

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

As Promised: Officially Introduced Pre-filed Bills

The prefiling of a measure shall not constitute the official introduction of a bill or resolution, and a bill or resolution may be officially introduced only during a legislative session.

O.C.G.A. § 28-1-17(b)

The January edition of Georgia Insight covered select pre-filed bills that would need attention if they were introduced, officially. Each bill in that issue ended with a promise that contact numbers for committee members would be provided for bills that were introduced and assigned to committee. Although committee chairmen may allow discussions or public hearings for bills, they also may, arbitrarily, “sit on” (pocket veto) bills or resolutions to prevent passage. The following bills, reported in the January issue, were introduced and are in committees.

S.B. 281 Georgia Firearms and Weapons Act introduced January 15th by Senator James puts automatic or semi-automatic weapons and large capacity magazines on Georgia’s list of illegal dangerous weapons. Gun show vendors would have to comply with National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NCIS) conditions, but could contract with a licensed dealer to do so. It, also, amends the Juvenile Code and the reporting of students by adding automatic or semi-automatic guns to current weapons laws affecting minors and students.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact Judiciary Committee members to vote NO on S.B. 281. Call Senators Stone Ch., 404 463-1314; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; Tillery, Sec., 656-0089; Heath, 656-3943; Jones II, 463-3942; Kennedy, 656-0045; Ligon, Jr., 463-1383; Parent, 656-5109; Rhett, 656-0054; Strickland 656-7454.

Brainwashing Medical Personnel to Prevent Conservative Services

H.B. 745 Georgia Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act, officially, introduced January 15th by Representative Mable Thomas recommends that perinatal facilities implement implicit bias programs for their health care professionals, and provide refresher courses every two years or more often if necessary.

Goal: (a) Wipe out unconscious biases (values) held by perinatal professionals toward race, gender, age, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language proficiency, nationality, immigration status, gender expression, or religion.

Effect: (b) Expectant mothers would be treated only by progressive, pro-abortion clinicians.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 404 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Rynders, Sec., 656-6801; Barr, 656-0298; Bennett, 656-0202; Cheokas, 656-0152; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Gaines, 656-0325; Gordon, 656-0287; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Henson, 656-7859; Hogan, 656-0177; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-5943; Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0177; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 656-7853; Petrea, 657-1803; Pruett, 656-5143; Schofield, 656-0020; Sharper, 656-0126; Silcox, 656-3949; Stephens, 656-0265; Stephenson, 656-0126; and Tankersley, 656-7855.

Pre-filed: H.B. 746 Women’s Right to Immediate Access authorizes any female seeking an abortion to refuse information about an unborn child, or view the fetal image or hear the fetal heartbeat before aborting the baby. If the expectant mother refuses the data, physicians would document her refusal in writing and keep it on record at least three years.

ACTION – Oppose H.B. 746. Call Health & Human Services Committee members listed under H.B. 745 above.

Will Marijuana become Georgia’ “Cash Cow?”

H.R. 875 Create House Study Committee on Financing Options for Marijuana Businesses introduced January 29th by Representative Dar’shun Kendrick would authorize research of the benefits of marijuana to Georgia’s economy, focusing on unlimited funding options for low-interest loans to marijuana businesses owned by minorities, women, and veterans. A five-member committee of representatives could meet as often as needed to (a) study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems of operating marijuana businesses, then (b) recommend action and remedies for the 2021 session, with a report due no later than December 1, 2020.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Special Rules Committee Representatives Belton, Ch., 404 656-3947; Holmes, V-Ch., 656-5132; Dunahoo, Sec., 656-0152; Beverly, 656-0220; Blackmon, 463-7853; Carter, 656-0220; Gordon, 656-0287; Kirby, 656-0177; LaRiccia, 651-7737; Metze, 656-6372; Paris, 656-0109; Prince, 656-0116; Rhodes, 656-5099; Scott, 656-0314; Smith, 656-0265; Tanner, 656-9210; Turner, 656-0152; Watson, 463-2246; Cooke, 656-0188; Greene, 656-5105; Clark, 656-0213; Hopson, 656-0387; McLaurin, 656-0202; Robichaux, 656-0202.

S.B. 282 Designated Research Universities Enrollment introduced January 27th by Senator Brandon Beach requires the Georgia University System and designated tax-funded research universities to “ensure that at least 90 percent of early action admissions are offered to Georgia resident students” instead of out-of-state students.

ACTION – Support. Contact Higher Education Committee Senators Tippins, Ch., 404 657-0406; Strickland, V-Ch., 656-7454; Payne, Sec., 463-5402; Beach, 463-1378; Harrell, 463-2260; Hufstetler, 656-6579; Jackson, 463-2279; Martin, 463-6598; Orrock, 463-8054; Rhett, 656-0054.

H.B. 743 Student Athlete Compensation for Use of Name, Image, or Likeness introduced by Representative Billy Mitchell January 27th would affect the University System of Georgia colleges and universities managed by the Board of Regents, and “approved” independent or private colleges or universities in Georgia. If it passes, students in such schools could be paid for the use of their name, image, or likeness without damaging their eligibility, scholarships, or financial aid. However, such compensation to prospective student athletes is prohibited.

