

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."

Mark 14:8a

Bill Requiring Permission for Microchip Implant Passes Senate Committee

S.B. 235 was introduced March 4, 2009 by Senator Chip Pearson to require personal permission before a microchip can be implanted in an individual's body. The Senate Judiciary Committee, unanimously, passed it by committee substitute on January 28th, and the next hurdle is the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Don Balfour.

Forced microchip implants is being discussed across the country and a few Georgia legislators see nothing wrong with mandating implants for some folks. That attitude stopped the passage of several bills to regulate microchip use and prohibit mandatory implants in humans.

Already, forced implants have been out-lawed in other states, such as California, Wisconsin and North Dakota. Oklahoma, Ohio, Colorado and Florida are studying the issue. But Georgia has not been so successful. Such bills died in 2007 and 2008; and H.B. 38 was tabled in 2009, when Representative Lindsey listed five groups he wants chipped – law enforcement; selected senior citizens; prisoner flight-risks; probated pedophiles; and mentally handicapped persons.

S.B. 303 requiring microchips for huge reptiles was introduced this session. It exemplifies the progressive use of microchip implants for personal property, by requiring such implants for pythons and green anacondas kept as pets at the owner's residence. That's a logical thing to do, since everyone within slithering distance wants such animals recaptured and sent back home.

Currently, individuals may voluntarily submit to a microchip implant that is scannable at hospitals for quick access to medical records. And, in September 2008, VeriChip, actually, implanted some 200 Alzheimer's patients in the Palm Beach, Florida area.

While 16-digit implanted IDs, readable only at hospitals, may be innocuous in themselves, they could be physically harmful to patients. Laboratory research animals, as well as pets that have microchip implants, have developed various health problems, such as infections, cancerous tumors and movement of the chip into other parts of the animal's body, including the brain.

A microchip surveillance system for humans has been patented and is being produced.

Three developers¹ – RECEPTORS LLC, Chaska, MN; VeriChip Corporation, Delray, FL; and Digital Angel, St. Paul, MN – teamed up to build and market a three-part human surveillance system, consisting of a *microchip* to be implanted in humans, a *sensor* and a *reader*. A radio frequency emitting microchip will convey to sensors the location and identity of the host (the implanted person) and determine whether the host is infected; identify the infection as a virus, non-virus or other disease; and determine whether it poses a biological threat. Elsewhere, even hundreds of miles away, the data would be read in real time and proper action initiated.

ACTION – Support S.B. 235. Call Rules Committee Senators Balfour, Ch., 404 656-0095; Hamrick, 656-0036; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Adelman, 463-1376; Butler, 656-0075; Jack Hill, 656-5038; Hooks, 656-0065; Moody, 463-8055; Mullis, 656-0057; Pearson, 656-9221; Rogers, 463-1378; Shafer, 656-0048; Smith, 656-0034; Thomas, 656-6436; Tolleson, 656-0081; Unterman, 463-1368; and Williams, 656-0089.

¹ www.RECEPTORSLLC.COM; www.verichipcorp.com; www.digitalangel.com.

New Penalties for Distracted Drivers

H.B. 938, introduced by Representative Allen Peake the second day of the session, adds two new Code sections concerning the unlawful operation of a motor vehicle while using a wireless telecommunications device. The new laws are outlined below.

Two points on the driver's license and a suspended license would be the penalty for drivers convicted of causing an automobile accident while using a cell phone, text-messaging device, personal digital assistant, stand-alone computer, or any other substantially similar wireless device. The first suspension would be for 90 days; a second or subsequent suspension would be for six months; after which a restoration fee must be paid in the amount of \$60.00, or \$50.00 when processed by mail, for the license to be returned. *In addition*, violators would be fined at least \$50.00, but not more than \$100.00

Unaffected systems are (a) citizens band radios, citizens band radio hybrids, commercial two-way radio communication devices, subscription-based emergency communication, in-vehicle security systems, navigation, and remote diagnostics systems or amateur or ham radios. (b) If this passes, the law would not apply when devices are used to report traffic accidents, medical emergencies, serious road hazards and threats to personal safety or while the vehicle is parked.

ACTION – Support. Call Public Safety and Homeland Security Representatives Day, Ch., 404 656-5096; Talton, 656-0254; Maddox, 656-0109; Black, 656-0287; Collins, 656-0188; Frazier, 656-0265; Hanner, 656-7859; Horne, 656-0287; Jackson, 656-0314; and Neal, 656-0152.

