

# 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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## Tons of Legislation Introduced

**First 8 Days: Legislators Introduce Numerous Amendments to Georgia Constitution**

**Those that pass will be on the 2022 General Election ballot.**

**H.R. 4 Georgia General Assembly Term Limits for Representatives and Senators** limits representatives to six consecutive terms, increases senator terms to four years, limits them to three terms. Currently, all Georgia legislators serve two-year terms, with unlimited re-election.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Two-year terms give voters more control. Call Governmental Affairs Committee Representatives Taylor, Ch., 656-7857; Sainz, V-Ch., 656-0178; Gullett, Sec., 656-0178; Anderson, 656-0325; Blackmon, 656-5103; Burnough, 656-0116; Collins, 656-1803; Fleming, 656-5105; Gravley, 656-5025; Leverett, 656-0188; Lumsden, 656-7850; Mainor, 656-0126; Nyugen, 656-0314; Oliver, 656-0265; Powell, 463-3793; Roberts, 656-0220; Shannon, 656-7859; Mary Frances Williams, 656-0287; Rick Williams, 656-0254; and Williamson, 656-5024.

**H.R. 13 Remove Cannabis (Marijuana) from Federal Controlled Substances Act**

**ACTION – Oppose.** Marijuana is destructive and addictive. 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; Smith, 657-1803.

**H.R. 14 Replace Stephens Statue with John Lewis Statue** (a) creates the National Statuary Hall Collection Replacement Committee of (b) eight appointees to (c) replace Georgia’s statue of Alexander Hamilton Stephens with statue of Congressman John Lewis in the U.S. Capitol.

**ACTION – Oppose.** It sets a very disruptive precedent and challenges Georgia history. Call State Properties Committee Representatives Greene, Ch., 656-9210; Dunahoo, V-Ch., 656-0152; Pirkle, Sec., 656-7850; Buckner, 656-0116; Gilliard, 656-7859; Lott, 651-7737; Lumsden, 656-7850; Mike Smith, 656-0265; Werkheiser, 656-5132; M.F. Williams, 656-0287.

**H.R. 23 Urge Congress to Reject Actions to Increase Justices on Supreme Court**

**ACTION – Support.** Call Judiciary Committee Representatives Efstration, Ch., 656-5125; Gunter, V-Ch., 656-0325; Scoggins, Sec., 656-0254; Burchett, 656-5105; Nix, 656-5146; Bruce, 656-7859; Dreyer, 656-0265; Fleming, 656-5105; Holcomb, 656-6372; Todd Jones, 463-2246; Leverett, 656-0188; Evans, 656-0116; Oliver, 656-0265; Reeves, 651-7737; Rich, 656-5087; Wilensky, 656-0202; and Wilson, 656-6372.

**H.R. 30 Casino Destination Resort Facilities** the General Assembly could/would regulate an unlimited number of casinos and use resulting taxes for “education,” as a governor specifies.

**ACTION – Oppose.** The Economic Development & Tourism Committee has 36 members, so please call Chairman Stephens, 656-5115; V-Ch. Gambill, 656-0254; Sec. Sainz, 656-0178; Democrats Allen, 656-0109; Bennett, 656-0202, and Burnough, 656-0116; Republicans Gravley, 656-5025; Greene, 656-9210, and Gunter, 656-0325.

**H.R. 39 Constitutional Convention for Term Limits** requests Congress to call an Article V Constitutional Convention, which would be a law unto itself to do whatever delegates desire.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Since the Rules Committee has 37 members, please call Representatives Richard Smith Ch., 656-5141; V-Ch., Hatchett, 656-5025; Jasperse, Sec., 656-7153; Democrats Beverly, 656-5058; Drenner, 656-0202, and Holcomb, 656-6372, plus Republicans Ballinger, 656-7153; Kelley, 656-5024; and Carson, 656-7855.

**H.R. 55 Independent Non-partial Committee to Reapportion Districts** 14 appointees would re-draw districts now drawn by elected legislators, who are accountable to voters.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Legislators are accountable to voters; appointees are not. Call Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Representatives Rich, Ch., 656-5087; Taylor, V-Ch., 656-7857; Holmes, Sec., 656-5132; Ballinger, 656-7153; DeLoach, 656-0178; Dollar, 463-7853; Efstration, 656-5125; Fleming, 656-5105; Gilliard, 656-7859; Jackson, 656-0314; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Kimberly, 656-7859; Nix, 656-5146; Scott, 656-0314; Setzler, 656-5143; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Richard Smith, 656-5141; and Stephens, 656-0265.

February 2021

## More Proposed Constitutional Amendments

### **H.R. 56 Only Resident Citizens Have the Right to Vote in Georgia Elections**

**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.R. 20 Independent Commission to Re-draw Districts for State and Congress**

**ACTION – Oppose.** Elected legislators now re-draw districts, the proposed commissioners would be appointed. Call Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee Senators Kennedy, Ch., 656-0045; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; Tonya Anderson, 463-2598; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dolezal, 656-7127; Gooch, 656-9221; Harbin, 656-0078; Harbison, 656-0074; Harold Jones, 656-0036; Miller, 656-6578; Rhett, 656-0054; and Tillery, 656-5038.

