

Georgia insight

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www.georgiainsight.org
“She hath done what she could.”
Mark 14:8a
“...and having done all ... stand.”
Ephesians 6:13c

Do you want gambling unleashed on Georgia?

“All that glitters is not gold. Why do they have to have so much law enforcement? Because this is absolutely one of the most dangerous industries that you can have in your state.”

– Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, October 16, 2019

On October 15, 16 and 17, the newly appointed Special Committee on Economic Growth held full-day hearings about legalizing all gambling in Georgia, as proposed in the following bills:

H.R. 378¹ All Forms of Betting, Bingo, Raffles, and Gambling Shall be Permitted, authored by Representative Ron Stephens and three co-sponsors, was introduced February 27th. Briefly, it went into a House committee, but is now in the Special Committee on Economic Growth.

H.R. 378 amends the Lottery section of Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII (a) of *The Constitution of the State of Georgia* and adds new paragraphs to create the Georgia Gaming Commission and define its duties. The Commission would decide which forms of for-profit¹ bingo games, raffles by for-profit organizations, betting and gambling to legalize, then, regulate the ones they authorize. Of over 30 speakers from inside and outside Georgia, at least 27 – casino owners, gaming proponents, out-of-state legislators and officials, contractors and builders – want casinos and horseracing here, while three² explained gambling’s dangers.

As a proposed constitutional amendment, a two-thirds vote is required for passage in both House and Senate. If they pass it, the following would be a question on the November 2020 ballot. If a simple majority votes YES, commercialized gambling would be legalized.

“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for the legalization of all forms of betting, bingo games, raffles, and gambling as permitted by the Georgia Gaming Commission and to provide for the establishment of such commission in order to regulate such activities?”

S.R. 84¹ Provides for Pari-mutuel Betting on Horse Racing. It was introduced February 6, 2019 by Senator Brandon Beach, the sole sponsor. To legalize in-state horse racing, he is trying to amend Article I, Section II, Paragraph VIII of *The Constitution of the State of Georgia* by adding a new subparagraph (e). Also, his bill would create a budget category entitled “Pari-mutuel Betting Proceeds” from which the governor would choose how to use funds left over after horse racing’s operational expenses are paid. He may decide to fund programs for the prevention and treatment of compulsive and addictive gambling. The better scenario would be to defeat the bill and avoid providing opportunities for such compulsion and addiction. If S.R. 84 gets two-thirds votes in both House and Senate, this question would be on the 2020 ballot:

“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize pari-mutuel betting on horse racing in the State of Georgia?”

ACTION – Oppose. Ask for a **NO** vote on both bills or a **NO** vote on a combination of both. Call Special Committee on Economic Growth Co-chair Representatives Harrell, 404 656-5103; Powell, 463-3793; Stephens, 656-5115; Blackmon, 463-7853; Collins, 656-1803; Ehrhart, 656-0152; Gambill, 656-0254; Houston, 463-2248; Martin, 656-5064; Paris, 656-0109; Sainz, 656-0177; Smith, 656-0265; Washburn, 656-0152; Al Williams, 656-6372; Rick Williams, 656-0287.

¹ Commercial gambling would be legalized in Georgia if either of these bills becomes law as written.

² Reverend Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board; Les Bernal and Cindy Hartman, Faith & Freedom Coalition

Atlanta Motor Speedway would Invest \$1,000,000,000 in a Casino Complex

“We keep hearing all these excuses that it’s for the children. Well, let me tell you, when we legalize vices like casino gambling, it hurts the children.”

– Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

“While there would likely be some revenue increases due to gambling, this revenue would be more than offset by the increased costs to our state due to gambling addiction, sex trafficking, loss of jobs, less spending by those who gamble, small businesses closing, increased crime, and bankruptcies.”

– Representative Wes Cantrell, (R-Woodstock)

Georgia is one of only eight states without a commercial or tribal casino. Only the state-run lottery is legal in Georgia, but that could change with the passage of H.R. 378 and/or S.R. 84. While many investors and gamblers eagerly promote legalized gambling in Georgia, the Atlanta Motor Speedway (AMS) has offered to spend a whopping billion dollars to build a gambling complex on its property in Hampton.

