

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 Convenes January 9th for 40 Days

"The Senate and House of Representatives shall organize each odd-numbered year and shall be a different General Assembly in each two-year period. The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each year, or otherwise as provided by law, and may continue in session for a period of no longer than 40 days in the aggregate each year."

– Constitution of the State of Georgia, Article III, Section IV, Paragraph I

Four State-wide Questions Passed November 8th

Of Georgia's 6,961,423 active voters, only 56.9% voted in the General Election. They passed two constitutional amendments and two state-wide referenda. All concern money as follows:

Amends State Constitution: The State salary will be withheld from the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, or any legislator that is indicted for a felony. Currently, they are paid until the case is concluded.

Amends State Constitution: Local governments and school boards are now authorized to give tax relief for local properties that are severely damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

Amends current law: Dairy products and unfertilized eggs are added to existing agricultural tax exemptions, effective January 1, 2023.

- *Amends current law:* A state-wide tax exemption is approved for certain equipment timber producers use to produce or harvest timber, effective January 1, 2023.

H.B. 1 Aims to Punish Georgia for its "Pro-Birth" Heartbeat Law

In mid-November 2022, a Fulton County Superior Court Judge invalidated two abortion restriction sections of Georgia's Heartbeat Law. After the Georgia Supreme Court reenacted the Heartbeat Law November 23, 2022, H.B. 1 was pre-filed for the 2023 legislative session.

H.B. 1 Georgia Pro-Birth Accountability Act, a November pre-filed bill by Representative Dar'shun Kendrick (D-93), punishes "Pro-Birth" Georgia for disallowing abortions to pregnant women who want to terminate a pregnancy. If this passes, the State's "punishment" for failing to provide abortions would require Georgia to pay for carrying a baby to term, rearing the child until age 18, and provide continual financial and nutritional help for both mother and child.

H.B. 1 begins with this: "A pregnant woman who would be legally [federally] allowed to choose to terminate her pregnancy, but for a [Georgia] law prohibiting an abortion upon a detectable human heartbeat of an embryo or fetus, and who is accordingly compelled by the state to carry the pregnancy to term and give birth to a child is entitled to be compensated by the state as provided in Code Section 31-9C-2," which would be new law contained in 36 lines of this bill.

Following that are 20 lines explaining the plan for the Department of Human Services to process a compensation claim for delivering a baby she wanted to abort. The last five lines in the bill require the General Assembly to establish a separate annual appropriations fund to provide the proposed compensation and fund the Department's operational costs.

ACTION – Oppose. If it is officially introduced in the '23 session, it will be assigned to a committee for action.

January 2023

More Pre-filed Bills for 2023

Annually, between November 15th and the next year's legislature, members of the Georgia General Assembly may pre-file bills for the up-coming legislative session. Since those elected November 8, 2022 have not yet taken the oath of office, they cannot pre-file bills for 2023. Both chambers of the General Assembly – House of Representatives and Senate – have retained their Republican majority for the 2023 session.

Pre-filed bills will not become active unless they are officially introduced and assigned to a committee in the upcoming session. Each bill's subject determines its House and Senate committee assignment, where it will be discussed and perhaps amended before the committee decides whether to send it to the floor for a vote. Bills never voted out of committee die there.

At this writing, ten bills have been pre-filed by Democrats. Republicans have pre-filed none. Representative Dar'shun Kendrick (D-93) pre-filed H.B. 1 (See page 1.); Representative Jasmine Clark (D-108) pre-filed H.B. 2; and Representative Kim Schofield (D-60) pre-filed H.B. 10.

H.B. 2 Revise Advance Voting Provisions, pre-filed December 13, 2022 by Representative Jasmine Clark (D-108), would (a) extend advance voting “prior to primary, election or runoff” and (b) authorize the registrar or absentee ballot clerk to choose to conduct advance voting on the second and third Sundays from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.

H.B. 10 Provide Visually Disabled Electors Secure Internet Voting Portal, pre-filed December 22, 2022 by Representative Kim Schofield (D-60), would accommodate voters that are unable to see or mark a ballot or operate voting equipment. The portal would allow such elector to print the ballot and mail it to the appropriate board of registrars by email. It would be counted as an absentee ballot.

Representative Sandra Scott (D-76)

Pre-filed H.B. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 on December 21st

H.B. 3 Proposes QBE grants to schools to support students living in poverty (text not available)

H.B. 4 Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities (DBHDD) to create and administer a web-site for an accessible electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry of available psychiatric beds in Georgia that are categorized by patient gender, acuity, age and diagnosis.

H.B. 5 Georgia University System would make available to students cost-free menstrual hygiene products in the bathrooms of facilities of institutions of Georgia's University System.

H.B. 6 Allow recipients of SNAP to use such funding to buy diapers or menstrual products

H.B. 7 Establishes a school-linked behavioral health grant program in DBHDD and provides transportation to treatment when school is out. Community service boards, community mental health centers, licensed healthcare providers and Medicaid providers would be eligible for grants to participate in this program.

H.B. 8 Allows use of mental and behavioral health as compulsory attendance absentee excuses.

H.B. 9 Creates a 24/7 crisis access line in the DBHDD.

ACTION – Capitol contact numbers have not been publicized for 2023. To comment, contact representatives locally.

