

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

SCADPads: Preparing US for Third-World Housing?

135 Square-Foot Homes Fit In 8 x 16 Parking Spot

Putting SCADPads to a test this month in Atlanta are a dozen students, including a male design for sustainability student who said, "I want to live in a parking garage because there are so many out there that can be reused and re-purposed."

Garage Becomes Eco-Friendly Village/Community

Georgia Power says SCAD participation in its Commercial Energy Efficiency Program resulted in a \$245,466 rebate for eco-friendly practices. 41 SCAD buildings incorporating energy efficient upgrades saved 614,570 Kwh of electricity, enough to take 51 homes off the grid for a year.

Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) explained that students designed and developed SCADPads for use by families who will be pressured to move from spacious rural settlements into cities. A micro-housing display of three tiny homes, sits atop the SCAD building parking deck at 1600 Peachtree Street. Wheels on the units are hidden to conceal their identity as mini-mobile homes. The Atlanta display is from April 12 through June 1. It may go to Houston next.

Spurred by the World Health Organization's projection that cities will house 60 percent of the population by 2030, SCAD's program coordinator Scott Boylston explained, "If you look at where parking garages are located in cities, they're usually centrally located. There are usually many, many floors, so they provide an amazing view. It really transforms the way we see neighborhoods. **The idea (sic) that the garage becomes a village — a community.**"

Picture this. A grown man standing with out-stretched arms can almost touch the side walls and ceiling in the 135 square-foot space, which includes a bed, sitting area, bathroom with toilet, shower and sink, and kitchen with a refrigerator and freezer hidden inside cabinet drawers. There's no room for hanging space, so clothes are folded and stored in drawers. Urging folks to get used to it, SCAD Dean Steven Aishman commented, "They are practical, reusable, and they're able to address the idea of urban living."

They're okay for students, but inadequate for family life.

May 2014



2,189 Bills & Resolutions Introduced; 265 Bills & 1,451 Resolutions Passed Bills that should've passed, but didn't: S.R. 1031 would have affirmed English as Georgia's official language, but it died. Both S.R. 808 and H.B. 895 would have prohibited foreign law from being used in Georgia courts, but they died. If S.B. 284 had passed, some parents would have been notified before their minor daughters had an abortion, *if* the judge ruled she was too immature or insufficiently informed to make her own decision. If S.B. 289 had passed, school policies would have allowed inspirational messages by students.

Targeted: The Constitution of the United States

H.B. 794 passed to create a Compact Commission to be appointed as soon as at least one other state passes similar legislation, which Alaska has done. Therefore, Georgia and Alaska may establish a Balanced Budget Compact, whose members will (a) spread across the U.S. and (b) encourage other states to join the Compact and ask Congress to call a convention of states. In addition, the Commission will (c) oversee the enforcement and defense of Compact legal venues and (d) operate the Compact on funding solicited by Member States.

The Compact authorizes *itself* to plan, oversee and control a constitutional convention, if one is convened. But that may not be possible, since Congress is empowered by *The Constitution of the United States* to call a constitutional convention. Further, H.B. 794 directs Member States to select their Governor, House Speaker and Senate President Pro-Tem as delegates. If they participate themselves, state government will be left in the hands of subordinate officials.

H.B. 794 authorizes Compact members to travel from state to state, urging them to call for a Convention of States, which they expect to control with state laws such as this, despite beliefs of constitutional scholars that a convention is beyond control, once it convenes. Other constitutional scholars say otherwise, but without proof. Article V of *The Constitution of the United States*, authorizing Congress to call a convention, sets no limit or restriction on it.

Dangerous calls for a constitutional convention passed in Georgia, despite warnings.

Those warning against a constitutional convention quoted Supreme Court Justices Warren Burger and Arthur Goldberg who see *no enforceable way to stop wholesale changes to the Constitution and Bill of Rights*. Once a convention begins, it is a sovereign body without limit.

S.R. 371 passed the Senate March 7, 2013 and the House February 20, 2014, proposing an amendment limiting congressional spending to no more than the total revenue received each year. Facts: (a) It does not call for a balanced budget amendment. (b) Spending all the income does not mean the budget is balanced. S.R. 371 is a continuing resolution in effect until 2020.

S.R. 736, introduced January 14, 2014 calling for a convention of the states, passed the Senate February 4, 2014 and the House March 6, 2014. Its three-pronged agenda (a) imposes fiscal restraints on the federal government, (b) limits the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and (c) limits the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress. Please note that in these proposed multiple amendments, a balanced budget is not mentioned, although it could, possibly, be included as one of many fiscal restraint amendments.

H.B. 930 passed to regulate delegates, requires the recall of delegates that disobey instructions. However, there is no indication a convention would recess until replacements are seated. If a convention continues without recalled delegates, affected states would have no representation.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

ARTICLE I. BILL OF RIGHTS SECTION I. RIGHTS OF PERSONS

Paragraph I. *Life, liberty, and property.* No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by due process of law.

