

Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler
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"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a
"...and having done all ... stand."
Ephesians 6:13c

ACTION NEEDED! Con Con Bills Passed Senate!

S.R. 28 Requests Congress to Call Article V Constitutional Convention introduced January 28th by Senator Bill Cowsert would (a) limit terms for Representatives in the U.S. House and U.S. Senators. (b) It claims continuing application status until at least two-thirds of the 50 states apply on the same subject. It (c) suggests that Article V Constitutional Conventions can be limited by legislation. However, this bill, inadvertently, indicates otherwise with the latter part of this statement: "the General Assembly of Georgia insists that the convention be solely limited to strict consideration of the subject matter contained in this resolution and that the U.S. Congress *enact a severe criminal penalty for persons who violate the finite scope of the call.*" The underlined words indicate the probability that con con delegates may stray into other issues. It passed the Senate 34-20 on February 22nd and went to the House Rules Committee.

ACTION – Oppose. Since the Rules Committee has 37 members, please call Representatives Richard Smith Ch., 656-5141; V-Ch., Hatchett, 656-5025; Jasperse, Sec., 656-7153; Democrats Beverly, 656-5058; Drenner, 656-0202, and Holcomb, 656-6372, plus Republicans Ballinger, 656-7153; Kelley, 656-5024; and Carson, 656-7855.

S.R. 29 Application for an Article V Convention of States (COS) introduced January 28th by Senator Ben Cowsert requests that Congress pass a COS limited to passing a balanced budget amendment. The Senate passed it 34-20 February 22nd and it's in the House Rules Committee. The explanation of S.R. 28 also pertains to S.R. 29, which passed the Senate 34-20 on February 22nd, as well. Both S.R. 28 and S. R. 29 are in the House Rules Committee.

ACTION – Oppose. The Rules Committee has 37 members, please call the few members listed above under S.R. 28.

H.B. 212 Parental Consent for Non-Resuscitation of Minor introduced February 2nd by Representative Kasey Carpenter *restores parental rights* that were taken away in a previous session. This bill 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.

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; Cowsert, 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 4th 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 of under ten full-time or part-time certified law enforcement officers. The House passed it 101-69 February 24th. 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.

March 2021

School Libraries Must Remove Obscene Material

H.B. 516 Material Harmful to Minors introduced February 18th by Representative Karen Mathiak amends Georgia's Obscenity Code which, currently, allows school libraries to make available to minor students depictions of sexually explicit nudity, sadomasochistic abuse, and sexual conduct. This bill would make it illegal to have such material in school libraries, but it allows obscene materials to continue being available in college and university libraries.

ACTION – Support. Call Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Representatives Burchett, Ch., 404 656-5705; Reeves, V-Ch., 651-7737; Gravley, Sec., 656-5025; Efration, 656-5125; Ballinger, 656-7153; Boddie, 656-0287; Byrd, 656-0213; Cooper, 656-5069; Kendrick, 656-0109; Lopez, 656-0298; McLaurin, 656-0202; Momtahan 656-0178; Setzler, 656-5143; Smith, 657-1803.

S.B. 100 Year-Round Standard Time introduced February 8th by Senator Ben Watson provides for this state to observe standard time year-round until Congress authorizes states to observe daylight savings time. It further provides for daylight savings time to be used year-round in Georgia, whenever Congress authorizes states to observe daylight savings time year-round. It passed the Senate 46-7 on February 24th and went to the House State Planning & Community Affairs Committee.

ACTION – Support. 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.

Mandatory Vaccine Registry for School Attendance and/or Elsewhere?

S.B. 46 Vaccine Registry introduced January 29th 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 the vaccination registry for vaccinations administered as a result of a declared public health emergency.” (c) “‘Georgia Registry of Immunization Transaction and Services’ or ‘vaccination registry’ means the vaccination registry established by Department of Public Health pursuant to Code Section 31-12-3.1.” Since this mentions minors and “all persons,” it appears to mandate registration for the entire population. On February 18th this passed the Senate 47-3 and is in the House Health & Human Services Committee.

