

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

Gun Legislation in Georgia

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Constitution of the United States, Amendment II, Ratified December 15, 1791

H.B. 35, introduced January 15th by Representative Paul Battles, authorizes local boards of education to designate one or more administrators in each school to possess and carry firearms within a school safety zone or school building, at a school function, or on school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school.

Designated personnel must obtain a weapons carry license and complete the basic training course for peace officers administered by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council or a training course developed specifically for school administrators. The board of education would pay for the necessary and recurring training for the designated administrators.

ACTION: Support. Contact House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee at 404 463-3793 and ask to speak with each member. Representatives Powell, Ch., Taylor, V-Ch.; Atwood, Sec.; Cooke; Frazier; Glanton; Greene; Hightower; Hitchens; Holcomb; M. Jackson; Lumsden; Neal; Talton; and Waites.

Nibbling at the Second Amendment

S.B. 33, introduced by Senator James, adds a new Code section as follows:

"16-11-122.1. No person shall transport, have in his or her possession with the intent to sell, or sell any assault weapon or oversize magazine. The possession of two or more assault weapons or oversize magazines shall create a rebuttable presumption that possession is with intent to sell. Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to a term of not less than ten or more than 20 years in prison."

Weapons Prohibited by S.B. 33

~Semiautomatic rifle able to accept detachable magazines and two or more of the following:

A folding or telescoping stock; pistol grip; bayonet mount; flash suppressor or a threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor; or a grenade launcher;

~Semiautomatic pistol with detachable magazines and one or more of the following:

A magazine that attaches outside the pistol grip; a threaded barrel designed for a barrel extender, handgrip, or flash suppressor; a barrel shroud that functions as a handhold; or an unloaded weight of 1.4 kilograms or more;

~Semiautomatic version of a fully automatic firearm; and

~Semiautomatic shotgun with one or more of the following:

A folding or telescoping stock; pistol grip; fixed capacity of more than five rounds; or detachable magazine.

~Oversize magazines holding more than ten rounds of ammunition; or

Affixing two or more magazines together with tape, twine, etc.

ACTION: OPPOSE. Call Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee at 404 463-8053 and ask to speak with each member. Senators Stone, Ch.; Ligon, V-Ch.; C. Thompson, Sec.; McKoon, Ex-Officio; Bethel; Crosby; Fort; H. Hill; and Ramsey.

Health Insurance

Child's Medical Records

S.B. 1, introduced by Senator William Ligon January 17th, a new section to Code 33 providing both parents equal access to the child's health insurance information and records. No insurer could have a policy denying a parent of a child the right to inspect, review or attain copies of health insurance records relating to his or her own child. Such records would be equally available to both parents in all types of custody arrangements and could not be withheld from the custodial parent or the noncustodial parent unless a court order has specifically removed the right of the noncustodial parent to such information or unless parental rights have been terminated.

ACTION: Support. Contact Senate Insurance and Labor Committee at 404 656-7580 and ask for members by name. Senators Golden, Ch.; Shafer, V-Ch.; Judson Hill, Sec.; Bethel; Harbison; Burt Jones; McKoon; Ramsey; and Unterman.

Obamacare Health Exchange Established in S.B. 46

S.B. 46, introduced by Senator Nan Orrock January 15th, establishes a perpetually existing Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace Authority and a Small Business Health Options Program Exchange to comply with Obamacare. The governor would appoint the nine members to serve on the Authority, as well as three ex-officio members, all of whom would have varying years to serve, initially, with future terms of three years and reappointment possible. Members who are not public officers would receive per diem and travel expenses.

Duties of the Authority

Comply with Obamacare;

Operate outside the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act;

Operate this state's American Health Benefit Exchange and Small Business Health Options Program Exchange to comply with Obamacare;

Seek federal funding and other grants to accomplish its purpose;

Elect, appoint or hire officers, employees and other agents, including experts and fiscal agents, define their duties, and fix their compensation;

Make and execute contracts, leases and all instruments necessary or convenient to exercise its power or further its purpose;

Adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, regulations, policies and procedures to regulate its affairs and conduct business.

Purchase, lease or otherwise hold, lease, and dispose of real or personal property of every kind and character, or any interest therein, in furtherance of its public purpose.

Provide for the sale of qualified health insurance plans through the Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace; and

Establish a Small Business Health Options Program.

The Board of Directors of the Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace Authority would appoint two advisory committees consisting of up to ten members each to serve two-year terms after initial staggered terms. Advisory committee members will serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

ACTION: Oppose. Contact Senate Insurance and Labor Committee at 404 656-7580 and ask for each by name. Senators Golden, Ch.; Shafer, V-Ch.; Judson Hill, Sec.; Bethel; Harbison; Burt Jones; McKoon; Ramsey; and Unterman.

