

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

Georgia General Assembly Convened January 10th

“In the event that a Member experiences any of these symptoms [listed below] after the start of the 2022 Legislative Session, he or she should immediately leave the Capitol Complex (if present there) and should not return to the Capitol Complex until they have visited a doctor and received clearance to return.”

– Georgia House of Representatives

Cough

Shortness of breath

Difficulty breathing

Fever

Repeated shaking with

chills

New loss of taste or smell

Muscle pain

Headache

Sore throat”

COVID-19 Requirements for the Capitol Complex

- Members of the House Representatives were tested January 5th at the Capitol, while testing at other locations must have been done by Friday January 7th.
- House Staff were tested at the Capitol on January 5th.
- Test results were sent to Human Resources Director Donald Cronin by January 10th.
- The Speaker may remove from the House Chamber and Gallery those refusing to comply.
- Masks must be worn by House Members and staff when in the House Chamber or Gallery.
- Members, staff and public attendees must wear masks to enter committee meetings.
- Committee and sub-committee meetings are live-streamed where technology is available.
- Members who wish to participate virtually must give a 24-hour notice.
- Public attendees of committee meetings must register name, address and contact numbers.
- Registration lists may be used for contact-tracing when COVID-19 infection emerges.
- Social distancing in the House requires 15 representatives to be seated in the Gallery.
- Specifically programmed tablets allow members in the Gallery to vote, etc.
- Food brought in must be covered in single-portion containers or individually wrapped.
- Masks are encouraged for Members and staff, except when ingesting food or beverages.
- Monday and Thursday are the twice-weekly test days. Except for the second week, testing will be on Tuesday and Thursday, after MLKJr holiday is observed Monday January 17th.

Capitol Complex Changes for Visitors and Volunteers

- Entry into the Capitol is limited to approximately 800 visitors at any given time.
- Capitol complex meeting spaces cannot be reserved for use by outside groups.
- Vending machines for food and beverages are available on the first floor of the Capitol.
- Masks are encouraged but not mandatory for entry into the Capitol.
- There is no “rope line” or pages to allow prompt in-person communication with legislators.
- Communication with legislators is available by appointment, but not by casual approach.
- Black curtains restrict public access to the corridor outside the Chambers.
- The Gallery is not accessible to the public and its corridor is not open to the public.
- Personal aides and staff not paid by the House are not allowed to work in House offices.
- A personal aid or chief of staff must work remotely or from public spaces in the Capitol.

January 2022

Pastors Day¹ at the State Capitol

Thursday, January 27, 2022, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

\$10 for Breakfast, \$10 for Lunch, \$20 for Both

Sponsor: Georgia Baptist Mission Board Public Affairs Representative

Contact Mike Griffin at 706 436-2646 or mgriffin@gabaptist.org

Legislative Prayer Breakfast on Pastors Day

“This year, we’re combining the Legislative Prayer Breakfast into the annual Pastors Day at the Capitol.”

– Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board Public Affairs Representative

The Pastors Day dynamic program includes presentations from legislators, public policy experts and activists from across the nation, plus a tour of the Georgia State Capitol.

Every legislator, pastor, pastor’s wife, and ministry leader is invited to discover how to navigate the political landscape for the sake of the gospel. Please invite your House and Senate member to come and register on this same link <https://gabaptist.org/publicaffairs>.

Public Parking²

Capitol Lot Daily, 218 Capitol Ave., (Capitol Ave. near the State Capitol – Public parking)

Memorial Lot, 80 Memorial Dr. (Corner of Memorial Dr. & Capitol Ave. – Permit parking only)

Pete Hackney, 162 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. (Corner Jesse Hill, Jr. Dr. & Decatur St. – Permit & public parking)

Steve Polk Parking Lot, 65 MLK, Jr. Dr., (At Underground Atlanta & RR Freight Depot – Public parking)

Mike’s Memo about Sanctity of Human Life Day

“In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed that January 22 would be the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day because it is the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion-on-demand in the U.S. in 1973.

