
Legislators, Please Don't Pass Bills *that reward* Lawlessness

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” – Psalm 11:3

King David asked, “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines “can” as “to be able to do, make or accomplish.” So, what can be done by the “righteous,” defined by the *Dictionary* as “acting in accord with divine or moral law.” Although society is neglecting divine law, unabashedly destroying moral law, and defying the Constitution, those standards must be re-established and enforced, “in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,” as stated in the *Preamble to the U.S. Constitution*.

Q. What can be done to recover constitutional authority and re-instate the observance of law?

A. Legislators can stop passing bills, such as H.B. 999, that reward unlawful entry into the U.S.

H.B. 999 Georgia Educational Freedom Act by Representative Wes Cantrell establishes state-funded promise scholarships of \$6,000 per school year for each participating student to fund private nonpublic schools, sectarian or nonsectarian, higher education, curricula, etc.

- To participate, H.B. 999 *does not* require parents or students to be in the U.S. legally.
- To qualify for a \$6,000 annual scholarship, the parents must, currently, *reside in Georgia*.
- A student must be enrolled/attended a *Georgia school for six weeks* in the previous year.
- Parents *promise* they'll be taught reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science.
- Students enrolled in a Department of Juvenile Justice school are not eligible for the program.

If H.B. 999 passes, the 14 members of the *appointed* Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) will *appoint* eight parents of *participating students* to six-year terms on a promise scholarship parent review committee. In turn, the commission's *appointed* executive director would *appoint* eight members to one-year terms on a review committee to oversee the funding of students (a) who *reside* in Georgia and (b) attended school six weeks the previous year.

H.B. 999 has a huge loophole that allows non-citizens \$6,000 per year for private schools and tax-funded colleges. The GSFC funds citizens and “persons” alike, although “persons” include unlawful residents. Lines 298-302 of H.B. 999 state the current GSFC purpose as follows:

“Purpose of commission [GSFC]. The purpose of the commission shall be to help improve the higher educational opportunities of citizens and persons in this state by serving as an agency and budget unit within the executive branch of state government for the purpose of carrying out and effectuating the powers, duties, and functions set forth in this part and in Chapter 2B of this title.”

ACTION – OPPOSE. Call House Education Committee Representatives Dubnik, Ch., 404 656-7857; 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; Wilson, 656-6372.

Other Bills Dededicating Taxpayer Money to Unlawful Residents

Q. How can the use of taxpayer dollars be directed only to recipients who are lawfully in the U.S.?

A. Repeal laws that reward unlawful actions. Stop passing legislation that rewards unlawful behavior.

Bills that Reward Unlawful Acts

H.B. 60 Personalized Education Plan Accounts for Noncitizens, by Representative Wes Cantrell introduced January 12, 2021, had a short history in last year's session. The House Education Committee favorably reported it on February 26th, but it was sent back to committee twice – on March 5th and again on March 31st. Although it remains alive for this session, its requirements are contained in legislation this year – H.B. 999. *Both bills establish an appointed parent review committee to oversee the use of \$6,000 grants for non-citizens of the U.S.*

ACTION – OPPOSE. Call House Education Committee Representatives listed under H.B. 999 on page one.

H.B. 120 In-State Tuition for Noncitizens, introduced January 27, 2021 by Representative Kasey Carpenter, carves out another way to fund noncitizens. It authorizes in-state tuition for noncitizens under age 30, which directly contradicts S.B. 107 that, unanimously, passed the legislature last year, the governor signed, and became law¹ July 1, 2021.

ACTION – Oppose H.B. 120. It remains alive this year. Call Higher Education Committee listed below under H.B. 932.