Pre-Session Action

House members had morning and afternoon meetings January 5 & 6 to study “Cannabis Waste Disposal and Recycling.” Videos are available on the Georgia General Assembly website.

The CDC is Doing WHAT?¹

*CDC Urges Teachers, Administrators, School Nurses to Adopt LGBT Curriculum,
Endorse Transgender*

The document, “LGBTQ Inclusivity in Schools: A Self-Assessment Tool,”

- (a) appears on the CDC’s youth website in a section “For Schools” and under the drop-down [“Tools for Supporting LGBTQ Youth.”](#)
- (b) Just days after Christmas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention republished a “self-assessment tool” urging teachers, administrators, [school health staff](#), and others to become an “awesome ally” by advocating for LGBT causes in school.
- (c) cites multiple LGBT activist groups, including a division of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

The self-assessment tool is designed for use by four groups:

- (a) all users,
- (b) administrators,
- (c) educators, and
- (d) school health services staff.

While the CDC document does not reference “Gender Queer,” it does cite Teaching Tolerance, a project of the left-leaning SPLC which has since rebranded itself as Learning for Justice. According to critics, [the SPLC brands](#) mainstream conservative and Christian organizations “hate groups,” putting them on a map with chapters of the Ku Klux Klan. In 2012, a man used the SPLC “hate map” to target the Family Research Council in a terrorist attack. He was convicted of terrorism.

The self-assessment tool includes three scores:

- (a) “Commit to Change,”
- (b) “Beginning to Break Through,” and
- (c) “Awesome Ally.”

Education Leaders: The general self-assessment encourages education leaders to adopt certain mindsets, such as “I cannot assume a student’s gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation,” and urges them to adopt “inclusive” terminology, such as “using individuals’ chosen names/pronouns” and rejecting terms like “boyfriend” and “girlfriend” for “neutral terms” like “partner.” This section also lists resources from activist groups such as GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, and PFLAG, along with the infamous “Gender Unicorn” graphic presenting biological sex as inherently different from gender identity.

Administrators: The next section encourages administrators to alter their school health policies to include explicit anti-bullying and nondiscrimination policies for LGBTQ students, to allow “students to use the bathroom/locker room which aligns to their chosen gender,” to allow students to alter their paperwork “to present their chosen name and pronouns, rather than their legal name,” and to allow students “access to age-appropriate LGBTQ content and information.” It also encourages administrators to let teachers “develop LGBTQ inclusive curricula” and to support teachers attending LGBTQ trainings.

Educators: The document encourages educators to put up “visual labels” such as “rainbow flags, pink triangles, unisex bathroom signs” marking a classroom as “a safe space for LGBTQ students.” It urges them to teach with “LGBTQ inclusive” content and to attend LGBT trainings.

¹ *The Daily Signal* report as provided by Eagle Forum *Insights*, January 4, 2023

Teachers: The document also urges teachers to “describe anatomy and physiology separate from gender (e.g., ‘a body with a penis’ and ‘a body with a vagina’).”

Health Services Staff: Finally, the document urges health services staff to set up “visual labels” to demonstrate support for LGBT causes in the school’s clinic, to offer intake forms with separate sections for “gender identity and sex at birth,” to use students’ chosen names and pronouns, to offer “LGBTQ-specific health pamphlets” at the school clinic, to “describe anatomy and physiology separate from gender,” and to attend LGBT trainings.

No Response from CDC

- (a) The CDC did not respond to *The Daily Signal’s* request for comment about the document, which it originally published in October 2020.
- (b) The CDC did not respond to questions regarding its decision to cite the SPLC.
- (c) The CDC also did not respond to questions about how it might defend the LGBT “self-assessment tool” as a necessary health measure.
- (d) CDC did not respond to questions about its apparent endorsement of [transgender ideology](#).

ACTION – (a) Encourage Georgia legislators to prohibit such indoctrination. (b) Ask Georgia Boards of Education to reject any Title IX redefinition of sex that includes sexual orientation and gender identity, which has been proposed by the Biden Administration, but is not a law. (c) Georgia school boards should follow Ohio’s example of December 15, 2022 and pass a resolution rejecting any pro-homosexual, pro-gender changes to Title IX.

America is Not a Democracy

By Eagle Forum Chairman Anne Schlafly Cori, November 20, 2022

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the REPUBLIC for which it stands....”

The United States of America is not a democracy. The USA is not even a democratic republic. The USA is a CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC. Every time Joe Biden or any other liberal talks about “saving our democracy,” they are flat wrong about our system of government. I is embarrassing that the President complains of “threats to our democracy” because he clearly does not know what our political system is. It is time for all Americans to recognize and understand our beautiful Constitutional Republic.

A democracy is based on mob rule and not based on the rule of law. By definition, democracies are unstable forms of government because the attitude toward the law is that the will of the majority is supreme and without restraint. Democracies are the tyranny of the mob and always end in anarchy.

A republic respects the rule of law. The people elect representatives who take an oath to the Constitution. In a republic, individuals and minorities have inherent rights that cannot be voted away by a vote of the majority.

The U.S. cannot be a democracy unless we rewrite or abandon the Constitution or illegally function as a democracy by ignoring the Constitution. Democracies collapse when the mob votes itself money and the public treasury fails. As John Adams said, “There was never a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.”

Our Founders gave us a remarkable gift with a Constitution that protects individual rights against the mob. It is up to us to re-gift our beautiful system of government to our successors.

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