This month, AMS President Ed Clark released two drawings of the proposed structures AMS would build adjacent to the racetrack. The complex would be part NASCAR, part theme park, and part casino resort. All would be within 21 miles of Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and adjacent to the Henry County Airport. Clark said, “It’s not all about gaming. It’s about entertainment.”

The existing track would remain, while proposed amenities include a three-level gold driving range, an indoor/outdoor waterpark, a 330,000-square-foot theme park, a ten theater cinema complex, a family entertainment center with an e-sports arena, a night club, 11,000 seats for concerts, ten restaurants, a 300,000-square-foot outlet mall, a casino and main resort of 700 rooms, an 85,000-square-foot casino gaming floor, 75,000 square feet of convention space, and a 400-unit timeshare. Underground parking would be added for 7,800 vehicles.

Since Representative Ron Stephens wants the state to legalize all gambling or stop the lottery, he plans to add lottery to the referendum question. He explained his attitude with this, “Either we’re gonna play or we’re gonna get out of it and the voters will decide that.”

Where Georgians Gamble Now

Emerald Princess Casino Cruise Ship. *PlayUSA’s* updated *Georgia Guide to Legal Gambling* on July 26, 2019 bemoaned the fact that Georgia has some of the strictest and most absolute laws against gambling in the U.S. Georgians have only one location where they can gamble legally in person. That is the Emerald Princess Casino cruise out of Brunswick that’s required to sail 200 nautical miles into international seas before Georgians can play legally.

The 200-foot ship has four decks – two for gaming, one for dining, and an observation deck. It sails every night into international waters, so Georgians can gamble outside the state. On the gambling decks are 200 slot machines, 12 blackjack tables, eight poker tables, two roulette wheels, and a craps table. Players must be 18 or over and pay a \$10 fee to gamble.

Although cruises are in five-hour increments, they must be exceptionally lucrative because the operator of the Emerald Princess is Golden Isles Cruise Lines, which has no other holdings.

To legally gamble, *PlayUSA* suggests social casino sites on Facebook where 6.1 million people per month gamble on 60 different games, including video poker, blackjack, roulette, and bingo.

ACTION – Oppose legalization of in-state gambling. Now is the time to stop these bills. The Commission will make recommendations to the General Assembly for action in 2020. Since commission members are all representatives, ask them to vote NO on commercialized gambling in Georgia. Their names and numbers are listed under ACTION on page 1.

Concerned about Culture Decline? Consider This!

Statewide, the Georgia Department of Education oversees 181 school districts, 2,200 schools that employ over 114,800 teachers to educate approximately 1,600,000 students for a minimum of 180 school days, annually. Of 180 mandatory school days, outside forces use at least 48 days (almost 25% of total days) to promote homosexuality, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

ACTION – Oppose such activities in schools. Ask local school administrators and the local school board to prohibit such use of school time OR, immediately, provide 48 school days for Christians to promote their values.

Schools are being Used to Reprogram U. S. Culture

“Education is thus a most powerful ally of Humanism, and every American public school is a school of Humanism. What can the theistic Sunday-schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?”

– Humanism, A New Religion, Charles Francis Potter, Published 1930

Digest Mr. Potter’s quote above. Then, consider this: (a) Every July the NEA expands the LGBTQ grip on students by passing resolutions that affirm all sexual orientations. (b) The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) schedules in-school LGBTQ promotions for 25% of school days. Some last a week, but LGBT history & LGBT Pride last a month each.

GLSEN’s Current Online Calendar¹ for Schools

GLSEN Goal: Increase Adherents to LGBTQ by Squelching Opposition

- **Ally Week**, sponsored by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to be observed September 23-27, 2020 would increase student and staff support of LGBTQ lifestyles. During Ally Week, students are asked to take the following pledge:

“I believe schools should be safe, supportive places for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. THIS IS WHY I HAVE PLEDGED TO [capital letters in original]: Not use anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) [parentheses not mine] language or slurs; intervene, if I safely can, in situations where students are being harassed. Support efforts to make this, and every school, safe for all students.”

[Note: If students pledge to say nothing negative, opposition is silenced and LGBT are affirmed.]

Ally Week is about destroying opposition to alternate lifestyles and increasing their numbers!