H.B. 945, introduced by Representative Amerson January 25th, makes changes similar to those above. It covers the same wireless devices, makes the same exemptions, but is far less severe. It allows the person charged with using a wireless communication device, while driving, to present evidence to defend against charges. If this passes, the following would not be affected: law enforcement officers, members of fire departments or operators of emergency vehicles.

Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor and could be fined as much as \$300.00. However, violators would keep their license and no points would be added against them.

ACTION – You decide. Call Public Safety and Homeland Security Representatives Day, Ch., 404 656-5096; Talton, 656-0254; Maddox, 656-0109; Black, 656-0287; Collins, 656-0188; Frazier, 656-0265; Hanner, 656-7859; Horne, 656-0287; Jackson, 656-0314; and Neal, 656-0152.

Czar-Power Not Recognized in Georgia

H.R. 1146, introduced by Representative Clay Cox January 25th, restates the fact that the United States is a Representative Republic and is not subject to the dictates of czars appointed by the President. It questions whether czars are consistent with the “Appointments Clause” in Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, that requires the advice and consent of the Senate for high-ranking officers in the U.S. government. That question is now under congressional scrutiny during ongoing hearings in a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Also citing the “Supremacy Clause” in Article VI, Paragraph 2, H.R. 1146 declares that any dictates of a ‘czar’ appointed by a President without Senate confirmation are not binding on this state or the citizens of this state. It, also, gives notice that the General Assembly does not consider itself or Georgia to be bound by orders of any presidentially appointed czar.

ACTION – Support. Call State Planning and Community Affairs Committee Representatives Tommy Smith, Ch., 404 656-5105; Davis, 656-0254; Sims, 656-0213; Bell, 656-0325; Cole, 651-7737; Crawford, 656-0265; Dukes, 656-0127; Epps, 656-7859; Heckstall, 656-0220; Jackson, 656-0314; Mitchell, 656-0116; Sims, 656-3947; Walker, 656-5146; and Willard, 656-5125.

Bullying Bill

Special Protection for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, etc.

H.B. 940 was introduced January 14th to extensively change the legal definition of bullying in Georgia schools. Currently, language in the law protects all students equally, as it should. However, the title of the bill, “Jaheed Herrera-Bianca Walton Safe School Climate Act,” is a clue to the focus of this proposed change. *Speculation* is that Jaheed, the 11-year-old boy whose death was ruled to be a self-inflicted hanging, was bullied at school about his sexual orientation or status as an alien.

This bill might be viewed as providing a school “civil rights status” for anyone wearing glasses or less than rich or with a hearing loss or who prefers varied sexual orientations, including transvestitism, etc. It deletes 15 lines currently defining bullying in Georgia law and replaces them with a new 112-line tedious definition that describes bullying, how to quash it, and punishment for a bully, harasser, or continual intimidator. The student reporting an actual or perceived occurrence would determine whether the incident meets the definition of bullying.

While the current bullying law is non-discriminatory and applies to all students equally, this bill goes to great lengths to categorize students into groups to be protected from other students. The following are categories designated for special protection: *race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; gender; socioeconomic status; academic status; gender identity; physical appearance; sexual orientation; mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability; or by association with anyone who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics.*

This begs the question: Will childish playful teasing of selected students become a crime in Georgia schools? It could, if this definition of bullying becomes law. For the last decade, activists with a narrowly focused goal have latched onto the safe-school program as an under-the-radar way to expand the acceptance of alternate lifestyles and eliminate criticism of them. To accommodate those activists, must children be muzzled? Do children lose their freedom of speech when they enter school, ride a school bus or attend an extra-curricular event?

H.B. 940 prohibits any pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communication, or physical act or threatening communication on school property, at a school bus stop, school sponsored activity or event whether on school premises or school-related vehicles or while attending a program or function where the school is responsible for the child. And that’s just a smidgen of the definition for bullying, which used to be called “teasing,” or “childish pranks” or “just kidding around.” And guess what! There is no criteria outlined to judge a bullying incident. The outcome depends entirely on the student reporting an actual or perceived event.