### **S.R. 26 Improvement Loans or Grants to Governments/Commissions Owning Airports**

Loans would be repaid as specified.

**ACTION – Support.** The Appropriations Committee has 30 senators. Please call Senators Tillery, Ch., 656-5038; Gooch, V-Ch., 656-9221; Burke, Sec., 656-0040; Republicans Ginn, 656-4700; Mullis, 656-0057; Walker, 656-0095; Democrats Tate, 463-8053; Emanuel Jones, 656-0502; and Jordan, 656-6446.

### **S.R. 28 Article V Constitutional Convention U.S. House & Senate Term Limits**

**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.

### **S.R. 29 Article V Constitutional Convention for a Balanced Budget**

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Government Oversight Committee members listed above under S.R. 28.

**S.R. 36 General Assembly Elects 14, Governor Appoints 5 to Board of Regents.** A team of five representatives and five senators will elect one Regent from each of the 14 congressional districts, and the Governor will appoint five at-large members to be confirmed by the Senate.

**ACTION – Support.** This clarifies current law. Call Higher Education Committee Senators Tippins, Ch., 657-0406; Strickland, V-Ch., 463-6598; Payne, Sec., 463-5402; Beach, 463-1378; Burns, 656-7586; Harrell, 463-2260; Hickman, 463-1371; Hufstetler, 656-0034; Jordan, 656-6446; Orrock, 463-8054; and Rhett, 656-0054.

## Nitty-Gritty

**H.B. 113 Register and Vote on Election Day** introduced by Representative Kim Alexander January 27<sup>th</sup> authorizes same-day registration and voting.

**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.

**H.B. 120 Georgia Resident In-State Tuition Act** introduced January 27<sup>th</sup> by Representative Kasey Carpenter authorizes in-state tuition for noncitizens under age 30. It allows in-state tuition for illegal aliens in the U.S., despite this current law: “Noncitizen students shall not be classified as in-state for tuition purposes unless the student is legally in this state....”

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Higher Education Committee Representatives Martin, Ch., 404-5146; Ehrhart, V-Ch., 656-0152; Bentley, Sec., 656-0287; Burnough, 656-0116; Carpenter, 656-1803; Clark, 656-0287; Dempsey, 463-2248; Dickey, 656-5099; Dreyer, 656-0265; Dubnik, 656-0213; Holcomb, 656-637; Holland, 656-0116; Jasperse, 656-7153; Kausche, 656-0116; Knight, 463-2248; Mathiak, 656-0298; Metz, 656-6372; Park, 656-0314; Pirkle, 656-7850; Smyre, 656-0109; Washburn, 656-0152; Wiedower, 656-0325; and Rick Williams, 656-0254.

**H.B. 1 Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act**, introduced January 29<sup>th</sup> by Representative Josh Bonner, prohibits the limitation of lawful expressive communication – verbal, audio-visual, electronic – on campuses of public institutions of higher learning. It would protect all peaceful assembly, literature distribution, carrying signs, circulating petitions, demonstrations, protests, and speeches, including guest speakers.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Higher Education Committee Representatives listed above under H.B. 120.

## More Nitty-Gritty

### **Sports Gambling Passed House Committee into House Rules Committee**

**H.B. 86 Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act** by Representative Mickey Stephens, introduced January 26<sup>th</sup>, explicitly, targets anyone age 21 or older to use cell phones and other mobile devices to gamble on online sports, despite its addictive nature. 90% of PG (pathological gamblers) gambled with their paychecks or family savings; 30% had gambling debts of \$75,000 - \$150,000. Some used loan sharks to pay their debt. ([www.GeorgiaGamblingHelp.org](http://www.GeorgiaGamblingHelp.org))

**ACTION – Urgent! Act NOW to OPPOSE sports betting.** H.B. 86 passed the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee 19-7 on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and went to the 37-member House Rules Committee. Call Rules Representatives Richard Smith, Ch., 656-5141; Hatchett, V-Ch., 656-5025; Jasperse, Sec., 656-7153; *Republicans*: Burns, 656-5052; Kelley, 656-5024; Ballenger, 656-7153; *Democrats*: Beverly, 656-5058; Drenner, 656-0202; and Holcomb, 656-6372.

**H.B. 21 Criminalizes “Bias” Thought** introduced January 26<sup>th</sup> by Representative Sandra Scott creates a crime for reporting incidents to 9-1-1 that the operator might think might be based on a person’s lifestyle OR might be intended to intimidate someone or some group. There’s no mention of whether such reports would or would not be investigated if “bias” is suspected.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives listed under H.R. 13 on page one.

