

## H.B. 940, "The Microchip Consent Act"

Representative Ed Setzler introduced H.B. 940, "The Microchip Consent Act," on January 16<sup>th</sup>, requiring personal prior consent for an RFID (microchip) to be implanted into the consenting individual's body. Technologically specific microchips have been developed to retain their structure inside the human body, while producing retrievable personal data, as do chips in pets, farm animals and retail items.

Microchips implanted in anything, as well as in the human body, can be read by radio waves that penetrate all obstacles, including steel, walls, windows, doors, sealed envelopes, flesh or bone. There are many acceptable uses for microchips, but they can be major invaders of privacy, which H.B. 940 is designed to prevent.

Before you dismiss this as just so much science fiction, I've listed below several patents that had been granted by 2005, followed by several that were still pending in 2005. Both categories of patents – those already granted and those pending – provide glimpses into ways they're already being used and future plans that will become more bizarre as new technologies develop.

### Patents Granted in the U.S. from 1996 - 2005

1. Tampon Detection System (tracking intimate items after they're bought by consumers)
2. Method for determining if a Publication Has Not Been Read (chipped publications tracked after purchase)
3. Automated Monitoring of Activity of Shoppers in a Market (tracking via chips on customers' clothing)
4. Fabric Antenna for Tags (chips in clothing, accessories, draperies, linens, etc.)
5. Machine Readable Label Reader System for Articles with Changeable Status (chips monitor consumer use)
6. System and Method for Interactive Advertising (personal data-rich chips reveal income status of consumer)

**Particularly note number 8 in the "application" list below** – "Method & Apparatus for Locating & Tracking Persons." It would patent procedures for *deep body implants removable only by surgery*. That patent application was dated 2005. The current status is unknown.

### Applications for Patents from 2001 - 2004

1. Address Security & Privacy Issue of RFID To Track Consumer Product  
(without consumer consent or knowledge)
2. Identification and Tracking of Persons Using RFID-Tagged Items  
(chipping purchased items to track buyers)
3. Systems & Methods for Tracking Consumers in a Store Environment (in-store tracking of consumers)
4. Method and Apparatus for Remote Monitoring and Control of a Target Group (control, targets)
5. Identification and Tracking of Persons using RFID-Tagged Items (chipping persons with specific ID)
6. Radio-Frequency Tags for Sorting Post-Consumption Items  
(chips not destroyed, but readable, after discarded by buyers)
7. System and Method for Utilizing RF Tags to Collect Data Concerning Post-Consumer Resources  
(chip data recovered and used after consumer discards RFID-tagged items)
8. Method & Apparatus for Locating & Tracking Persons (deep body implants removable only by surgery)

**ACTION – Support H.B. 940.** Immediately call Representatives Willard, Committee Ch., 404 656-5128; Tumlin, Subcommittee Ch., 404 656-0177; Bruce, 656-0314; Hatfield, 656-0109; O'Neal, 656-5103; Lindsey, 656-0298; Billy Maddox, 656-0109; Stephenson, 656-0126; Teilhet, 636-0298.

## *Property Tax Changes*

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendments**

**S.R. 686** prefiled by Senator Eric Johnson, requires residential real estate taxes to be assessed at the property's original sale price. It proposes a constitutional amendment to set uniform assessments of *residential real property*, *historic property* and *standing timber*. The constitution does not, specifically, address those categories.

Since this would not be retroactive, assessments would be frozen at 2008 property values until it's sold or improvements increase the value. After property values are frozen, any increase in property taxes would be limited to the inflation rate, as published in the Consumer Price Index.

If S.R. 686 passes, voters would answer this question on the November General Election ballot:

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the freezing of existing residential real property values until property is sold and once sold provide that such residential real property shall be appraised for ad valorem taxation purposes at fair market value as of the date of the owner's acquisition thereof subject only to valuation increases at the inflation rate?"

**ACTION – Support. Call House Ways & Means Tax Reform Subcommittee Representatives listed below.**

**S.R. 859**, introduced by Senator Rogers, is yet another constitutional amendment on taxes. It authorizes the state to assess and collect ad valorem taxes on public utilities, railroad companies and airlines in a uniform manner *above* one-fourth mill on each dollar.