H.B. 932 In-State Tuition for Noncitizens, introduced January 24, 2022 by Representative Wes Cantrell, amends current law by classifying “special immigrants” as eligible for in-state tuition. Currently, the following are authorized to receive in-state tuition: lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, or other eligible noncitizens. *Q. Does that include U.S. citizens?*

ACTION – OPPOSE. Call Higher Education Committee Representatives Martin, Ch., 404 656-5146; 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, 656-7857; Holcomb, 656-637; Holland, 656-0116; Jasperse, 656-7153; Kausche, 656-0116; Knight, 463-2248; Mathiak, 656-0298; Metz, 656-6372; Moore, 656-0220; Park, 656-0314; Pirkle, 656-7850; Smyre, 656-0109; Washburn, 656-0152; Wiedower, 656-0325; Rick Williams, 656-0254.

Homestead Exemption

S.B. 327 Homestead Exemption for Educational Purposes was introduced January 25th by Senator Butch Miller. If passed, residents of a county, area, or independent school district may claim an annually renewable exemption from ad valorem taxes for education, (a) if at any point in the calendar year, the district “substantially deviated” from curriculum adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) for that year and (b) if the SBOE adopted a resolution affirming that the school district substantially deviated from the SBOE curriculum. This could deter the teaching of critical race theory (CRT) and affirm a resolution passed by the SBOE June 3, 2021.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Senate 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; Tippins*, 657-0406. (*Ex Officio)

S.R. 360 Homestead Exemption for Education, introduced January 25th by Senator Butch Miller, is a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the exemptions of S.B. 327, were it to pass. Constitutional amendments require two-thirds votes in both House and Senate.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Senate Education & youth Committee Senators listed above under S.B. 327.

¹ **Ga. L. 2021, p. 145:** “Noncitizen students shall not be classified as in-state for tuition purposes unless the student is legally in this state and there is evidence to warrant consideration of in-state classification as determined by the board of regents. Lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, or other eligible noncitizens as defined by federal Title IV regulations may be extended the same consideration as citizens of the U.S. in determining whether they qualify for in-state classification. International students who reside in the U.S. under nonimmigrant status conditioned at least in part upon intent not to abandon a foreign domicile shall not be eligible for in-state classification.”

Election Integrity

S.B. 325 Remove Provisions Relating to Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes, introduced by Senator Butch Miller on January 25th, deletes current law allowing multiple absentee ballot drop-boxes in districts. If passed, the following would become law:

(a) Each site used for receiving absentee ballots and advance voting must be a building that is a branch of the county courthouse, a courthouse annex, a government service center that provides general government services, another government building generally accessible to the public, or a building used as an election day polling place, though it may not be a government building.

(b) In all counties with a population of 550,000, per the U.S. census, any building that is a branch of the county courthouse or courthouse annex established within any such county shall be an additional registrar's or absentee ballot clerk's office or place of registration for the purpose of receiving absentee ballots and advance voting.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Ethics Committee Senators Burns, Ch., 404 656-7856; 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; Mullis*, 656-0057; Robertson, 463-3931; Strickland, 463-6598. (*Ex Officio)

Abortion-inducing Drugs

S.B. 351 Women's Health and Safety Act, by Senator Bruce Thompson, introduced January 25th, prohibits abortion-inducing drugs in school* facilities or on state property, provides for criminal penalties and a right to sue violators. However, no civil liability may be assessed against the pregnant woman on whom the drug-induced abortion was attempted or performed. After signing a comprehensively detailed consent form, a pregnant woman must wait 24 hours before an abortion or the administration of an abortion-inducing drug. Among many other things, she will be advised that the baby's father¹ will be liable to assist in supporting her child. The baby's development and gestational age will be explained and the pregnant woman will have an opportunity to view her ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat. In civil actions the woman may use her initials or a pseudonym in court proceedings that may be closed. Judgment determines who pays attorney's fees.

Page 20 of the 28-page bill states: "Abortion-inducing drugs shall only be provided by a qualified physician following procedures contained in this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer, supplier, physician, qualified physician, or any other person to provide any abortion-inducing drug via courier, delivery, telemedicine, or mail service."