ACTION – Oppose. Athletes could abandon academically suitable colleges for those offering money-making opportunities. Contact Higher Education Committee Representatives Martin, Ch., 656-5064; Reeves, V-Ch., 651-7737; Kelley, 656-5024; Bentley, 656-0287; Burnough, 656-0116; Clark, 656-0287; Dempsey, 463-2248; Dickey, 463-2246; Dreyer, 656-0265; Dubnik, 656-0213; Ehrhart, 656-0152; Gardner, 656-0265; Holcomb, 656-6372; Holland, 656-0116; Jasperse, 656-5943; Kausche, 656-0116; Knight, 463-2248; Mathiak, 656-0298; Metz, 656-6372; Park, 656-0314; Pirkle, 656-0188; Smyre, 656-0109; Washburn, 656-0152; Wiedower, 656-0325; and Williams 656-0287.

S.B. 42 Elect the President by National Popular Vote introduced by Senator Steve Henson in 2019 to abolish the Electoral College would render most voters irrelevant in national elections.

1. Under a national popular vote, the dense populations of the 17¹ states President Trump *lost* in 2016 would have elected Democrats Hillary Clinton and her running mate.
2. Six² states flipped from Democrat to Republican when they voted for President Trump.
3. Democrat (blue) state populations total 65,853,625 (48.0 %) of the U.S. population; while
4. Red (Republican) state populations total 62,985,106 (45.9 %) of the U.S. population.
5. A national popular vote would allow West Coast states, plus Northeast Coast states from Virginia to Maine and four interior states to elect U.S. presidents and vice presidents.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact Senate Ethics Committee Senators Kirkpatrick, Ch, 656-3932; Ligon, V-Ch., 463-1383; Jones, Sec., 463-3942; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 463-2478; Gooch, 656-9221; Harbison, 656-0074; Harrell, 463-2260; Henson, 656-0085; Miller, 656-6578; Stone, 463-1314; Strickland, 656-7454.

¹ Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine

² In 2016 Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida flipped to Republican.

Standard Time or Daylight Saving Time?

S.B. 351 Yes or No: Continue Advancing to Daylight Saving Time introduced by Senator Ben Watson February 20th would authorize the Secretary of State to hold a nonbinding, advisory referendum election to determine whether Georgians want to continue switching time. If passed, a ballot would be prepared for voters to choose one of the following:

Option No. 1 The state shall continue to observe the current system of switching between standard time and daylight saving time twice a year.

Option No. 2 The state shall not observe daylight saving time.

Option No. 3 The state shall observe daylight saving time year round, if Congress allows.

ACTION – Support. Contact Senate Government Oversight Committee Senators Bill Heath, Ch., 404 656-3943; Harbin, V-Ch., 656-6484; Parent, Sec., 656-5109; Dolezal, 656-7127; Gooch, 656-9221; Harper, 463-5263; Jordan, 656-6446; Miller, 656-6578; Rahman, 463-1318; Robertson, 463-1318; Seay, 656-5095.

H.B. 892 Revise Model Policy Regarding Bullying introduced February 5th by Representative Beth Moore would open Georgia's bullying law to amendments that impose and promote into the entire culture politically correct attitudes. Since bullying has been redefined to include disagreement about issues, especially, hot-button topics previously deemed immoral or illegal, expanding the definition could increase unconstitutional restrictions on students' freedoms of speech, free expression and the right to disagree on issues.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact House Education Committee Representatives Jasperse, Ch., 404 656-5943; Cheokas, V-Ch., 656-0152; Benton, Sec., 656-5126; Belton, 656-3947; Cantrell, 656-0152; Carter, 656-0220; Dickerson, 656-0314; England, 463-2245; Erwin, 656-0188; Evans, 656-0109; Glanton 657-1803; Hill, 656-0325; Howard, 656-6372. Jones, Jan, 656-5072; Jones, Todd, 656-0213; LaRiccia, 651-7737; Lopez, 656-6372; Nix, 656-516; Nguyen, 656-0314; Paris, 656-0109; Setzler, 656-7857; Stovall, 656-0314; Tanner, 656-9210; Wilson, 656-6372.

S.B. 368 Protect Religious and Moral Convictions of Child-Placing Agencies introduced February 18th by Senator Marty Harbin would protect child-placing agencies from religious interference as follows:

- (a) Child-placing agencies could refuse to perform, assist, counsel, recommend, consent to, reference, or participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption when the placement violates certain religious or moral convictions of the child-placing agency.
- (b) No child-placing agency could be denied an application for any license or have any license revoked because of the agency's religious or moral convictions or policies.
- (c) No grant, contract, or participation in a government program could be denied such agency because of the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.

ACTION – Support. Call Senate Judiciary Committee Senators Stone Ch., 404 463-1314; Cowsert, V-Ch., 463-1366; Tillery, Sec., 656-0089; Heath, 656-3943; Jones II, 463-3942; Kennedy, 656-0045; Ligon, Jr., 463-1383; Parent, 656-5109; Rhett, 656-0054; Strickland 656-7454.