- **Bisexual Awareness Day September 23, 2020 is the focus on the first day of Ally Week.** The American Psychiatric Association says bisexuals may be the most numerous of LGB orientations. They are attracted to or involved in romantic relationships with more than one sex or gender and are significantly less “out” to family and friends.
- **LGBTQ History Month is scheduled for the entire month of October.** Students are taught that certain historical figures were homosexual, without facts to support that charge.
- **“Coming Out” Day, October 11², is used to encourage students and staff to publicly say they are homosexual or a variation thereof.** This year Van Buren Middle School in Kettering, a Dayton, Ohio suburb, called a school-wide³ assembly October 11th to coincide with “Coming Out” Day. An 11-year-old boy reported to his mom that special speaker, actor/author Maulik Pancholy⁴ believed he was “gay” in 6th grade and encouraged students to embrace their homosexual feelings. The 11-year-old’s mom is sounding the alarm.

¹ Mission America, “School Corruption & Propaganda Calendar,” article September 29, 2019; calendar online at GLSEN

² Always on the 11th, it was established by activists to commemorate the 1987 “gay rights” march on Washington, D.C.

³ LifesiteNews.com, October 16, 2019

⁴ Pancholy, a voice on the Disney’s “Phineas and Ferb” cartoon, told students that one Phineas character was “gay.”

Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA) ¹ club in West De Pere High School, De Pere, Wisconsin, meets Wednesdays at 2:50 p.m. For Coming Out Week², which is the week before Coming Out Day, students are encouraged to wear rainbow ribbons and hang “I’m an Ally for LGBT Youth” or “National Coming Out Day” signs on lockers or doors. For ten years, a GSA scholarship has been awarded annually.

- **GLAAD’s Spirit Day, October 17, 2020**, always the third Thursday in October. The sponsor is GLAAD, a self-identified “dynamic media force” founded in 1985 as the “Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation” to promote acceptance of LGBTQ individuals. Supportive students and teachers wear purple to highlight bullying of homosexuals and other alternate lifestyles. In 1992 *Entertainment Weekly* identified GLAAD among the 100 most powerful Hollywood entities. Partnering with Little Bee Books for children, GLAAD released new LGBTQ-inclusive volumes, including the sixth edition in an ongoing series of LGBTQ-inclusive books. Additionally, GLAAD published a Media Reference Guide for use by mainstream newspaper, magazine, motion picture, television and radio reporters.
[Note: Since negative comments about lifestyles are defined as bullying, free expression is punished.]
- **International Pronouns Day October 21, 2020** is explained by GLSEN as follows:
“International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people. Together, we can transform society to celebrate people’s multiple, intersecting identities.” [emphasis mine]
[Note: The last sentence reveals their goal – conform society to alternate lifestyles.]
- **Transgender Awareness Week, November 12-19, 2019**, typically observed the second week in November, is used by activists to “educate the public” and “advance advocacy” for those thinking about changing or already transitioning into an opposite-sex identity.
- **Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20, 2019** commemorates the murder of a transgender woman in 1998.
- **No Name-Calling Week January 20-27, 2020** focuses on middle schools to eliminate differing opinions about alternate lifestyles. No indication that heterosexuals will be protected from bullying.
- **Day of Silence April 24, 2020** will continue to promote the homosexual agenda during the school day. This year’s DOS was April 14, 2019. In the 1990s, Georgia school counselors attended a conference entitled “School is Not a Gay Place to Be,” where they learned how to *transform* Georgia schools into gay places to be. The Day of Dialogue and Bring Your Bible to School Day were created by Focus on the Family to counteract DOS observances.
- **International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia May 17, 2020** is a global effort to categorize as “phobias” opposition to alternate lifestyles and transgendering. *Webster* defines phobia as “an irrational, excessive and persistent fear.” Obviously, those observing these days are dismissing differing opinions as irrelevant hysteria.

¹ Original GSAs were Gay, Straight Alliances. What does a Gay & Sexuality Alliance do that an original GSA didn’t do?

² Another week of observances leading into Coming Out Day.

NOTE: Schools in session in June will observe Pride month. California schools observe Harvey Milk Day May 2nd.

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