

Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler
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"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a
"...and having done all ... stand."
Ephesians 6:13c

OPPOSE the ERA, It has Dire National Consequences

The ERA does not mention women; it does not put women in the U.S. Constitution.

The ERA puts the word "sex" in the U.S. Constitution.

H.R. 969, introduced¹ in the Georgia General Assembly January 29, 2018, is an attempt by Democrats to ratify a federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in Georgia. Almost 50 years after it was introduced in 1923, Congress passed ERA, a proposed constitutional amendment, in 1972. Since constitutional amendments must be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the 50 states, a seven-year time limit for ratification was attached to the proposal. At the end of seven years, only 35 states had ratified ERA, leaving them three states short of ratification. During a three-year time-limit extension, no other state ratified ERA and, thankfully, it failed.

ACTION – OPPOSE H.R. 969. Call House Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Fleming, V-Ch., 656-0152; Kelley, Sec., 657-1803; Beskin, 656-0254; Caldwell, 656-0152; Golick, 656-5943; Hanson, 656-0325; Powell, 656-5103; Rutledge, 656-0254; Welch, 656-5912; Nix 656-5146 (Ex officio). (These are the 9 Republicans on the 16-member committee.)

Then and Now: Georgia Conservatives ask Legislators to Vote NO on ERA Previously: ERA Lost Twice in Georgia

1975 the Georgia Senate defeated ERA 33-22.

1982 the Georgia House of Representatives defeated it 116-57.

If 38 states had ratified the ERA, the U.S. Constitution would have been amended as follows:

"Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex."

Supreme Court Justice¹ Explained Changes ERA would Mandate

No-Fault divorce must be adopted nationally. (p. 214-215)

Prostitution must be legalized as part of "privacy." (p. 97, 99, 215)

Bigamy laws would become unconstitutional as part of "privacy." (p. 195-196)

Prisons must be sex-integrated. (p. 100-101, 216)

Schools, colleges, fraternities and sororities must be sex-integrated. (p. 169)

Mother's Day and Father's Day must not be separate holidays. (p. 146)

The words "husband" and "wife" must be eliminated and replaced with "spouse." (p. 15-16)

Women must be drafted into the military when men are drafted. (p. 202, 218)

Women must not be exempted from military combat. (p. 26, 218)

Status. Undergirded in Congress by a few Democrat women (with no Republican support), ERA supporters are focusing on Nevada, Georgia, and Illinois to reach 38 ratifications.

When Nevada passed ERA on March 22, 2017, liberals, who seem to be reviving the old ERA bill, assumed that ratification had reached 36. Also in 2017 and obviously emboldened with the *Nevada* victory, they introduced ERA in *Illinois*, where it remains alive for Illinois' 2018 legislative session that began January 8th. In *Georgia* ERA was introduced January 31, 2018.

¹ *Sex Bias in the U.S. Code*, by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 1977; book pages in parentheses above.

H.R. 939 Opposes Putting a Citizenship Question on the Census

The Census, a Constitutional Mandate

“The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, such manner as they by law direct.”

– The Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 2

H.R. 939, introduced January 29th in the Georgia House of Representatives by Democrat Representatives Marin, Nguyen, Lopez, and Gonzalez, opposes the addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

H.R. 939 is in response to the U.S. Department of Justice letter of December 12, 2017 that requests the Census Bureau to reinstate on the 2020 Census questionnaire a citizenship question, which had been included in the discontinued “long-form” census.

The long-form Census that was used from 1970 to 2000 was replaced by the American Community Survey (ACS) that is sent annually to a sampling of the population, approximately one in every 38 households. As the only federal survey that collects answers to a variety of demographic and citizenship questions, its information is uniquely valuable.

A citizenship question on the Census could enhance enforcement of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) that (a) prohibits admission into the U.S. those who might require significant public benefits, and (b) authorizes deportation of legal immigrants who end up using significant public benefits, or are likely to be or have become a “public charge.”

Decisions concerning “public charge” status take into account age, health, family status, assets, income, and education and skills.

ACTION – OPPOSE H.R. 969 that opposes a citizenship question on the Census. Call House Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Fleming, V-Ch., 656-0152; Kelley, Sec., 657-1803; Beskin, 656-0254; Caldwell, 656-0152; Golick, 656-5943; Hanson, 656-0325; Powell, 656-5103; Rutledge, 656-0254; Welch, 656-5912; Nix 656-5146 (Ex officio). (These are the 9 Republicans on the 16-member committee.)