Paragraph II. *Protection to person and property; equal protection.* Protection to person and property is the paramount duty of government and shall be impartial and complete. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws.

Paragraph III. *Freedom of conscience.* Each person has the natural and inalienable right to worship God, each according to the dictates of that person's own conscience; and no human authority should, in any case, control or interfere with such right of conscience.

Paragraph IV. *Religious opinions; freedom of religion.* No inhabitant of this state shall be molested in person or property or be prohibited from holding any public office or trust on account of religious opinions; but the right of freedom of religion shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.

Paragraph V. *Freedom of speech and of the press guaranteed.* No law shall be passed to curtail or restrain the freedom of speech or of the press. Every person may speak, write, and publish sentiments on all subjects but shall be responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

[Note: The underlining above emphasizes freedoms currently protected in the State Constitution Bill of Rights, and contrasts the restrictions H.B. 1023 and S.B. 377 would have made had they passed in the 2014 session. Thankfully, both H.B. 1023 and S.B. 377 died.]

H.B. 1023 would have allowed “a person’s civil right to exercise of religion” to be “burdened” by “the least restrictive means,” if *any* authority on *any* level of state government were to decide there is “a compelling governmental interest” to prohibit it. That bill died.

[Note: The above Bill of Rights does not restrict religious freedom in any way.]

S.B. 377, entitled “Preservation of Religious Freedom Act,” actually authorizes the restriction of the “exercise of religion,” if there is a “compelling governmental interest” to prohibit it.

That bill died.

[Note: The above Bill of Rights does not restrict religious freedom in any way.]

May 5th Supreme Court 5-4 Decision: Government May NOT categorize Religious Speech

“[G]overnment may not seek to define permissible categories of religious speech ... [G]overnment must permit a prayer giver to address his or her own God or gods as conscience dictates, unfettered by what an administrator or judge considers to be nonsectarian. Any test the Court adopts must acknowledge a practice that was accepted by the Framers and has withstood the critical scrutiny of time and political change. ... Any test that would sweep away what has so long been settled would create new controversy and begin anew the very divisions along religious lines that the Establishment Clause seeks to prevent.”

– Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, May 5, 2014

Selected Bills that Died the Last Day of the Session

- S.B. 284 would have cut down on abortions. Had it passed, a judge could have ruled a pregnant minor too immature or too uninformed to make a personal decision about abortion.
- H.B. 885 would have legalized medical cannabis. S.R. 756 would have created a medical Marijuana study committee, but both bills died. Subsequently, Governor Deal proposed two state programs to research the use of cannabis oil for childhood seizures.
- S.R. 750 recommended that, in the future, the General Assembly should pass an Education Appropriations Act *before* passing a General Appropriations bill, but it failed. Why require a special Act to fund public education, when 43.4 percent of the state’s general fund for FY 2015 is funneled to education? Annually, education gets at least 41 percent, usually more.
- S.B. 314 proposed an increase in the minimum wage to at least \$10.10 per hour, but it died.
- S.R. 1031 would have amended the State Constitution to affirm English as the official language of Georgia. As in the past, it died based on the *false notion* that declaring English as the official language would “have a chilling effect on international business.”
- S.R. 808 and H.B. 895 would have prohibited the use of foreign law in Georgia courts. That’s particularly troubling, since state and U.S. constitutions provide equal protection for everyone involved in the courts, regardless of nationality. To choose to use Georgia law for some cases and foreign law for other cases is discriminatory and un-equal protection.
- H.B. 942 allowed on-line voter registration, which would have created fraud opportunities.
- H.R. 1265 proposed the testing of autonomous vehicles on Georgia roads, but it must be too far down the road (no pun intended) to excite legislators about getting on board.
- S.B. 167, introduced to eject common core state standards from Georgia schools, failed to pass. So, common core continues unchecked.

Selected Bills that Passed

- H.B. 1128 authorizes a referendum for the City of Clarkston to extend its borders. Already Georgia’s largest refugee resettlement area. With continued infusions, thousands are sent repeatedly to Clarkston, despite the governor’s plea to reduce or discontinue the influx.
- H.B. 702 authorizes installation at the Capitol of a granite monument depicting the Ten Commandments. The Preambles to the Georgia Constitution and U.S. Constitution will be on the opposite side of the monument, to be created when enough private funding is raised.
- H.B. 772 requires drug testing for adult food stamp recipients. Minors up to 18 will not be tested. Adults failing the test may select another adult to obtain stamps for minor children. Adults failing a drug test lose food stamps, until they pass a subsequent drug test.
- H.B. 60 authorizes licensed carriers to take firearms onto private premises, unless the property owner objects. It prohibits confiscation or regulation of firearms during declared emergencies and allows designated personnel to carry licensed firearms on school property.
- S.B. 98 prohibits the expansion of abortion funding in the State of Georgia.
- H.B. 943 reduces chemotherapy cost to radiation cost, and limits prescriptions to \$200 each.
- H.B. 707 prohibits the establishment or promotion of a health exchange in Georgia.

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