

Georgia insight

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

Selected Bills that Failed to Pass the 2017 Session

Simultaneously, as March 30th ended, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House hit their respective podium with a gavel and declared, "Sine die!" ending this year's session with no day set to reconvene.

Loss: A Good Bill That Failed to Pass

H.R. 511 Paramount Right to Life of All Human Beings. The death of H.R. 511 means more babies will die in utero *via* abortion.

Victory! When these Bills Failed to Pass

H.B. 16 Bullying provides extra penalties for bullying thought to be motivated by gender, sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression.

H.B. 492 Penalty for Crimes based on Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity increases punishment for aggravated assault thought to be motivated by alternate lifestyles.

S.B. 119, Civil Rights Status for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity prohibits lifestyle screening of applicants seeking rental in homes or public accommodations.

S.B. 145 Repeal Aggravated Sodomy Offense for Gender, Gender ID, Sexual Orientation deletes penalties relating to childhood sexual abuse, and its application by courts.

H.B. 488 Amend Two State Laws: (a) Civil Rights Law; (b) Commerce and Trade Law to prohibit lifestyle screening of employees and consumers concerning housing; gas stations; sports and entertainment; labor and industry; public officers and employees; and the EEOC.

H.B. 230 Discrimination against Christian Students and Christian Schools requires tuition grants or scholarships to be used *only* in schools or programs promoting alternate lifestyles.

S.B. 64 National Popular Vote (NPV) Agreement between States promotes an Article V Constitutional Convention to change the election process for presidents and vice presidents.

H.B. 531 National Popular Vote (NPV) Agreement between States, same effect as S.B. 64

S.R. 249 Constitutional Amendment Authorizing Six Casinos, not two as proposed in bills

S.B. 79 Destination Resort (Casinos) legalizes casinos and creates a Gaming Commission.

H.B. 158 Destination Resort (Casinos) Act, legalizes casinos, creates a Gaming Commission.

H.B. 118 Fantasy Contests legalizes, regulates and taxes online casino-type sports gambling.

H.B. 20 Automatic Voter Registration when license or ID card is issued, renewed or altered

S.B. 34 Voter ID at the Polls repeals proof-of-identity requirement for voters.

S.B. 35 Election Day Voter Registration allows registration and voting on the same day.

S.B. 36 Automatic Voter Registration at more public places, such as libraries, schools, etc.

S.B. 37 Advance Voting increases the voting time allotted prior to scheduled elections.

H.B. 520 Continuing Request for Absentee Ballot effective as long as an elector is registered.

H.B. 346 Permanent Portable Registration allows same-day voting despite changed address.

H.B. 33 Appoint Non-U.S. Citizens to Local Government boards, councils, and commissions.

S.R. 195 Urges Congress to Call a Constitutional Convention for congressional term limits.

H.R. 217 Urges Congress to Call a Constitutional Convention for congressional term limits.

H.B. 465 Industrial Hemp Commission to put Georgia first in hemp/hemp seed production

H.R. 36 State Production and Sale of Medical Cannabis amend state Constitution to provide

March 2017

Selected Bills that Passed in 2017

H.B. 37 Colleges and Universities Shall Not Adopt Sanctuary Policies extends to private institutions all restrictions and penalties put on public schools in 2016. Violators lose funding. A sanctuary might be a town, state, county or anywhere local officials pass a law, ordinance, policy, practice or rule to deliberately obstruct enforcement of immigration laws or restrict interaction with federal immigration agencies or shield illegal residents, including criminal illegals, from detection and/or possible deportation. Illegal residents include those that overstay their visa, as well as those that enter the U.S. illegally.

President Trump's EO 13768 of January 25, 2017 authorizes Homeland Security to identify which jurisdictions provide sanctuary to illegal aliens. Jurisdictions continuing sanctuary will lose Federal funding. The EO reinstated the Secure Communities program to deport criminals.

H.B. 280 Handgun Carry and Possession on Property of Public Colleges and Universities

H.B. 292 Firearms Carry and Safety addresses out-of-state and in-state carry license issues.

H.B. 205 Mining, Drilling, Exploration, and Extraction of Gas and Oil creates an Oil and Gas Board to regulate such efforts in Georgia.