Shutting down childish pranks can be classified as “over-kill” of situations teachers and parents have handled forever. Before muzzling school kids’ freedom to speak, the better plan would be to leave the matter in the hands of parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and school bus drivers. They can tell the difference between intimidation and childish play or banter.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Education Committee Representatives Coleman, Ch., 404 656-9210; Millar, 656-5064; Benton, 656-0177; England, 463-2247; Ashe, 656-0116; Austin, 656-0287; Battles, 656-0109; Carter, 656-0202; Casas, 656-0254; Dickson, 656-0202; Everson, 656-0188; Floyd, 656-0314; Holt, 656-0152; Jordan, 656-0116; Kaiser, 656-0265; Keown, 656-0177; Lindsey, 656-5024; Massey Reece, 656-7859; Maxwell, 656-0152; Mayo, 656-6372; Morgan, 656-0109; Nix, 656-0177; Peake, 656-7146; Purcell, 656-0188; Reese, 656-0254; Sellier, 656-0254; Setzler, 656-0177; Kip Smith, 656-0213; Talton, 656-0254; Taylor, 656-0220; Teilhet, 656-0568; Thomas, 656-0325; and “Coach” Williams, 656-0202.

February 11, 2010, Boy Scouts of America Appreciation Day at the Capitol

S.R. 840 introduced by Senator Pearson quickly passed the Senate to commemorate the Boy Scouts' 100th anniversary and designate February 11, 2010 as Boy Scouts Day at the capitol.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated February 8, 1910 by Chicago publisher William D. Boyce, who learned of Scouting in a visit to London. On June 21, 1910, 34 national representatives met, organized, and opened a temporary national headquarters in New York.

The goal of Boy Scouts of America is to develop U.S. citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in their initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; whose personal values are based on religious concepts. They strive to equip members with the desire and skill to help others and understand principles of the United States' social, economic, and governmental systems. Boy Scouts of America takes pride in their America heritage; understands America's role in the world; respects the basic rights of all people; and seeks to prepare members to become participants and leaders in American society.

By 1912, Boy Scouts were enrolled in every state, and in 1916, Congress granted its federal charter. Scouts must perform at least 12 hours community service annually, totaling over 30 million such hours each year. There have been over 111 million members of Scouting and the two-millionth Eagle Scout award was presented in 2009. Over 1 million adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people, often neither receiving nor seeking the thanks of the public.

Legislators Hotly Oppose Federal Health Care Plan, H.R. 3590

S.R. 830 introduced January 25th urges the Attorney General of Georgia to begin preparing to challenge the constitutionality of H.R. 3590, the federal "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," as an unconstitutional threat to individual liberty that would annually add another \$1 billion to state healthcare entitlement costs.

ACTION – Support. Call Judiciary Committee Senators Smith, Ch., 404 656-0034; Harp, 463-3931; Hamrick, 656-0036; Adelman, 463-1376; Brown, 656-5035; Cowsert, 651-7738; Crosby, 463-5258; Fort, 656-5091; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Ramsey, 463-2598; Seabaugh, 656-6446; and Wiles 657-0406.

S.B. 317 provides that no law or rule or regulation could compel any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system; to authorize persons and employers to pay directly for lawful health care services without penalties or fines.

ACTION – Support. Call Insurance & Labor Senators Hudgens, Ch., 404 656-4700; Shafer, 656-0048; Brown, 656-5035; Chapman, 656-0045; Golden, 656-7580; Harbison, 656-0074; Moody, 463-8055; Murphy, 656-7127; Pearson, 656-9221; Ramsey, 463-2598; Rogers, 463-1378; and Wiles, 657-0406.

H.R. 1086 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that no law or rule or regulation shall compel any person, employer or health care provider to participate in a health care system. Persons and employers could pay directly for lawful health care without penalties or fines.

ACTION – Support. The list is long, so call your representative, if listed, and any others you choose. Health & Human Services Representatives Cooper, Ch., 404 656-5069; Rynders, 656-7855; Holt, 656-0152; Butler, 656-0188; Byrd, 656-0298; Cheokas, 656-0325; Collins, 656-0188; Dempsey, 656-0213; Dobbs, 656-7859; Dodson, 656-0325; Drenner, 656-0202; Fullerton, 656-0127; Gordon, 656-0287; Graves, 656-0109; Harden, 656-0177; Hembree, 656-5154; Henson, 656-7859; Howard, 656-6372; Hudson, 656-7859; Jones, 656-0323; Kaiser, 656-0265; Keown, 656-0177; Kidd, 656-0325; Loudermilk, 656-0152; Lunsford, 656-0213; Maddox, 656-0152; Millar, 656-5064; Mitchell, 656-0116; Morgan, 656-0109; Mosby, 656-0287; Parsons, 656-9198; Purcell, 656-0188; Randall, 656-0109; Rogers, 463-2247; Sellier, 656-0254; Sims, 656-0213; Stephens, 656-0117; Stephenson, 656-0126; and Wilkinson, 463-8143.

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