ACTION – Oppose. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Gaines, Sec., 656-0298; Barr, 656-7857; Barron, 656-0325; Bennett, 656-0202; Beverly, 656-5058; Cheokas, 463-5753; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-7153; Sheila Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0188; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 463-7853; Petrea, 656-7857; Schofield, 656-0220; Sharper, 656-0126; Stephens, 656-0265; and Tankersley, 656-7855.

H.B. 286 Funding for County Police Departments introduced February 4th by Representative Houston Gaines restricts the ability of county and municipal governing authorities to reduce funding for local police departments to no more than 5 percent of the previous fiscal year’s appropriation, unless actual or anticipated revenues of the county or municipality decrease over 5 percent. However, in no event shall the police force budget be decreased by a greater percent than the overall decrease in actual or anticipated county revenues. This does not apply to police forces that have less than ten full-time or part-time certified law enforcement officers.

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.

FDA gave Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Unapproved Vaccines Federal Law Provides Individual Opt-Out of Emergency Vaccine

When asked if Covid-19 vaccination can be required, Dr. Amanda Cohn, Executive Secretary, CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices responded that under an EUA “vaccines are not allowed to be mandatory,” which applies to organizations, including hospitals.

21 U.S. Code Section 360bbb – 3 Authorization for medical products for use in emergencies (Selected excerpts follow.)

- (e) (A) (III) (ii) ensure that individuals to whom the product is administered are *informed* –
[*Explanatory information must be provided before emergency vaccine is administered.*]
(II) of significant known and potential benefits and risks and unknown benefits and risks; and
[*Such explanation (oral and/or printed) must describe the vaccine’s benefits and risks.*]
(III) of the option to accept or refuse vaccination, of the consequences, if any, of refusing, and available alternatives, their benefits and risks.

[The U.S. Code mandates an opt-out provision for EUA vaccines.]

Stalled in Committee: Georgia Freedom-to-Refuse Vaccine

Important if Federal Opt-Out Law is Ignored

H.B. 413 Prohibit Mandatory Vaccination introduced February 16th by Representative Beth Camp is stuck in committee and needs to pass. It prohibits mandatory vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 for any reason *UNLESS* it has been (a) evaluated¹ at least three years, (b) FDA licensed² for use (but not in emergencies). Unless (c) it has been tested for any long-term³ potential for cancer and other adverse effects, (d) the disability and death risks are less than the disease causes, (d) no drug⁴ or nutrient or treatment is available to reduce risk, and (e) it prevents⁵ person-to-person transmission. Since federal law prohibits mandatory vaccination with EUA products, recipients must be informed of their right to opt-out without retaliation from any one or any entity now or in the future.

ACTION – Support. Call House Health & Human Services Committee Representatives Cooper, Ch., 656-5069; Newton, V-Ch., 656-0254; Gaines, Sec., 656-0298; Barr, 656-7857; Barron, 656-0325; Bennett, 656-0202; Beverly, 656-5058; Cheokas, 463-5753; Dempsey, 463-2248; Douglas, 656-7859; Drenner, 656-0202; Frye, 656-0265; Hatchett, 656-5025; Hawkins, 656-7855; Hogan, 656-0178; Howard, 656-6372; Hutchinson, 656-0287; Jasperse, 656-7153; Sheila Jones, 656-0126; Kelley, 656-5024; LaHood, 656-0188; Lott, 651-7737; Mathiak, 656-0298; Mitchell, 656-0126; Parsons, 463-7853; Petrea, 656-7857.

S.B. 40 Monitor, Open, Count, Scan Absentee Ballots by Representative Jennifer Jordan introduced January 28th, designates the second Monday before a primary, election, or runoff as opening day for absentee ballots, tabulation and scanning of such votes. Data gleaned thereby must be kept secret until 7:00 p.m. Election Day. Premature sharing of that secret data is illegal. It passed the Senate 53-0 on February 23rd and is in a 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.

¹ Current COVID-19 vaccines have not been tested for three years.

² FDA provided the vaccines with emergency use authorization (EUA), but they have not been licensed.

³ Long-term testing is on-going.

⁴ Hydroxychloroquine may be a possibility.

⁵ “It is not yet known if any of these vaccines prevent asymptomatic infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Nor is it known if vaccinated people can transmit the virus if they do become infected but don’t show symptoms,” by Helen Branswell, February 2, 2021 article, “Comparing the Covid-19 Vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson.”