Page 22* states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or the laws of this state, abortion-inducing drugs shall not be provided in any school facility or on state grounds, including but not limited to, elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education in this state." *Q. Do "state grounds," "not limited to" include public health clinics?*

The Department of Public Health would prepare an annual comprehensive statistical report for the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The aggregated data would be available to the public in downloadable format.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Health and Human Services Committee Senators Watson, Ch., 656-7880; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Dolezal, Sec., 656-7127; Au, 463-1562; Butler, 656-0075; Cowser, 463-1366; Halpern, 463-1351; Hatchett, 656-7454; Hufstetler, 656-0034; Lester Jackson, 463-5261; Kennedy*, 656-0045; Kirkpatrick, 656-3932; Orrock, 463-8054; Walker*, 656-0095. (*Ex Officio)

¹ Note: The pregnant woman is never referred to as "the mother," although the man is referred to as "the father."

Want to pay cash for purchases?

H.B. 1152 Fair Business Practices Act, introduced February 2nd by Representative Mesha Mainor, adds a new section to Georgia law to prohibit discrimination against cash buyers and requiring the use of credit. Merchants “shall not refuse to accept legal tender when offered as payment by a buyer.” Another interesting requirement: “If a merchant does not have exact change to give a cash buyer for an overpayment for goods and services paid for with cash, the merchant shall remit the amount of payment in excess of the purchase price and sales tax to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the general fund of the state treasury.” Violations may be subject to a class action suit and damages would be the greater of actual damages or \$10.00 per violation, plus any other rights and remedies provided by law.

ACTION – SUPPORT. 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; Yearta, 656-0254.

S.B. 319 Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021, dropped in the hopper almost a year ago on March 29, 2021 by Senator Jason Anavitate, passed the Senate Judiciary Committee 6 – 3 this week and went into the Senate Rules Committee. It would (a) repeal weapons-carry licenses and (b) authorize “permit-less carry” (c) by a “lawful weapons carrier.” Senator Anavitate said, “The requirement to have a permit does not deter or [hinder] a criminal from carrying a firearm concealed. They will do it regardless,” adding that a licensing process is a barrier between law-abiding citizens and the Second Amendment, while criminals get guns illegally, regardless of the permitting process.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call Rules Committee Senators Mullis, Ch., 404 656-0057; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; Lee 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; Hufstetter, 656-0034; Harold Jones, 656-0036; Kennedy*, 656-0045; Miller*, 656-6578; Parent, 656-5109; Walker, 656-0095. (*Ex Officio)

H.B. 905 Invasion of Privacy by Surveillance Requires Consent, introduced January 14th by Representative Rick Williams, relates to eavesdropping, surveillance, or intercepting communication which invades another’s privacy or divulges private messages. It renders illegal the intentional, clandestine placing of a mobile GPS device or any such monitoring device to track the physical location of an adult person without the consent of such person.

ACTION – SUPPORT. Call House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives Burchett, Ch., 404 656-5705; Tyler Paul Smith, V-Ch., 657-1803; 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; Reeves, 651-7737; Setzler, 656-5143. (*Ex Officio)

S.B. 323 Repeal State Income Tax in Entirety, introduced January 25th by Senator Butch Miller, repeals Title 48 Chapter 7 and replaces it with this: “For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, no income taxes whatsoever shall be levied or collected by the state or any political subdivision thereof and no income tax returns shall be required to be filed for such taxable years.” *Q. Would resulting taxes unduly burden those with incomes too low to tax?*

ACTION – Ask legislators this: What would replace the state income tax? Call Senate Finance Committee Senators Hufstetter, Ch., 404 656-0034; Albers, V-Ch., 463-8055; Payne, Sec., 463-5402; Cowser*, 463-1366; Gooch, 656-9221; Hickman, 463-1371; Jackson, Lester, 463-5261; Jones, Burt, 656-0082; Miller, 656-6578; Orrock, 463-8054; Rhett, 656-0054; Thompson, 656-0065. (*Ex Officio)

Georgia Insight is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.