

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

Online Link to Your Legislators

A Brief Tutorial

To learn your legislators' names, (a) access https://www.openstates.org/find_your_legislator/, (a) where appropriate, type your street address, state and zip code for the link to their House and Senate district numbers. (b) Click a number for either your senator's or representative's name and (c) click the other number for the other's name. (e) Then click on each name to access their pictures and contact numbers. You may email them by putting a period between their first and last name, then add @house.ga.gov for representatives or @senate.ga.gov for senators. For example: Peter.Rabbit@senate.ga.gov; Minnie.Mouse@house.ga.gov.

H.B. 258 Sexual Offenses, Age of Consent introduced February 4th by Representative Steven Sainz would raise the age of consent for sodomy from age 10 to age 16. Current law that allows 10-year-olds to consent to sodomy would not be affected, but this adds to current law a new subsection that states: “(e) when the alleged victim is under age 16, consent of the victim shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this Code section.” Further change is needed, as well.

ACTION – Support. Although age 10 for consent needs to be raised, too, this change is an improvement. Call Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives Burchett, Ch., 404 656-5705; Reeves, V-Ch., 651-7737; Gravley, Sec., 656-5025; Efstoration, 656-5125; Ballinger, 656-7153; Boddie, 656-0287; Byrd, 656-0213; Cooper, 656-5069; Kendrick, 656-0109; Lopez, 656-0298; McLaurin, 656-0202 Momtahan 656-0178; Setzler, 656-5143; Smith, 657-1803.

H.B. 276 School Athletes Compete According to Biological Sexual ID Representative Wes Cantrell introduced February 8th applies to athletic teams of *local school systems, private schools or institutions of the University System of Georgia* to prohibit competition with teams of other such schools that allow biological males to participate in athletics designated for females. Biological sex is determined by reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

H.B. 372 High School Athletes Compete According to Biological Sexual ID introduced February 10th by Representative Rick Jasperse does not affect lower grades, but requires *high school athletes* who are biological males to participate in sports as males. Students whose biological ID is female would participate in events or activities with biological females only.

ACTION – Support both H.B. 276 & H.B. 372. Call Education Committee Representatives Dubnik, Ch., 656-0213; Erwin, V-Ch., 656-0188; Belton, Sec., 656-3947; Benton, 656-5126; Cantrell, 656-0152; Carter, 656-0220; Cheokas, 463-7853; England, 463-2247; Evans, 656-0109; Glanton, 657-1803; Hill, 656-0325; Howard, 656-6372; Jasperse, 656-7153; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Todd Jones, 463-2246; LaRiccica, 651-7737; Mainor, 656-0126; Nguyen, 656-0314; Nix, 656-5146; Paris, 656-0109; Rich, 656-5087; Setzler, 656-5143; Wade, 656-0188; and Wilson, 656-6372.

H.B. 228 Proper ID for Poll Workers by Representative Charlice Byrd introduced February 3rd (a) prohibits the acceptance of a noncitizen as a poll worker based on a driver's license or ID card. This bill, also, requires a temporary license, permit, or special ID card to have printed in a prominent location, the term “BEARER NOT A U.S. CITIZEN – NOT VOTER ID.”

ACTION – Support. Call Special Committee on Election Integrity Representatives Fleming, Ch., 656-5105; Powell, V-Ch., 463-3793; Alexander, 656-7859; Blackmon, 656-5103; Burnough, 656-0116; Deloach, 656-0178; Douglas, 656-7859; Gaines, 656-0298; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Martin, 656-5146; Rich, 656-5087; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Smyre, 656-0109; and Rick Williams, 656-0254.

Other Bills Needing Action

H.B. 366 Affirmative Request Required to Register by Representative Momtahan introduced February 10th prohibits automatic voter registration. Applicants for driver's licenses or ID cards *could not be automatically registered as a voter UNLESS* the applicant, affirmatively, chooses to register. *H.B. 366* requires OPT-IN registration; current law requires a person to OPT-OUT.