URGENT! H.R. 1 in U.S. Congress Threatens Election Security

H.R. 1 “For the People Act,” introduced January 4, 2021 in Congress by U.S. Representative John P. Sarbanes (D-MD3), was assigned to 12 legislative committees for consideration. It has had four roll-call votes and its House floor debate March 2, 2021 began at 9:14 a.m. and ended at 7:37 p.m., when action was postponed. The proposed scope of its effect is evident in these few section titles, which begin to reveal H.R. 1’s unreasonable attack on U.S. election security.

- Part I Promoting Internet Registration
- II Automatic Voter Registration
- III Same Day Voter Registration
- IV Removal of Interstate Cross-Checks
- V Other Initiatives to Promote Voter Registration
- IX Provide Voter Registration Prior to [high school] Graduation
- X Voter Registration of Minors Acceptance Under Age 18

Subtitle M – Federal Election Integrity

Part 2 Independent Redistricting Commission*

ACTION – Oppose. Ask members of Georgia’s U.S. House of Representatives to vote NO on H.R. 1. (a) The D.C. toll-free number for all of them is 1 877 762-8762. (b) A local phone number for each Representative: Dist. 1, Buddy Carter (R), 912 265-9010; Dist. 2, Sanford Bishop (D), Albany, 229 439-8067; Dist. 3, Drew Ferguson (R), 770 683-2033; Dist. 4, Hank Johnson (D), 770 987-2291; Dist. 5, Nikema Williams (D) 404 659-0116; Dist. 6, Lucy McBath (D), 470 773-6330; Dist. 7, Carolyn Bourdeaux (D), 770 232-3005; Dist. 8, Austin Scott (R), 229 396-5175; Dist. 9, Andrew Clyde (R), 470 768-6520; Dist. 10, Jody Hice (R), 770 207-1776; Dist. 11, Barry Loudermilk (R), 770 429-1776; Dist. 12, Rick Allen (R), 706 228-1980; Dist. 13, David Scott (D), 770 210-5073; and Dist. 14, Marjorie Taylor Greene (R), 706 226-5320.

Georgia Redistricting Legislation

***H.R. 55 Independent Non-partial Commission to Reapportion Districts** introduced January 29th by Representative Matthew Wilson would have an independent commission draw lines for Georgia’s legislative and congressional districts, which is required after each census of the U.S. population. Such committee would be comprised of 14 appointees who would re-draw districts now drawn by elected legislators. Legislators are accountable to voters, appointees are not.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Representatives Rich, Ch., 656-5087; Taylor, V-Ch., 656-7857; Holmes, Sec., 656-5132; Ballinger, 656-7153; DeLoach, 656-0178; Dollar, 463-7853; Efration, 656-5125; Fleming, 656-5105; Gilliard, 656-7859; Jackson, 656-0314; Jan Jones, 656-5072; Kimberly, 656-7859; Nix, 656-5146; Scott, 656-0314; Setzler, 656-5143; Lynn Smith, 656-7149; Richard Smith, 656-5141; and Stephens, 656-0265.

***S.R. 20 Independent Commission to Re-draw Districts** introduced January 27th by Senator Elena Parent would have appointees re-draw district lines for Congress and state legislators.

ACTION – Oppose. Elected legislators now re-draw districts, the proposed commissioners would be appointed. Call Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee Senators Kennedy, Ch., 656-0045; Cowsert, V-Ch., 463-1366; Tonya Anderson, 463-2598; Burke, 656-0040; Butler, 656-0075; Dolezal, 656-7127; Gooch, 656-9221; Harbin, 656-0078; Harbison, 656-0074; Harold Jones, 656-0036; Miller, 656-6578; Rhett, 656-0054; and Tillery, 656-5038.

***H.R. 55 and S.R. 20** are proposed constitutional amendments. If they fail to pass this session but are not defeated, they will be carried into the 2022 legislative session and could pass then. If either were to pass, the following question would be on the next General Election Ballot:

“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for the creation of a nonpartisan independent citizens’ redistricting commission composed of Georgia voters to conduct legislative and congressional redistricting?”

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