“Churches traditionally recognize the third Sunday of January as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which would be January 16 in 2022.

“However, some churches may choose the Sunday closest to the anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*, which would be Sunday, January 23, 2022.

“The attached³ bulletin inserts are undated so that you can use them on whichever Sunday you choose.

“This year will be the 49th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America.

“Over 64.5 million babies have lost their lives because of abortion since 1973.

“Respect for all human life begins with respect for life in the womb (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139). When respect for life is diminished inside the womb, it has a negative impact on the value and sanctity of life outside the womb.

“We need to trust the Lord’s value of ALL life.

“God bless you.

“*Mike Griffin*, Public Affairs Representative, Georgia Baptist Mission Board”

¹ Organizer Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, 6405 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Duluth, GA 30097, mgriffin@GaBaptist.org
Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. on the 20th floor of the Sloppy Floyd Bldg., 200 Piedmont Ave. S.W. Atlanta, GA 30334
Event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m.. Lunch is at 12:00 noon.

² All-day parking at the Pete Hackney lot is \$10. The other lots charge \$15 to park and an additional charge per hour.

³ Contact Mike Griffin mgriffin@GaBaptist.org to request printable attachments for bulletin inserts.

Identify Your State Legislators and get Their Contact Numbers

To learn your legislators' names, (a) access https://www.openstates.org/find_your_legislator/. Then, (a) enter your address, state and zip code to access the link to your State representative and senator, their districts and contact numbers. (b) Click on the colored block opposite your representative's name to access a picture and contact numbers. (c) Do likewise for your senator. To email them, put a period between their first and last name, then add @house.ga.gov for representatives or @senate.ga.gov for senators. For example, the emails for my legislators are: kim.jackson@senate.ga.gov and zulma.lopez@house.ga.gov.

More Changes Expected during the Session

During this first week of the 2022 Georgia General Assembly, committee assignments and contact data continue as they were in 2021. But during the recess of January 17-21, necessary changes will affect committee chairmen, committee members and office assignments.

Meanwhile, legislation is being introduced and contact numbers provided herein are based on 2021 committee assignments. Updated contact numbers will be used as they become available. Calls to current numbers will be effective, although committee assignments may change.

S.B. 316 Offense of Stalking a Minor, introduced January 10th by Senator Jason Anavitarte, adds two strong amendments to current law: (1) Any person over age 18 who stalks a minor would be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor, could be fined \$1,000 to \$5,000 or sent to prison for a year or both. (2) Local school boards would inform students and their parents that some acts of bullying and cyberbullying may constitute stalking and could result in a misdemeanor or felony criminal conviction. Punishment would be a fine, prison or both.

ACTION – Support. In area Code 404, call Senate Judiciary Committee Senators Strickland, Ch., 463-6598; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; Kennedy, Sec., 656-0045; Hatchett, 656-7454; Harold Jones, 656-0036; Kirkpatrick, 656-3932; Parent, 656-5109; Rhett, 656-0054; Tillery, 656-5038; and Watson, 656-7880.

S.B. 319 Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021, introduced January 10th by Senator Jason Anavitarte, is a 25-page bill changing the word “license holder” to “lawful weapons carrier,” which is defined as a person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a weapon or long gun, or who is legally licensed in Georgia or licensed to carry a weapon in any other state whose laws recognize and give effect to a license issued pursuant to this. It clarifies places appropriate to carry weapons – government buildings, schools/zones/functions/buses, places of worship, game and fish events/places, polling places, courts, in vehicles, and concealed carry.

ACTION – S.B. 319 should be carefully studied to determine whether it improves or damages current gun-carry law. To comment, contact the Senate Judiciary Committee listed above under S.B. 316.