The Value of the Census

- The decennial Census determines the number of representatives each state must have to assure *equal representation in the U.S. House of Representatives*, where the total number of members has been fixed at 435 since 1911¹.
- Reapportionment of U.S. House districts is required after each Census, since national population increases and decreases *affect district sizes*. In 2010, the average number of residents in congressional districts was 710,767, which the 2020 Census could change.
- To keep each district equal in terms of population, even states that retain the same number of representatives must redraw their districts after each Census.
- The Census provides economic policy data that determines the disbursement of billions of dollars in federal funding for *state and community projects*, such as (a) education, (b) law enforcement, (c) federal highways, and (d) aid to farmers.
- President Trump’s Presidential Memo of March 6, 2017 says a citizenship question is necessary for “ensuring the proper collection of all information necessary to rigorously evaluate all grounds of *inadmissibility or deportability*, or grounds for the denial of other *immigration benefits*.”

¹ Exception: In 1959 when Alaska and Hawaii became states, the number of U.S. Representatives was increased to 437, but the number reverted to 435 for the 1962 election.

S.B. 375 Keep Faith in Adoption and Foster Care Act

“The General Assembly finds that child-placing agencies have the right to provide services in accordance with the agencies’ sincerely held religious beliefs.”

– S.B. 375

S.B. 375, Keep Faith in Adoption and Foster Care Act, introduced February 1st by Senator William Ligon, adds a new section to Georgia law to protect religious freedom in adoption and foster care cases. It (a) authorizes child-placing agencies to decline to accept referrals for foster care or adoption services, if the refusal is based on sincerely held beliefs. Also, it (b) prohibits adverse repercussions from governmental agencies whose referrals are declined.

ACTION – Support. Call Judiciary Committee Senators Stone, Ch., 404 463-1314; Cowsert, V-Ch., 463-1366; Tillery, Sec., 656-0089; Jones, 463-3942; Kennedy, 656-0045; Kirk, 463-5258; Ligon, 463-1382; McKoon, 463-3931; Parent, 656-5109; Rhett, 656-0054; and Thompson, 463-1318.

H.B. 819, Change Address at Polls on Election Day and Vote the Same Day, introduced by Representative Michael Smith February 5th, authorizes Georgia residents who have moved into a new polling district to vote a regular ballot at the new precinct on (a) Election Day and (b) at any advanced voting location during the advance voting period, even if they have not changed their address on the voter registration. Even with the wrong address, their vote becomes valid.

Also, H.B. 819 (c) requires precincts that are 25 miles from electors to be divided or altered, so no voter will travel over 25 miles to vote. (d) No polling place may be relocated within 90 days of a primary, election or runoff, except when unavoidable or in emergencies. (e) Time to vote in runoffs will be from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. to align with elections and primaries. (f) Each county and municipality must have at least one location for every 150,000 voters.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Governmental Affairs Representatives Rynders, Ch., 404 656-6801; Fleming, V-Ch., 656-0152; Blackmon, Sec., 656-0178; Brockway, 656-0188; Collins, 656-0109; Lumsden, 656-0325; Meadows, 656-5141; Powell, A., 463-3793; Powell, J., 656-5103; Price, 656-0202; Taylor, D., 656-7857; Taylor, T., 656-3949; Turner, 656-0152; Williamson, 656-5024. (These are the 14 Republicans on this 20-member committee.)

H.B. 764 Lawful Possession of Certain Quantities of Low THC oil and Marijuana

introduced by Representative Clark January 31st would (a) add post-traumatic stress disorder to conditions that qualify for THC oil and (b) legalize the possession of any quantity of low THC oil by any person involved in a business licensed to dispense, extract, process, produce, or transport low THC oil.

Licensees may include employees, agents, board members or directors, subcontractors or suppliers of goods or services to any licensed dispensary or licensed production facility, including licensees affiliated with a postsecondary educational institution within Georgia or an independent production facility.

A licensed dispensary located in Georgia would provide low THC oil to registered individuals and registered caretakers. But protocols would not allow low THC oil to be dispensed from, produced from, obtained from, sold to, or transferred to a location outside Georgia.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) would develop rules and regulations for authorized and licensed facilities to grow marijuana, as well as extract, process, and produce low THC oil. DPH would allow two nontransferable specialty licenses for producing THC oil in the state.