ACTION – Support. Call Special Committee on Election Integrity Representatives Fleming, Ch., 656-5105; Powell, V-Ch., 463-3793; Alexander, 656-7859; Blackmon, 656-5103; Burnough, 656-0116; Deloach, 656-0178; Douglas, 656-7859; Gaines, 656-0298; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Martin, 656-5146; Rich, 656-5087; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Smyre, 656-0109; and Rick Williams, 656-0254.

S.B. 72 Deaths, Report Monthly to County Registrars introduced February 2nd by Senator Jeff Mullis requires county coroners, probate judges, and funeral homes in the county to provide free-of-charge to registrars identifying data about persons who died during the previous month. So county registrars can purge the list of deceased voters and make appropriate notifications.

ACTION – Support. Call Ethics Committee Senators Burns, Ch., 656-7856; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Harold Jones, Sec., 656-0036; Anavitarte, 656-0085; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 656-7872; Gooch, 656-9221; Harbison, 656-0074; Harrell, 463-2260; Hatchett, 656-7454; Miller, 656-6578; Robertson, 463-3931; and Strickland, 463-6598.

H.B. 373 Deaths, Report Monthly to County Registrars by Representative Rick Jasperse and introduced February 10th is identical to S.B. 72 above.

ACTION – Support. Call Special Committee on Election Integrity Representatives listed above under H.B. 366.

S.B. 45 Reciprocity for Professional Licensure introduced January 29th by Senator Thompson would authorize professional licensing boards to issue a *license-by-endorsement* to individuals that move here from another state, are in good standing there, and pass Georgia examinations. Incredibly, it passed committee despite these facts: (a) *U.S. citizenship is not required*, (b) *legal entry into the U.S. is not required*, and (c) *no screening is required*. The Senate Regulated Industries & Utilities committee passed it February 10th and it's in the Senate Rules Committee now. It must be defeated. The easiest way to defeat it is to ask committee members to vote no.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Rules Committee Senators Mullis, Ch., 656-0057; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; L. Anderson, Sec., 656-5114; Albers, 463-8055; Brass, 463-176; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 656-7872; Gooch, 656-9221; Harper, 463-5263; Hufstetler, 656-0034; H. Jones, 656-0036; Kennedy, 656-0045; Miller, 656-6578; Parent, 656-5109; Walker, **656-0095**.

H.B. 147 Reciprocity for Professional Licensure introduced January 29th by Representative Clark is identical to S.B. 45 above, but remains in the House Regulated Industries Committee.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Regulated Industries Committee Representatives Powell, Ch., 463-3793; Washburn, V-Ch., 656-0152; Bennett, 656-0202; Carpenter, 657-1803; Cooper, 656-5069; Ehrhart, 656-0152; Hawkins, 656-7855; Jackson, 656-0220; Jasperse, 656-7153; J. Jones, 656-5072; Kirby, 656-0178; Martin, 656-5146; Mitchell, 656-0126; Ridley, 656-0325; M. Smith, 656-0265; Stephens, 656-0265; Wilensky, 656-0202; R. Williams, 656-0254; Williamson, 656-5024.

H.B. 295 “Driving Cards” for Non-Citizens introduced by Representative Pedro Marin February 9th authorizes any noncitizen resident age 18 or older who is *not eligible for a driver's license to apply for a driving card to be valid for driving only, but not valid as an ID*. In 2006 the State of Tennessee ended “cards for immigrant drivers” after two years, citing use of fraud and bribery of state workers to obtain the cards. Immigrants came from other states and used forged residency documents to get cards. A driver's license office employee spent two years in federal prison for taking bribes of \$400 each for issuing over 40 cards to unqualified recipients.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Motor Vehicles Committee Representatives Corbett, Ch., 656-3949; Barton, V-Ch., 656-0325; Momtahan, Sec., 656-0178; Alexander, 656-7859; Barr, 656-7857; Douglas, 656-7859; Howard, 656-6372; Kennard, 656-0202; Mathis, 656-0152; McClain, 656-0220; Alan Powell, 656-0116; Ridley, 656-0325; Vance Smith, 656-0254; and Wiedower, 656-0325.