*Would this mean increased consumer rates for utilities, trains and air travel?*

If S.R. 859 passes, voters would answer this question on the November General Election Ballot:

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to repeal state ad valorem taxes except for emergencies?"

**ACTION – Oppose. Call House Ways & Means Tax Reform Subcommittee Representatives listed below.**

**S.R. 796**, introduced by Senator Chip Rogers is a constitutional amendment to change taxes on property used for *conservation* and *timber*. Property assessments for residential and nonresidential property would be frozen at the 2008 rate. Future assessments would be held to no more than a 4 percent increase in 2010 and 2 percent increases each taxable year thereafter.

S.R. 796, further, authorizes local boards of education to *decrease* millage rates, in addition to their current power to increase rates. This could be a first step toward Representative Richardson's "great plan" of 2007 to remove property tax as the source for funding education.

**An amendment is needed for S.R. 796.** Since local control of schools is tied to property tax, reductions in taxes for education, certainly, would be recovered elsewhere, probably through locally imposed sales and services taxes. Considering that probability, S.R. 796 should be amended to require any revenue collected locally for education to be retained for schools in that district. Education has declined because local control of schools is being consistently eroded.

*Is this another way to further erode local control of education?*

If S.R. 796 passes, voters would answer the following question on the November ballot:

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for ad valorem tax reform, to freeze real property values except for limited adjustments but allow future increases if approved by voters in a referendum, to provide for ratification of similar freeze exemptions which were previously enacted, and to provide procedures for increasing or decreasing millage rates for educational purposes?"

**ACTION – Ask for S.R. 796 to be amended by deleting Section 2.** Call Ways & Means Subcommittee Representatives Peake, Ch., 404 656-0188; Mills & Stephens, 656-5099; Royal, 656-0265; Abrams, 656-0220; Bryant & Lindsey, 656-0298; Fludd, 656-0314; Graves, 656-7146; Harbin, Jones & Parsons, 463-2247; Knight, 656-0152; Lewis, 656-9198; Mosby & Sims, 656-0287; O'Neal, 656-5103; Scott, 656-0254; & Tumlin, 656-0177.

## ***S.B. 340, No Sanctuary for Illegal Aliens in Georgia*** **On its Way to Passage**

**S.B. 340** is a good bill introduced by Senator Pearson on January 15<sup>th</sup> and it's well on its way to becoming law. It passed the Senate on February 7<sup>th</sup> with a vote of 45 yeas and 8 nays. Two of our 56 state senators didn't vote and another was excused.

S.B. 340 prohibits counties, municipal corporations and other governmental departments and agencies from enacting or enforcing a policy that would prevent local officials or employees from reporting the immigration status of anyone suspected of being here illegally. Likewise, no governmental entity in Georgia could prevent employees from cooperating with federal officials or law enforcement efforts to uphold immigration laws.

If this passes, it's likely to be upheld in court, if recent decisions are any indication. For example, a *federal judge recently upheld* a Valley Park, Missouri ordinance that penalizes local companies for hiring illegal aliens. *Another case in U.S. District Court was upheld in Arizona* when the judge ruled that business licenses could be suspended or revoked of any employer that, knowingly or unknowingly, hired an illegal alien. That's particularly encouraging to state legislators everywhere, including those in Georgia.

It, also, would affirm federal law against sanctuary policies. In states with sanctuary policies, gangs have issued "green lights" to kill police officers and police power has been severely limited in several cities. In 2006 when the Orange County sheriff proposed training hundreds of officers to enforce immigration laws, an *LA Times* editorial called his plan "overly broad, dangerously so." However, the paper, gratuitously, said the sheriff's proposal "to ascertain the immigration status of convicted felons in county jails" was "understandable."

Sanctuary policies assure illegal aliens they won't be turned over to federal officials, despite two laws passed by Congress in 1996 to prohibit sanctuary for illegals. Since both laws were upheld in the 1999 Court of Appeals, local governments *cannot legally* forbid employees from asking about immigration status or tipping off immigration authorities.