Ethics: Hot Topic, Many Bills, More to Come

H.B. 61, introduced by Representative Rusty Kidd on January 16th, requires state officials to file a quarterly disclosure listing and describing each gift/expenditure received from lobbyists, the name and address of the entity funding the gift and the date it was received.

The first failure to list a gift would result in a fine equal to the amount of the gift; a second failure fine would be twice the value of the gift; third and subsequent fines would be triple the value of the unreported item and all fines must be paid from the offender's personal funds.

Third and subsequent offenses could mean expulsion or censure from the General Assembly.

ACTION: Support. Contact House Rules Committee at 404 656-5141 and ask for each member by name.

Representatives Meadows, Ch.; Golick, V-Ch.; R. Smith, Sec.; Abrams, Ex-Officio; Benton; Casas; Channell; Cooper; Dempsey; Drenner; Ehrhart; Greene; Hamilton; Hugley; M. Jackson; J. Jones; Lindsey; Morris; O'Neal; Parrish; Peake; Powell; Ramsey; Rice; Roberts; Setzler; Sheldon; Sims; L. Smith; Smyre; Stephens; Weldon; Willard; and Al Williams.

S.R. 7, introduced by Senator Josh McKoon, proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to provide a fixed sum of \$0.00025 percent of total state appropriations to fund the Georgia Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (Ethics Commission). If it passes the General Assembly, it would be a question on the 2014 General Election Ballot.

S.B. 36, introduced by Senator Bill Heath on January 15th, simply says:

“A lobbyist shall not give a gift to any public officer.”

S.B. 48, introduced by Senator Steve Henson on January 15th, states:

“No lobbyist shall make gifts to a public officer where the aggregate value of such gifts exceeds \$100.00 in any calendar year. It shall be a misdemeanor offense to violate the provisions of this Code section.”

S.B. 49, introduced by Senator Jason Carter January 15th, changes the name of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission to the Georgia Ethics Commission and revises the appointment process for its five members. Currently, the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission members are appointed by the Governor, the Senate leaders and the House Speaker. If S.B. 49 passes, three members of the Georgia Ethics Commission would be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia and two would be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

S.R. 7, S.B. 36, 48 and 49 were assigned to the Senate Ethics Committee for consideration.

ACTION: Express your opinion on each of these bills by calling the Senate Ethics Committee at 404 651-7738 and ask for each member by name. They are: Senators Jeffares, Ch.; Crosby, V-Ch., Butler, Secretary, Davis, Jackson, Ligon, McKoon, Miller, Stone and Thompson

Legislation to (Retroactively) Repeal Death Penalty

H.B. 96, introduced January 17th by Representative Tyrone Brooks, creates a death-penalty-free Georgia with this new section of law:

“17-10-0.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, on and after the effective date of this Code section, the imposition of capital punishment is prohibited in this state. The sentence of any person under sentence of death on the effective date of this Code section shall be commuted to a sentence of life without parole.”

ACTION: Oppose. Call Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee at 404 463-8053 and ask to speak with each member. Senators Stone, Ch.; Ligon, V-Ch.; C. Thompson, Sec.; McKoon, Ex-Officio; Bethel; Crosby; Fort; H. Hill; and Ramsey.

Speech Broadcast on ABC Radio, April 3, 1965

If I were the devil ... I mean, if I were the Prince of Darkness, I would, of course, want to engulf the whole world in darkness. I would have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree, so I should set about however necessary to take over the United States.

I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please. Do as you please." To the young I would whisper, "The Bible is a myth."

I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and what is good is "square." In the ears of the young marrieds, I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be extreme in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct. And the old, I would teach to pray. I would teach them to say after me: "Our Father, which art in Washington."

If I were the devil, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten T.V. with dirtier movies and vice versa. And then, if I were the devil, I'd get organized. I'd infiltrate unions and urge more loafing and less work, because idle hands usually work for me. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. And, I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions ... let those run wild. I would designate an atheist to front for me before the highest courts in the land and I would get preachers to say "she's right."

With flattery and promises of power, I could get the courts to rule what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography and, thus, I would evict God from the courthouse, and then from the school house, and then from the houses of Congress, and then in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and I would deify science because that way men would become smart enough to create super weapons but not wise enough to control them.

If I were Satan, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas, a bottle. If I were the devil, I would take from those who have and I would give to those who wanted, until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And then, my police state would force everybody back to work.

Then, I could separate families, putting children in uniform, women in coal mines, and objectors in slave camps In other words, if I were Satan, I'd just keep on doing what he's doing.

Paul Harvey, Good Day!

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