**H.B. 71 Mandatory Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten** introduced by Representative Donna McLeod January 14<sup>th</sup> asks the State Board of Education to (a) establish a four-year pilot program in up to six local school systems to learn the feasibility of mandatory pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for all children before entering first grade. (b) Such schools must provide free breakfast, lunch and transportation for all students. (c) A preferred funding plan is outlined.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Parents are currently free to choose whether to send their children to pre-K or K. 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; LaRiccia, 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. 9 Physical and Mental “Telehealth” for Students in School** Representative Sandra Scott introduced January 26<sup>th</sup> to authorize the use of “communication technologies, including but not limited to, telephones, remote patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means to facilitate the assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a student’s health care when the health care provider is at a remote location and the student is at a school or is participating in any school related function.” Considering the fact that, unknown to parents, pregnant girls have been whisked out of school to get an abortion I shudder to think what could/would result with such control of students’ MINDS and BODIES.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Education Committee Representatives listed above under H.B. 71.

**S.B. 17 Whole Child Model Schools Act** by Representative Emanuel Jones introduced January 26<sup>th</sup> to implement a collaborative approach to education (mind) and health (physical /mental) in elementary and secondary schools in cooperation with “community organizations” and “community partners.” Parental authority would be highly compromised, if not lost.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Education & Youth Committee Senators Payne, Ch., 463-5402; Anavitarte, V-Ch., 656-0085; Sims, Sec., 463-5259; Albers, 463-8055; Brass, 463-1376; Dolezel, 656-7127; Halpern, 463-1351; Jackson, 463-5261; James, 463-1379; McNeill 656-9644; Parent, 656-5109; and Tippins, 657-0406.

**S.B. 3 Raise Mandatory School Age from 16-17** introduced January 13<sup>th</sup> by Senator Lester Jackson is not, necessarily, a good idea. It has been introduced and defeated several times.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Education & Youth Committee Senators as listed under S.B. 17 above.

## **Horse Racing & Pari-Mutuel Betting**

### **Disguised as the “Rural Georgia Jobs & Growth Act”**

**S.B. 30 Rural Georgia Jobs and Growth Act** Senator Brandon Beach introduced January 28<sup>th</sup> creates the Georgia Horse Racing Commission to (a) license and regulate horse racing and pari-mutuel betting, (b) regulate racetracks, horse facilities, gaming facilities, hotels, and restaurants.

**ACTION – Oppose.** 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.

### **Flurry of Election Bills**

**H.B. 132 Operating Procedures for County Elections and Voter Registration** introduced by Representative Mesha Mainor January 29<sup>th</sup> requires county election superintendents and boards of registrars to follow State Election Board guidelines to (a) process absentee applications and ballots, (b) verify signature on envelopes and other documents, (c) present qualifications and job descriptions of officials and staff. (d) Create a county legislative oversight advisory board.

**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; J. Jones, 656-5072; Martin, 656-5146; Rich, 656-5087; L. Smith, 656-7149; Smyre, 656-0109; and R. Williams, 656-0254.

**H.B. 59 Special Absentee Ballot for Overseas Citizens & Military Personnel** introduced by Representative Wes Cantrell January 13<sup>th</sup> requires the Secretary of State to prepare special absentee ballots for general primary runoffs and general election runoffs for use by qualified elector who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot per federal law.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Special Committee on Election Integrity Representatives listed above under H.B. 132.

**S.B. 26 Ballot Drop Boxes** introduced January 27<sup>th</sup> by Senator Sheikh Rahman requires a drop box at each advance voting location in all counties. Result: voter fraud will be much easier!

**ACTION – Oppose.** Reportedly, at least one drop box disappeared from its location for three days before it resurfaced. Call Ethics Committee Senators Burns, Ch., 656-7856; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Harold Jones, Sec., 656-0036; Anavarte, 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.

**S.B. 40 Monitor, Open, Count, Scan Absentee Ballots** by Representative Jennifer Jordan introduced January 28<sup>th</sup>, designates the second Monday before a primary, election, or runoff as opening day for absentee ballots, tabulation and scanning of such votes. Data gleaned thereby must be kept secret until 7:00 p.m. Election Day. Premature sharing of that secret data is illegal.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Ethics Committee Senators listed under S.B. 26 above.

**S.B. 39 Deletes Purchase/Possession of Controlled Substance from Moral Turpitude Law** introduced January 28<sup>th</sup> by Senator Harold Jones allows re-registration of voters taken off the voter list for buying/possessing/making/distributing/selling a controlled substance or marijuana.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Ethics Committee Senators listed above under S.B. 26.

**S.B. 38 Permanent Absentee Ballot Request** introduced by Senator Elena Parent January 28<sup>th</sup> authorizes a permanent absentee voter list so voters automatically get future absentee ballots.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Ethics Committee Senators listed above under S.B. 26.

**S.B. 29 Absentee Ballot Applications Must Include Copy of Document as ID** introduced by Senator Jason Anavarte allows absentee ballot applicants to prove identity with a copy of any form containing their permanent or temporary address. This makes voter fraud very easy.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Ethics Committee Senators listed above under S.B. 26.

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