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## National Danger! H.R. 5 Equality Act in Congress

### Redefines Sex to include Preferences, No Exception for Religious Beliefs

*"The Religious Freedom Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title."*

– H.R. 5, pp. 21-22

**H.R. 5 Equality Act**, introduced February 18, 2021 by Representative David Cicilline (D-RI), was introduced previously in 2015. H.R. 5 amends seven titles (II, III, IV, VI, VII, IX, XI) of the Civil Rights Act, in addition to these Acts: Government Employee Rights, Congressional Accountability, Civil Services Reform, Fair Housing, Equal Credit Opportunity, and jury laws. Each Act would be amended by inserting "(including sexual orientation and gender identity)" after "sex," wherever it appears. H.R. 5 passed the U.S. House 224-206 on February 25, 2021 with 3 Republicans voting YES. Two representatives abstained.

### No Religious Exemption

"The Religious Freedom Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title." (H.R. 5, pp. 21-22)

H.R. 5 unconstitutionally prohibits adherence to Bible doctrine and biological fact in federally funded entities. Church and religious entity 501C3 exemption may be deemed federal support. Foster care and adoption agencies could not use religious beliefs to determine child placement. Sex-specific facilities would have to co-mingle men and women. No one could use faith in business dealings, "preferred pronouns" would be mandated, and refusing to use preferred ID could be punishable violations.

**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.

## National Danger! Bill in Congress Takes Away State Control of Elections

**H.R. 1 For the People Act** of 886 pages, introduced by Congressman John P. Sarbanes (D-MD3) January 4, 2021, is a federal take-over of elections. Its 66 titles and 34 shorter Acts strip away states' constitutional right to control elections. It passed the House 220-210 March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Selected Changes Eliminating Election Security

(a) *Internet* voter registration and data up-dates; (b) *automatic* registration, (c) *same-day* vote and register, (d) *no documentation* necessary; (e) *no cross-checking* states for double voting; (f) *no restriction* on curbside voting; (g) *state grants* fund election activity for minors; (h) *minors* under age 18 may register to vote; (i) *no citizenship* requirement; (j) *no voter ID* required; (k) *citizenship* irrelevant; (l) *felons could vote* when they're on probation, have done their time or have been released.

### Act NOW! Senate Vote Expected March 24, 2021!

**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.

## National Danger in State Legislation! Action Up-Dates

**S.R. 28 Article V Constitutional Convention U.S. House & Senate Term Limits** by Senator Cowsert passed the State Senate 34-20 February 22<sup>nd</sup> and is in the House Rules Committee, asking Congress for an Article V Constitutional Convention. The only U.S. constitutional convention was *convened to amend* The Articles of Confederation, but *rejected* that. Then, *proceeded to write and pass the U.S. Constitution* we have today. Consider these facts:

*“Does Nots” of Article V*

Article V does not restrict a convention to only one amendment.

A two-thirds vote of Congress as required by Article V is not required of convention delegates.

Article V does not require delegates to be U.S. citizens or citizens of a state in the U.S.

Article V does not indicate who will preside, what rules will be followed, or who must attend.

Article V does not give Congress authority to limit a convention in any way.

Congress cannot limit a constitutional convention, so state law cannot limit one, either.

**ACTION – Oppose. Select several to call and ask to vote NO.** Call House Rules Committee Representatives Richard Smith, Ch., 656-5141; Hatchett, V-Ch., 656-5025; Jasperse, Sec., 656-7153; Burns, 656-5052; Kelley, 656-5024; Ballinger, 656-7153; Benton, 656-5126; Beverly, 656-5058; Blackmon, 656-5103; Carson, 656-7855; Cooper, 656-5069; Dempsey, 463-2248; Drenner, 656-0202; Efstration, 656-5125; Fleming, 656-5105; Greene, 656-9210; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hitchens, 656-7855; Holcomb, 656-6372; Jackson, 656-0314; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Knight, 463-2248; Lumsden, 656-7850; Martin, 656-5146; Morris, 656-5115; Newton, 656-0254; Parrish, 463-2246; Powell, 463-3793; Setzler, 656-5143; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Smyre, 656-0209; Stephens, 656-5115; Tankersley, 656-7855; Darlene Taylor, 656-7857; Wilkerson, 656-5059; Al William, 656-6872; Williamson, 656-5024..

**S.R. 29 Article V Constitutional Convention for a Balanced Budget**, also introduced by Senator Cowsert, passed the Senate 34-20 – the same vote on the same day, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – as S.R. 28. Its sponsors and all legislators should be reminded of the following clear warning:

*Statement of Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger*

“There is no way to effectively limit or muzzle the actions of a Constitutional Convention. The Convention could make its own rules and set its own agenda. Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey. After a Convention is convened, it will be too late to stop the Convention if we don’t like its agenda.”

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call House Rules Committee Representatives listed under S.R. 28 above. Select several to call.