Cities began adopting sanctuary laws in the 1980s to "foster trust between illegal immigrants and police." Politicians ignored arguments that crimes wouldn't be reported and caved under pressure from immigrants, legal and otherwise. The result: in sanctuary cities, no distinction is made between legal immigrants and illegal aliens.

Criminal aliens released in sanctuary cities are not reported to immigration authorities that might begin deportation proceedings. So, it's no wonder, over 400,000 that received final deportation orders didn't report for the trip back home. They're still loose in the U.S.

Currently, there is *no* sanctuary policy in Georgia and S.B. 340 would keep it that way. If passed, no branch of local or state government in Georgia could enact or adopt an initiative, referendum or any other process that would implement or enforce a sanctuary policy. Local governments that violate these provisions could lose their state or federal funding or both.

**ACTION – Support.** Call House Judiciary Committee Representatives Willard, Ch., 404 656-5125; Lindsey, 656-0296; Hatfield, 656-0109; Bruce, 656-0314; Crawford, 656-0213; Fleming, 656-5024; Golick, 651-7737; Jacobs, 656-0152; Lane, 656-0109; Oliver, 656-0265; O'Neal, 656-5103; Stephenson, 656-0126; Teilhet, 656-0298; Thomas, 656-0314; Tumlin, 656-0177; & Wilkinson, 463-8143.

## ***S.R. 827, Security & Prosperity Partnership of North America***

You won't see information about it plastered across the headlines or featured on your favorite TV newscast, but, nevertheless, it's happening. On March 23, 2005, President Bush and leaders in Mexico and Canada signed the first agreement to integrate the three countries. They call it a Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPPNA), but it's vastly more than that.

It's evident these agreements aren't good for the U.S., because the President has denied their impact and kept them secret from Congress. He's down-played them as a simple economic merger of the U.S., Mexico and Canada, although they're trilateral agreements that directly threaten the U.S. Constitution, sovereignty and national independence. SPPNA, literally, opens wider the already crumbling national borders between the three countries.

While the U.S. has many economic agreements with innumerable countries throughout the world, none compares with SPPNA plans. None throws open our borders and welcomes all to come and go or drive trucks freely across U.S. borders, while filled with cargo that won't be inspected until they're half-way to Canada. But SPPNA does that and much more.

In this country of "open" government, SPPNA agreements are so secretive Judicial Watch was forced to use the Freedom of Information Act to learn how SPPNA affects the U.S. Since the President, totally, by-passed Congress on this, members of Congress who admit to knowing the facts, decided to act. Last August 6<sup>th</sup>, Phil Gingrey and Tom Price were among 22 U.S. congressmen that signed a letter to President Bush, asking him to stop the SPPNA partnership.

Since Congress has been by-passed, state officials are doing their best to stop it. The Georgia Senate's procedural shenanigans killed Senator Nancy Schaefer's 2007 resolution, explaining the dangers of the SPPNA. But on February 7<sup>th</sup> this year, she reintroduced it as **S.R. 827** that, upon passage, would be sent to Vice President Cheney and, hopefully, to Congress. U.S. officials, especially the President, need to read this resolution so all will know that Georgians want the U.S. to withdraw from the SPPNA and any other merger with any other country.

Already, without congressional oversight, 20 working groups in the U.S. are implementing the SPPNA agreements. When asked why the secrecy, a SPPNA spokesman said they didn't want to be interrupted by calls from citizens. So, without public input or congressional oversight, the 20 groups liberalized NAFTA duty-free standards and created unprecedented uniform cross-border pipeline regulations. They are removing all economic air service restrictions between the U.S. and Canada's airline territory and beyond, while implementing code sharing with U.S. and Mexican airlines. Six FAST/Express lanes operate at the U.S.-Mexico border and exclusive lines and schedules are being implemented at nine border crossings.

Super highways will go from Mexico through the U.S. into Canada, so trucks loaded with cargo won't be inspected until they reach so-called inland "ports" in the midwest. Taxes collected from American citizens will pay for property other Americans are forced to sell, so trucks can cut through the U.S. into Canada, hauling unrestricted cargo, including humans in bondage.

**ACTION – Support.** Contact Rules Committee Senators Balfour, 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Johnson, 656-5109; Moody, 463-8055; Pearson, 656-9221; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; Williams, 656-0089; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048.

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