S.B. 219 Autonomous Vehicles on Public Roads authorizes vehicles with automated driving systems to be operated on Georgia public roads and prohibits an inside driver of the vehicle.

H.B. 341 Mandatory Terms for Trafficking for Sexual Servitude makes it a criminal offense to solicit for such activities and directs victims to a statewide hotline.

H.B. 1 Georgia Space Flight legalizes in-state launching into outer space of a spacecraft with an on-board crew and/or a passenger who books a spaceflight.

H.B. 391 Safe Place for Newborns added police and fire stations to newborn drop-off places.

H.B. 452 Requires GBI to Publish Data on Criminal Aliens Released. Communities into which criminals are freed and the state Sheriffs' Association must be notified within 12 hours.

S.B. 1, The Protect Georgians Against Terrorism Act, passed as an amendment to H.B. 452.

H.B. 338 State System for Low-Performing Schools creates agencies, plans and personnel to intervene in certain schools; allows removal and replacement of local school board members, which contradicts the state constitution requiring the election of local school board members.

It creates an appointed Chief Turnaround Officer and turnaround coaches; provides for grants from the Office of Student Achievement and Education Turnaround Advisory Council; creates the Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process and a Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a Leadership Academy. The elected State School Superintendent may be consulted, but has no authority in the matter. That's unconstitutional.

H.B. 65 Marijuana Patient Registry Passed Attached to S.B. 16 qualifies six more diseases for THC oil, removes residency requirements, and repeals several doctors' reports. The added qualified diseases include Tourette's syndrome, autism, Alzheimer's, HIV, AIDS, and the skin disease, epidermolysis bullosa (EB), identified as "the worst disease you've never heard of."

H.B. 510 Distance Between Alcoholic Businesses and Schools and Churches repeals the law restricting the proximity of such facilities, and leaves the law blank for future use. Meantime, businesses selling or producing alcoholic beverages may be next-door to churches, schools, treatment centers for alcoholics, etc., unless local ordinances prohibit such close proximity.

Reasons to Oppose a Convention of States or Article V Convention

Part I. “The Proposed New Constitution for the Newstates of America”

Between 1964 and 1974 approximately 100 social experimenters at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions produced a document entitled, “A Constitution for the Newstates of America.” When Center Fellow Rexford Tugwell published the work in 1974, he provided a perfect example of what could happen in a constitutional convention. The Center closed in 1987, but its work has permeated education. [See page 4 footnote.]

Excerpts: “The Proposed Constitution for the Newstates of America”

Article I, Rights and Responsibilities. Sec. 6. Every eligible citizen’s vote counts equally.

Sec. 11. Education will be provided at public expense for those meeting eligibility tests.

Article II. The Newstates. Sec. 1. Each Newstate will comprise no less than 5 percent of the population. The Boundary Commission decides state status. Sec. 3. States will have governors, legislatures, administrators and judicial systems supervised by Sec. 4. Electoral Overseers.

Article III. The Electoral Branch. Sec. 1. A senate majority chooses an Overseer, whom they may remove by two-thirds vote. He supervises the organization of national and district parties; provides for candidate nomination/election; has a national convention every nine years; makes convention rules for new presidential and vice presidential candidates, when vacancies occur.

Article IV. The Planning Branch. Sec. 1. A Planning Branch formulates and administers plans and prepares budgets. Sec. 2. A presidentially-appointed 15-member National Planning Board and its appointed chairman serve one-to-15 year terms, renewable thereafter, as designated and Sec. 14. may cooperate with and fund international agencies if not disapproved by the president.

Article V. The Presidency. Sec. 1. The Newstates president will head the government, shape commitments, and serve as policy expositor, as well as supreme military commander; shall have nine-year terms, unless rejected by 60 percent of voters; care for and apportion national resources as needed. Sec. 2. Two vice presidents are elected with the president. One VP supervises internal affairs, and the VP of general affairs becomes president upon a vacancy. Sec. 3. Chancellors of external, financial, legal, and military affairs report to the general affairs VP.

Article VI. The Legislative Branch. *A. The Senate.* Sec. 1. Officials that may become senators: former presidents, vice presidents, principal justices, overseers, Planning and Regulatory Board chairmen, governors, presidential and vice presidential candidates who garnered a 30-percent vote; but none shall be of a political or religious group. Sec. 2. Senate membership is life-long.