Online Sports Gambling

S.B. 142 Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act introduced February 10th by Senator Jeff Mullis authorizes the Georgia Lottery Corporation to operate and manage lottery sports wagering in Georgia. Net proceeds may be for education via HOPE scholarships and pre-kindergarten funding. Anyone age 21 or older could gamble on the internet, a mobile device, or any telecommunications technology on permitted collegiate sporting events, Olympic sporting or athletic events, professional sports teams, E-sport video games (in person or remote), or other authorized events, EXCEPT horse racing or fantasy or simulated contests. Pari-mutuel betting is defined as “a type of bet in which all wagers on a particular occurrence are pooled and winnings are paid in accordance with the size of the pool and the number of winners.”

ACTION – Oppose. Gambling is destructive, addictive, and harms families. Call Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee Senators Cowser, Ch., 463-1366; Brass, V-Ch., 463-1376; Kennedy, Sec., 656-0045; Albers, 656-8055; Tonya Anderson, 463-2598; Butler, 656-0075; Ginn, 656-4700; Harbison, 656-0074; Lucas, 656-0150; Miller, 656-6578; Mullis, 656-0057; Rhett, 656-0054; and Tippins, 656-0406.

National Popular Vote for President/Vice-President

S.B. 37 Agreement Among States to Elect President by National Popular Vote by Senator Gloria Butler was introduced in Georgia twice before. The plan to elect the president and vice president by popular vote began in 2006 and is explained in a 620-page book¹ that may be read free-of-charge online. Georgia NPV bills introduced in 2012 and 2016 died, although H.B. 929, unanimously, passed the House Interstate Cooperation committee. Then-representative Geoff Duncan was a member of that committee. Now, he serves as Georgia’s lieutenant governor.

NPV for U.S. presidents and vice-presidents, that would by-pass the Electoral College, passed in 16¹ jurisdictions by the end of 2020. If NPV becomes U.S. law, less populated states would be rendered powerless to elect the top two officials in U.S. government. Despite that fact, at the end of 2020 NPV had accumulated 196 of the 270 electoral votes needed for passage.

ACTION – Oppose. Georgia’s S.B. 37 is this year’s effort to by-pass the Electoral College. It must be defeated. Call Ethics Committee Senators Burns, Ch., 656-7856; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Harold Jones, Sec., 656-0036; Anavitarte, 656-0085; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 656-7872; Gooch, 656-9221; Harbison, 656-0074; Harrell, 463-2260; Hatchett, 656-7454; Miller, 656-6578; Robertson, 463-3931; and Strickland, 463-6598.

Constitutional Amendments

H.R. 128 Register and Vote at Age 17 introduced February 10th by Representative El-Mahdi Holly is a proposed constitutional amendment authorizing 17-year-olds to register and vote. If passed, it would be on the 2022 General Election ballot for voter approval or defeat.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Special Committee on Election Integrity Representatives Fleming, Ch., 656-5105; Powell, V-Ch., 463-3793; Alexander, 656-7859; Blackmon, 656-5103; Burnough, 656-0116; Deloach, 656-0178; Douglas, 656-7859; Gaines, 656-0298; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Martin, 656-5146; Rich, 656-5087; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Smyre, 656-0109; and Rick Williams, 656-0254.

S.R. 83 Increase Terms for Members of General Assembly Senator Butch Miller introduced February 10th provides four-year terms for state representatives, effective in 2024, and six-year terms for senators, effective 2024. Currently representatives and senators have two-year terms.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Government Oversight Committee Senators Harbin, Ch., 656-0078; Tillery, V-Ch., 656-5038; Hickman, 463-1371; Dolezal, 656-7127; Dugan, 656-7872; Hatchett, 656-7454; Jackson, 656-6882; Burt Jones, 656-0082; Merritt, 436-1310, Miller, 656-6578; Rahman, 463-1318; Robertson, 463-3931; and Seay, 656-5095.

¹ It has been enacted by 4 small states (Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont), 8 medium-sized states (Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington), 3 big states (California, Illinois, New York), and the District of Columbia (D.C.).