S.B. 303 Georgia Right to Shop for Medical Services introduced January 27th by Senator Ben Watson provides greater pricing transparency in nonemergency health care. Insurers would have on their website a toll-free number and an interactive process for members to (a) compare payments accepted by network providers, (b) obtain estimated average payments acceptable to the network, (c) obtain out-of-pocket cost estimates, (d) get hospital rate comparisons for readmission, hospitalization, number/handling of admissions, (e) as well as adverse event rates and a relative total cost of care. Policy holders may be asked to help pay for the website.

ACTION – Support. Contact Senate Insurance and Labor Committee Senators Jones, Ch., 404 636-0082; Martin, V-Ch., 463-6598; Harbin, Sec., 656-0078; Harbison, 656-0074; Kirkpatrick, 656-3932; Lucas, 656-0150; Robertson, 463-3931; Sims, 463-5259; Unterman, 463-1368; Walker, 656-7454; Watson, 646-7880.

Sanctuary Cities and Counties in Georgia¹

“Due to the fact that Democrats are unwilling to change our very dangerous immigration laws, we are indeed, as reported, giving strong considerations to placing illegal immigrants in Sanctuary Cities only. The Radical Left always seems to have an Open Borders, Open Arms policy – so this should make them very happy!”

– Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), April 12, 2019

- September 2014, Fulton County passed a resolution urging the sheriff to block ICE from using county facilities for “investigative interviews or other purposes.”
- November 2014, Clayton County’s Sheriff announced the county would no longer comply with ICE detainers.
- December 2014, DeKalb County’s Sheriff said ICE would need a warrant or sufficient probable cause to take criminal aliens into custody.
- Between May and October 12, 2017, three Georgia cities – Atlanta, Clarkston and Decatur – adopted measures to restrict interactions with U.S. ICE agents.
- September 2017 Atlanta City Council resolution said city police should not arrest or detain anyone based on ICE detainers.
- September 2018 Atlanta mayor ordered all ICE detainees transferred out of the city jail and declared the city would no longer hold anyone for the federal agency.

H.B. 915 Georgia Anti-Sanctuary Act introduced by Representative Philip Singleton February 18th states, “A state entity, local governmental entity, or law enforcement agency shall not adopt or have in effect a sanctuary policy. A sanctuary policy that is in effect on or after July 1, 2020 violates the public policy of this state and shall be repealed on or before September 1, 2020.”

Criminal aliens confined in Georgia jails or prisons would continue serving their sentence until 12 days before their release date. Then, ICE agents would transfer them into federal custody. Sheriffs, chiefs of police, wardens, constables, or other officials who knowingly fail to comply with this Code section could be charged with a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. Intentional violators would be subject to a fine not less than \$1,500 for the first violation and \$25,500 for each subsequent violation, with each day constituting a separate violation. Money collected from violations would be designated for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund. On or before September 1, 2020, every law enforcement agency would be required to update agency policies to comply with this chapter and prohibit resistance to full compliance.

ACTION – Support. Contact Judiciary Committee Representatives Fleming, Ch., 656-5125; Jones, V-Ch., 656-0213; Kelley, Sec., 656-5024; Nix, Ex-Officio, 656-5146; Bruce, 656-7859; Dreyer, 656-0265; Efstration, 656-5105; Holcomb, 656-6372; Oliver, 656-0265; Reeves, 651-7737; Rich, 656-0254; Rutledge, 656-0254; Scoggins, 656-0325; Silcox, 656-3949; Stephenson, 656-0126; Welch, 656-5912; Wilensky, 656-0202; and Wilson, 656-6372.

In-State Tuition for Illegal Aliens

H.B. 896 In-State Tuition introduced February 18th by Representative Robert Trammell would allow in-state tuition for aliens that are not here on visas,” if they (a) attended a Georgia high school for three years, (b) have a high school diploma or GED, and (c) register as an entering student on or after July 1, 2021. Data obtained will not be shared with government officials.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact Higher Education Committee Representatives Martin, Ch., 656-5064; Reeves, V-Ch., 651-7737; Kelley, 656-5024; Bentley, 656-0287; Burnough, 656-0116; Clark, 656-0287; Dempsey, 463-2248; Dickey, 463-2246; Dreyer, 656-0265; Dubnik, 656-0213; Ehrhart, 656-0152; Gardner, 656-0265; Holcomb, 656-6372; Holland, 656-0116; Jasperse, 656-5943; Kausche, 656-0116; Knight, 463-2248; Mathiak, 656-0298; Metz, 656-6372; Park, 656-0314; Pirkle, 656-0188; Smyre, 656-0109; Washburn, 656-0152; Wiedower, 656-0325; and Williams 656-0287.

¹Source: AJC articles in the series, “Continuing Coverage: Immigration,” by Jeremy Redmon, 10-12-17, 9-6-18, 4-12-19

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