### S.B. 142, Poised to Pass!

**S.B. 142 Georgia Lottery Mobile Sports Wagering Integrity Act** introduced February 10<sup>th</sup> by Senator Jeff Mullis authorizes the Georgia Lottery Corporation to operate/manage lottery sports wagering in Georgia. Anyone age 21 or older could use communication devices to bet on collegiate, Olympic, or athletic sports, professional sports, E-sport video games (in person or remote), or other events, *except* horse racing, fantasy or simulated contests. It passed the Senate 32-17 March 5<sup>th</sup> and is in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee.

**ACTION – Oppose. Select several to call. Ask them to vote NO.** The House Economic Development & Tourism Committee has 36 members, including the following: Representatives Stephens, Ch., 656-5115; V-Ch. Gambill, 656-0254; Sec. Sainz, 656-0178; Erick Allen, 656-0109; Belton, 656-3947; Bennett, 656-0202; Blackmon, 656-5103; Bonner, 651-7737; Burnough, 656-0116; Burn, 656-5052; Dempsey, 463-2248; Dukes, 656-0126; Evans, 656-0109; Gravley, 656-5025; Greene, 656-9210; Gunter, 656-0325; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hitchens, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Holmes, 656-5132; Hopson, 656-0287; Houston, 656-2248; Todd Jones, 463-2246; Lopez, 656-0298; Mallow, 656-0298; Marin, 656-031; Metze, 656-6372; Neal, 656-6372; Nix, 656-5146; Paris, 656-0109; Parrish, 463-2246; Pruitt, 656-0188; Rhodes, 656-5099; Robichaux, 656-0202; Vance Smith, 656-0254; Al Williams, 656-6372; Yearta, 656-0254.

## **Reciprocity Bill Requires *No* U.S. Citizenship**

**S.B. 45 Reciprocity for Professional Licensure** introduced January 29<sup>th</sup> by Senator Thompson would authorize professional licensing boards to issue a *license-by-endorsement* to individuals moving to Georgia from another state. Georgia would require the following from out-of-staters: (a) They must be in good standing where they previously held such license, and (b) they must pass Georgia examinations. Incredibly, the following *would not be required*: (a) *U.S. citizenship*, or (b) *legal entry into the U.S.* or (c) *background screening*. It passed the Senate 37-15 on February 16 and is in the House Regulated Industries Committee.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Regulated Industries Committee Representatives Powell, Ch., 463-3793; Washburn, V.-Ch., 656-0152; Ehrhart, Sec., 656-0152; Bennett, 656-0202; Carpenter, 657-1803; Cooper, 656-5069; Hawkins, 656-7855; Jackson, 656-0220; Jasperse, 656-7153; J. Jones, 656-5072; Kirby, 656-0178; Martin, 656-5146; Mitchell, 656-0126; Ridley, 656-0325; M. Smith, 656-0265; Stephens, 656-0265; Wilensky, 656-0202; R. Williams, 656-0254; Williamson, 656-5024.

**H.B. 258 Sexual Offenses, Age of Consent** introduced February 4<sup>th</sup> by Representative Steven Sainz would increase from 10 to 16 the legal age of consent, if age is a defense in cases of assault for sodomy. It does so by adding to several current laws this new subsection: “(e) when the alleged victim is under age 16, consent of the victim shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this Code section.” The new language applies to cases of sodomy, aggravated sodomy, molestation and aggravated child molestation, sexual battery and aggravated sexual battery. It passed the House 173-0 on March 8<sup>th</sup> and is in the Senate Rules Committee.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Rules Committee Senators Mullis, Ch., 656-0057; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; L. Anderson, Sec., 656-5114; Albers, 463-8055; Brass, 463-176; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 656-7872; Gooch, 656-9221; Harper, 463-5263; Hufstetler, 656-0034; H. Jones, 656-0036; Kennedy, 656-0045; Miller, 656-6578; Parent, 656-5109; Walker, **656-0095**.

**H.B. 212 Parental Consent for Non-Resuscitation of Minor** introduced February 2<sup>nd</sup> by Representative Kasey Carpenter *restores parental rights* that were taken away in a previous session. This requires an order not to resuscitate *to be issued only with the oral or written consent of the minor’s parent or the parent of an adult offspring without decision-making capacity*. If the physician believes the minor is mature enough to understand the order’s effect, it won’t be valid without the minor’s assent. The House passed it 170-0. It’s in the Senate. Since the session will be over March 31<sup>st</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> will be committee work days, committee members need to vote it out of committee. When that happens, it goes to the Rules Committee that, also, must favorably report it before it gets to the Senate floor for a vote.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Health & Human Services Senators Watson, Ch., 656-7880; Burke, V-Ch., 656-0040; Dolezal, Sec., 656-7127; Au, 463-1562; Butler, 656-0075; Cowser, 463-1366; Halpern, 463-1351; Hatchett, 656-7454; Hufstetler, 656-0034; L. Jackson, 463-5261; Kennedy, 656-0045; Kirkpatrick, 656-3932; Orrock, 463-8054; and Walker, 656-0095.

