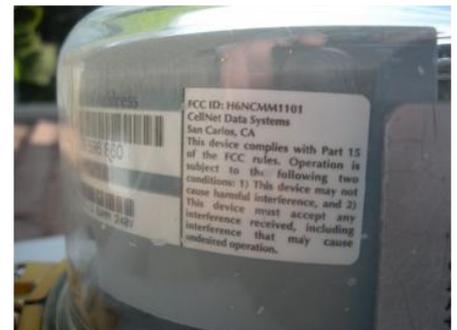
Analog meter with hidden wireless transmitter. The serial number is blanked out to protect privacy.



Analog meter with hidden PLC transmitter. The serial number is blanked out to protect privacy.



A General Electric meter with a PLC transmitter mounted on the bottom. The green circuit board can be seen. The turtle logo on the white label IDs the meter as a PLC transmitter. The white label has the bar code blanked out for privacy.



The FCC ID label on a Landis+Gyr meter. The ID identifies the type of transmitter, not the individual meter.

February 1, 2014

## *More Legislative Action*

**S.R. 750 Education Appropriations Act** was introduced January 17<sup>th</sup> by Senator Jason Carter and five cosponsors. As a proposed constitutional amendment, it requires a two-thirds vote in both House and Senate and, if it passes, it would be a referendum on the November 2014 General Election ballot. This is an **ARROGANTLY SELFISH** proposal:

*“Neither house shall pass a general appropriations bill until the education appropriations Act shall have been finally adopted by both houses and approved by the Governor.”*

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Appropriations Subcommittee on Education Senators Gooch, 656-9221; Murphy, 656-7127; Sims, 463-5259; Tippins, 657-0406; and Wilkinson, 463-5257.

**S.B. 314**, introduced by Senator Donzella James, would increase the minimum wage to at least \$10.10 per hour for each hour worked. Then, beginning on January 1, 2015 and on January 1 of each successive year thereafter, the minimum wage would be increased by the increase in the cost of living, if any.

On September 30, 2014 and on September 20 of each successive year thereafter, the Georgia Department of Labor would measure the increase in the cost of living as being the percentage increase retroactive to the preceding July over the July level of the immediately preceding year, according to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) or its successor index published by the United States Department of Labor or its successor agency. Each adjusted minimum wage rate calculated would be published and take effect on the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **These changes would NOT apply to**

Employers whose sales are \$40,000.00 per year or less;

Employers having five employees or less;

Employees who are farm owners, sharecroppers, or land renters;

Employees whose compensation consists wholly or partially of gratuities;

Employees who are high school or college students;

Individuals who are employed as newspaper carriers; or

Individuals employed by a nonprofit child-caring institution or long-term care facility serving children or mentally disabled adults who are enrolled in such institution and reside in residential facilities of the institution, if such employee resides in such facility, receives without cost board and lodging from the facility, and is compensated on a cash basis at an annual rate of not less than \$10,000.

This would not apply to any employer subject to minimum wage provisions of an act of Congress if the act of Congress provides a minimum wage greater than that within this Code.

**ACTION – Oppose.** While some employees would receive increases in salary, others would lose their jobs. Call Insurance and Labor Committee Senators Golden, Ch., 404 656-7580; Shafer, V.Ch., 656-0048; Hill, Judson, Sec., 656-0150; Bethel, 651-7738; Harbison, 656-0074; Jones, 656-0082; McKoon, 463-3931; Ramsey, 463-2598; and Unterman, 463-1368.

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