B. The House of Representatives. Sec. 1. With no indication of how representatives are selected, they are the original lawmaking body. Sec. 6. Legislation approved by the house and senate, goes to the president. If he disapproves and three-fourths of the house approves, it becomes law.

Article VII. The Regulatory Branch. Sec. 1. A Regulatory Branch may have as many agencies as necessary. A National Regulator is chosen by the Senate and may be removed by the Senate. Sec. 2. The 17-member Regulatory Board has one-to-17 year terms.

Article VIII. The Judicial Branch. Sec. 1. There will be a principal justice who oversees and supervises a judicial council/assembly, a supreme court, high appeals court, claims courts, etc.

Article IX. General Provisions. Sec. 1. Citizen participation in democratic procedures and eligibility for office will be subject to repeated study and redefinition.

Article X. Governmental Arrangements. Sec. 1. Newstates officers named herein shall have no other income. Officers’ salaries – from president to overseer – are life-long and fixed by law, unless they become senate members. If they don’t become senators, justices and judicial council members are permanent, with wages set at two-thirds of the salary of the principal justice.

Article XI. Amendment. Sec. 1. The judicial council formulates and suggests amendments. Sec. 2. After this document is in effect 25 years, and a majority votes for a referendum, it may be redrafted and submitted to voters. A majority vote ratifies the new draft.

Article XII. Transition. Sec. 1. The president assumes power, makes appointments, and funds implementation of the new constitution. Sec. 5. A presidentially-appointed 13-member boundary commission establishes Newstates boundaries within a year, which the president may accept or return for revision. Each Newstate will possess harmonious regional characteristics. Sec. 6. Constitutions drafted by Newstates' highest court are subject to approval by a convention. Sec. 7. Until governors and legislatures of Newstates are seated, local governments continue, but the president may appoint temporary governors to act until successors are elected. Sec. 10. Non-compliant Newstates lose at least seven-percent funding. Sec. 11. After implementation of the new constitution, the president may delete by proclamation appropriate parts of this article.

Reasons^{1(a)} to Oppose a Convention of States or Article V Constitution **Part II. A Declaration of Interdependence^{1(b)} 1976**

Preamble

When in the course of history the threat of extinction confronts mankind, it is necessary for the people of the United States to declare their interdependence with the people of all nations and to embrace those principles and build those institutions which will enable mankind to survive and civilization to flourish.

*Two centuries ago our forefathers brought forth a new nation; now we must join with others to **bring forth a new world order**. On this historic occasion it is proper that the American people should reaffirm those principles on which the United States of America was founded, acknowledge the new crisis which confronts them, accept the new obligations which history imposes upon them, and set forth the causes which impel them to affirm before all people their commitment to a Declaration of Interdependence.*

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that the inequalities and injustices which afflict so much of the human race as the product of history and society, not of God or nature; that people everywhere are entitled to the blessings of life and liberty, peace and security and the realization of their full potential; that they have an inescapable moral obligation to preserve those rights for posterity; and that to achieve these ends all the peoples and nations of the globe should acknowledge their interdependence and join together to dedicate their minds and their hearts to the solution of those problems which threaten their survival.

*To **establish a new world order** of compassion, peace, justice and security. It is essential that mankind free itself from the limitations of national prejudice, and acknowledge that the forces that unite it are incomparably deeper than those that divide it – that all people are part of one **global community**, dependent on one body of resources, bound together by the ties of a common humanity and associated in a common adventure on the planet earth.*

Let us then join together to vindicate and realize this great truth that mankind is one, and as one will nobly save or irreparably lose the heritage of thousands of years of civilization to survive.

¹(a) 106 members of the 94th (1975-1977) Congress signed the Declaration, 33 congressmen endorsed it. James Harris, former NEA president, was on the advisory board, which, no doubt, led to this: "The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia will ... ensure that Declaration and its precepts will be included in the curricula and the texts of our schools.... [assisted by the] NEA, Overseas Development. Council, Foreign Policy Assn." (b) Declaration Author: Henry Steele Commager, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, 10-24-75