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Judiciary Non Civil Representatives **Republicans** Golick, Ch., 40 656-5943; Reves, V-Ch., 656-0298; Gravley, Sec., 656-0152; Ballinger, 656-5105; Coomer, 656-5024; Cooper, 656-5069; Price, 656-0202; Setzler, 656-7857; Silcox, 656-0109; Willard, 656-5125, Ex-officio. **Democrats** on the committee are Boddie, 656-0109; Dickerson, 656-0314; Gonzalez, 656-0220; Kendrick, 656-0116; and Trammell, 656-5058.

Will Casino Poker be in Every Town and County in Georgia?

“Gambling; provide casino poker room in each county and municipal corporation which has established an entertainment district; authorize General Assembly – CA”

– H.R. 317 Title

H.R. 317’s title quoted above explains the bill, almost. As the title clearly states, the intent of the bill is to put casino poker in every entertainment district in the state. But, notice the “CA” at the end of the title quoted above. CA means it’s a proposed constitutional amendment that, if it passes the General Assembly and is ratified by voters in November, it would lock into the Georgia Constitution a business that negatively affects everything and everyone around it.

A Reno, Nevada study noted that 22 percent of Reno’s reported crimes were committed within 1,000 feet of major casinos. Some describe areas around Nevada casinos as “crime magnet zones,” where the following crimes were reported¹: 469 assaults, 167 robberies, 246 domestic batteries, 36 rapes, 980 burglaries, 613 car crimes, 1023 drug or liquor disorderly conduct crimes, 129 prostitution arrests, 1249 financial crimes, 2 gun-related crimes and 4 murders.

It stated that, potentially, casinos in Atlanta or Savannah would reduce productivity, and raise crime rates, while increasing bad debts, bankruptcy, divorce, and political corruption.

A casino poker room may not qualify as a major casino, but it could produce major problems for residents, workers, players, businesses, property owners, and the local culture.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Regulated Industries Representatives **Republicans** Maxwell, Ch., 404 656-5143; Harrell, V-Ch., 463-3793; Hawkins, Sec., 656-0213; Beskin, 656-0254; Chandler, 656-0254; Cooke, 656-0188; Cooper, 656-5069; Deffenbaugh, 656-0202; Golick, 656-5943; Jones, 656-5072; Kirby, 656-0178; Martin, 656-5064; Powell, 463-3793; Rakestraw, 656-0178; Rogers, 651-7737; Rutledge, 656-0254; Welch, 656-5912; Williams, 656-0287.

Democrats Bennett, 656-0202; Mitchell, 656-0126; Stephens, 656-0265.

Israel

S.R. 718 Reaffirms Bonds of Friendship and Cooperation with Israel, introduced February 6th by Senator Lester Jackson, it was read and adopted in the Senate February 7th. It states:

“Georgia is home to 44 Israeli companies; Georgia’s Department of Economic Development has a trade office in Israel; the cities of Atlanta, Georgia and Ra’anana, Israel, and Yokne’am, Israel are official Sister Cities, as are the cities of Sandy Springs, Georgia, and Western Galilee, Israel; Israel has an established international law enforcement exchange program and Georgia imports more than \$474.8 million from Israel.”

S.R. 731 Commends the Nation of Israel was introduced February 12th by Senators Millar and Shafer and went to the Rules Committee. The resolution’s concluding paragraph states:

“Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate that the members of this body commend Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the State of Georgia and support Israel in its legal, historical, moral, and God-given right of self-governance and self-defense upon the entirety of its own land, recognizing that Israel is neither an attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others and that peace can be afforded the region only through a whole and united Israel.”

ACTION – Support. Call Rules Committee Senators Mullis, Ch., 404 656-0057; Hill, V-Ch., 656-5038; Millar, Sec., 463-2260; Albers, 463-8055; Butler, 656-0075; Cowsert, 463-1366; Gooch, 656-9221; Henson, 656-0085; Kennedy, 656-0045; Miller, 656-6578; Shafer, 656-0048; Tate, 463-8053; Thompson, 463-1318; Tippins, 657-0406; Unterman, 463-1368, and Wilkinson, 656-5257.

¹ Central Atlanta Progress Report, Appendix C, 2017

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