H.R. 529 Hunting & Fishing in Ocmulgee River Corridor, introduced by Representative David Knight January 10th, is “reaffirming support for the constitutionally protected right to hunt and fish in Georgia, asserting Georgia’s primacy in the management of the state’s fish and wildlife resources.” Current concerns arise from a National Park Service study that may recommend creating a *national* park along a 50-mile stretch of the River between Macon and Hawkinsville, which would interfere with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) control and regulation of that property under Georgia laws and regulations.

ACTION – Support. In area Code 404, contact Game, Fish & Parks Committee Representatives Rhodes, Ch., 656-5099; LaHood, V-Ch., 656-0188; Barr, 656-7857; Bruce, 656-7859; Burn, 656-5052; Byrd, 656-0213; Corbett, 656-3949; Dubnik, 656-0213; Dunahoo, 656-0152; Frye, 656-0265; Henderson, 656-7859; Knight, 463-2248; LaRiccia, 651-7737; McDonald, 651-7737; Petrea, 656-7857; Ridley, 656-0325; Tarvin, 463-3793; Williams, Al, 656-6372; and Williams, Noel, 656-0254.

While in Georgia, President Biden Pushes for Federal Control of Elections

During his January 11th speech at Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University, President Joe Biden, desperately, called for (a) abolishing the Senate filibuster rule, to allow the (b) national election bill (federal take-over of elections) to pass the Senate by a simple majority.

(a) **Governor Kemp:** In his statement to *Newsweek*, Governor Kemp said the Biden administration has ignored “facts and evidence in an effort to distract from their many failures and rally their base around an unconstitutional, federal takeover of elections.”

Then, Governor Kemp defended Georgia’s election law with this: “Senate Bill 202, the Election Integrity Act, makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat. The bill expands early voting opportunities, secures drop boxes around the clock, reduces long lines at polling places, and implements the same voter ID requirement for absentee ballots that we have had for in-person voting for well over a decade.”

(b) **Filibuster** is a delaying tactic to prevent or delay action on legislation in the Senate. The U.S. Senate explains it this way: “Prior to 1917 the Senate rules did not provide a way to end debate and force a vote on a measure. That year, the Senate adopted a rule to allow a two-thirds majority to end a filibuster, a procedure known as ‘cloture.’ In 1975 the Senate reduced the number of votes required for cloture from two-thirds of senators voting to three-fifths of all senators duly chosen and sworn, or 60 of the 100-member Senate.”

Action: Stop Federal Take-Over of Elections!

H.R. 1 For the People Act, introduced by Congressman. Sarbanes (D-MD) January 4, 2021, is an 886-page federal take-over of elections. It implements massive changes and strips away the constitutional right of states to control elections. It passed the House 220-210 March 3, 2021 and was scheduled for a Senate vote March 24, 2021. However, it stalled in the Senate and the Administration is working feverishly to abolish the filibuster, so a simple majority can pass it.

H.R. 1 would cause massive changes, such as (a) *Internet* voter registration and data up-dates; (b) *automatic* registration, (c) *same-day registration and voting*, (d) *no proof-of-residency*; (e) *no cross-checking with other states* for double voting; (f) *no restriction* on curbside voting; (g) *state grants* could fund election activity for minors; (h) *minors* under age 18 could register to vote; (i) *no proof-of-citizenship* required; (j) *no voter ID* required; (k) *felons could vote* when on probation, upon completion of sentence or otherwise released from prison.

ACTION – Oppose. Ask Georgia’s U.S. Senators to vote NO. Senator Jon Osoff, 202 224-3521 and Senator Raphael Warnock, 202 224-3643 or call both toll-free in D.C. at 1 877 762-8762.

Action: Stop Non-Citizen Voting in Georgia!

H.B. 228 Proper ID for Voting in Georgia, introduced February 2, 2021 by Representative Charlice Byrd, prohibits non-citizen voting and requires “A temporary license, permit, or special identification card” issued by Georgia to include the following term in a prominent place: “BEARER NOT A U.S. CITIZEN – NOT VOTER ID.” In 2021, this bill was left in committee and remains alive for action this session.

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.

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