**H.B. 286 Funding for Local Police Departments** introduced February 4<sup>th</sup> by Representative Houston Gaines limits reduction of county and municipal police department funding to no more than 5 percent of previous FY appropriation, unless actual or expected revenues of the county or municipality decrease over 5 percent. In no event shall a local police department budget be cut more than the overall decrease in real or expected revenues of its locale. This does not apply to police forces with under ten full-time or part-time certified law enforcement officers. The House passed it 101-69 February 24<sup>th</sup>. It’s in the following Senate committee.

**ACTION – Support.** Call Government Oversight Committee Senators Harbin, Ch., 656-0078; Tillery, V-Ch., 656-5038; Hickman, Sec., 463-1371; Dolezal, 656-7127; Dugan, 656-7872; Hatchett, 656-7454; Jackson, 656-6882; Burt Jones, 656-0082; Merritt, 436-1310; Miller, 656-6578; Rahman, 463-1318; Robertson, 463-3931; and Seay, 656-5095.

## Standard Time or DST, Year-Round?

### Either S.B. 100 or H.B. 44 Needs to Pass

**H.B. 44 Year-Round Standard Time** introduced January 12, 2021 by Representative Wes Cantrell, passed the House 112-48 March 5<sup>th</sup> and is in the Senate Rules Committee. It provides for standard time until Congress authorizes full-time daylight<sup>1</sup> saving time (DST).

**ACTION – Support.** Call Rules Committee Senators Mullis, Ch., 656-0057; Cowser, V-Ch., 463-1366; L. Anderson, Sec., 656-5114; Albers, 463-8055; Brass, 463-176; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dugan, 656-7872; Gooch, 656-9221; Harper, 463-5263; Hufstetter, 656-0034; H. Jones, 656-0036; Kennedy, 656-0045; Miller, 656-6578; Parent, 656-5109; Walker, **656-0095**.

**S.B. 100 Year-Round Standard Time** introduced February 8<sup>th</sup> by Senator Ben Watson, who, also, introduced similar bills – S.B. 12 and 13 – provides for full-time standard time year-round until Congress authorizes states to observe daylight saving time (DST). It further provides that DST will be used year-round in Georgia, whenever Congress amends federal law to allow the permanent change. S.B. 100 passed the Senate 46-7 on February 24<sup>th</sup> and went to the House State Planning & Community Affairs Committee. Currently 15<sup>2</sup> states have passed legislation.

**ACTION – Support. Select several to call.** Call State Planning & Community Affairs Committee Representatives Mathiak, Ch., 656-0298; M. Jackson, V-Ch., 656-0314; Singleton, Sec., 656-0178; Anderson, 656-0325; Camp, 656-0213; Campbell, 656-0254; Carson, 656-7855; Crowe, 656-0325; Dukes, 656-0126; Erwin, 656-0188; Hopson, 656-0287; D. Jackson, 656-0220; LaRiccia, 651-7737; Mainor, 656-0126; Mallow, 656-0298; McClain, 656-0220; Mitchell, 656-0314; Rhodes, 656-5099; Roberts, 656-0220; Shannon, 656-7859; Wade, 656-0188; and N. Williams, 656-0254.

**S.B. 40 Monitor, Open, Count, Scan Absentee Ballots** by Representative Jennifer Jordan introduced January 28<sup>th</sup>, designates the second Monday before a primary, election, or runoff as the day to open, tabulate and scan absentee ballots. Such data would be secret until 7:00 p.m. Election Day. It passed the Senate 53-0 February 23<sup>rd</sup> and is in the SCEI House Committee.

**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.

**S.B. 46 Vaccine Registry** introduced January 29<sup>th</sup> by Senator Dean Burke states that personal (a) identifiable information may be provided to the health department “without the consent of the person or the person’s parents or guardians” and released to others. (b) “No enrollment exemption shall be granted ... for vaccinations administered as a result of a declared public health emergency.” Does that mention of minors and “all persons” mean all must register? If so, why? The Senate passed it 47-3 February 18<sup>th</sup> and it’s in the House Rules Committee.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call House Rules Committee Representatives listed on page two under S.R. 28.

**H.B. 336 Lots (Batches) of Hemp Disposal** introduced February 9<sup>th</sup> by Representative John Corbett changes the mandate to “destroy” to “dispose of” (transfer to another) marijuana crops with high THC. The farmer will be paid half of his cost for planting and producing it. The House passed it 153-12 February 26<sup>th</sup>. Currently, it’s in the Senate Rules Committee.

**ACTION – Oppose.** Call Senate Rules Committee Senators listed under H.B. 44 above.

<sup>1</sup> The U.S. had daylight saving time (DST) as early as 1918, but the current federal policy passed in 1966 as the Uniform Time Act. The U.S. Department of Transportation oversees DST. In 2018 Florida became the first state to enact legislation to permanently observe DST, but it won’t be implemented until Congress amends federal law to authorize it. S.B. 100 includes the same stipulation.

<sup>2</sup> States that passed something: California; Florida; Delaware, Maine, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Utah (passed a law in 2020), Arkansas, South Carolina, Ohio (a resolution); Georgia (a resolution); Idaho, Wyoming, Louisiana.