▪ **Question: Who Supplies the Extra Ounce?**

1. **S.B. 77 Doubles Marijuana Possession Allowed, Penalty Unchanged** introduced by Senator Harold Jones February 3rd provides a two-tiered penalty for possessing marijuana: (a) up to half ounce a \$300 fine, (b) up to two ounces \$1,000 fine and 12 months prison.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Senate Judiciary Committee Senators Strickland, Ch., 463-6598; Cowsert, V-Ch., 463-1366; Kennedy, Sec., 656-0045; Hatchett, 656-7454; Harold Jones, 656-0036; Kirkpatrick, 656-3932; Parent, 656-5109; Rhett, 656-0054; Tillery, 656-5038; and Watson, 656-7880.

2. **H.B. 12 Amount of Marijuana Possession Doubled, with Reduced Fine** introduced February 2nd by Representative Ed Scott (a) removes marijuana from Georgia Crime Information Center oversight, (b) allows two-ounce possessions of marijuana, and (c) lowers the penalty for possession from \$1,000 to \$300 with no time in prison.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives Burchett, Ch., 404 656-5705; Reeves, V-Ch., 651-7737; Gravley, Sec., 656-5025; Efstration, 656-5125; Ballinger, 656-7153; Boddie, 656-0287; Byrd, 656-0213; Cooper, 656-5069; Kendrick, 656-0109; Lopez, 656-0298; McLaurin, 656-0202 Momtahan 656-0178; Setzler, 656-5143; and Smith, 657-1803.

3. **H.B. 308 Counties May Adopt Marijuana Possession Ordinances** introduced January 9th by Representative Matthew Wilson authorizes each county to regulate and provide penalties for one-ounce possessions of marijuana. While counties may determine penalties for such possession, they may not impose fines that exceed \$1,000. Counties would retain the fines.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives under H.B. 12 above.

▪ **Possible Answer: High THC Hemp Georgia Farmers “Dispose of”**

H.B. 336 Lots of Hemp Disposal introduced February 9th by Representative John Corbett changes the requirement to “destroy” low THC marijuana crops to “dispose of,” which would occur often, since NO seed in the world guarantees crops of low THC marijuana suitable for hemp. Current Georgia law requires destruction of crops with high THC content. But “dispose of” in this bill authorizes its “transfer to the control of another.” Anyone to whom disposed-of crops are transferred must reimburse the farmer half of his cost to plant and produce the crop.

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee Representatives Dickey, Ch., 656-5099; Holmes, V-Ch., 656-5132; Meeks, Sec., 656-0178; Bentley, 656-0287; Burns, 656-5052; Cameron, 656-0188; Camp, 656-0213; Corbett, 656-3949; Dukes, 656-0126; Dunahoo, 656-0152; England, 473-2247; Hogan, 656-0178; Jasperse, 656-7153; Kirby, 656-0178; LaRiccia, 651-7737; Leverett, 656-0188; Lewis-Ward, 656-0287; Lim, 656-0314; Mathis, 656-0152; Meeks, 656-0178; Mitchell, 656-0314; Pirkle, 656-7850; Scoggins, 656-0254; Tankersley, 656-7855; Taylor, 656-7857; Thomas, 656-6372; Watson, 463-2246; Wilson, 656-6372; and Yearta, 656-0254.

H.B. 413 Prohibit Mandatory Vaccination introduced February 16th by Representative Beth Camp prohibits mandatory vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 for any reason *UNLESS* it has been (a) evaluated at least three years, (b) licensed by the FDA licensed for use (but not in emergencies), (c) it has been tested for any long-term potential for cancer and other adverse effects, (d) the disability and death risks are less than the disease causes, (d) no drug or nutrient or treatment is available to reduce risk, and (e) it prevents person-to-person transmission.

ACTION – Support. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Gaines, Sec., 656-0298; Barr, 656-7857; Barron, 656-0325; Bennett, 656-0202; Beverly, 656-5058; Cheokas, 463-5753; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-7153; Sheila Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0188; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 463-7853; Petrea, 656-7857;

¹ Download and read free-of-charge at www.every-vote-equal.com.