

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could." Mark, 14:8a

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Four '07 Bills Must Be Defeated in '08

Since property tax is the foundation of local control, I hope the criticism of H.R. 900 kills it in '08. The governor said, "I wouldn't be very comfortable with [a centralized tax system operating out of Atlanta]." He compares H.R. 900 to a federal law that would take all Georgia revenue and send it to Florida, Michigan and California.

H.R. 900 Restructures Georgia Tax Code

H.R. 900 (a) replaces income tax with a 5.75 percent flat tax and (b) taxes sales and services another 5.75 percent. The state 5.75 percent sales tax would be on everything, including food. Plumbers and other service providers would add 5.75 percent tax to their bills. The 11.5 percent total tax would go to Atlanta, where officials would decide what to send back to local governments. If state allotments won't fund local services, local officials could add a local tax above the 11.5 percent. So, the state would suck up the revenue and historically self-supporting communities would operate on less or pay double taxes. That's a "fair" tax, H.B. 900-style!

H.R. 900's repeal of ad valorem taxes jerks foundational funding from local governments.

It *takes from* school districts, cities and counties their constitutional power to assess, collect and use property taxes as needed. It repeals ad valorem taxes on (a) real or personal property for individuals and businesses. It eliminates current (b) sales and use taxes, (c) motor fuel taxes, (d) unemployment and workers' compensation, (e) estate taxes and insurance premium taxes, (f) utility taxes, (g) stock transfer taxes and (h) intangible taxes. All would be replaced with a "comprehensive flat tax to be known as the fair tax," *the state would collect and redistribute.*

Local governments lose autonomy. Currently, counties assess the taxable value of property and locally elected commissioners and boards of education *independently* establish their annual budgets and set millage rates for residents. Local tax commissioners compile assessments and millage rates, award exemptions, compute and collect local taxes and distribute them. Several *autonomous* local governments cooperate in the process. H.R. 900 removes that autonomy.

Of the 38 pages in H.R. 900, eleven of them repeal and abolish revenue sections of the state constitution. Page 9, effectively, fires all locally elected tax commissioners, tax collectors or tax receivers, because property taxes would be gone, along with local control of local taxes.

Exemptions: Charitable contributions, mortgage interest, rental payments on primary shelters, unemployment benefits, social security benefits, and other designated tax-exempt benefits

Result: redistribution of wealth. No longer could residents keep their own tax money to tailor services to fit local needs and control the quality of life in their community. The money local officials now collect to support local government will be absorbed by the state into a centralized tax-to-be-redistributed fund state officials will dole out. So, H.R. 900 brings in state-controlled redistribution of wealth that isn't fair to anyone, no matter what's it's called!

ACTION – Oppose. Contact House Ways & Means Committee Representatives O'Neal, Ch., 404 656-5103; Sims and Mosby, 656-9287; M. Scott, 656-0254; Harbin, J. Jones, C. Martin, Parsons, 463-2247; Day, 656-5096; Graves, 656-7146; Knight, 656-0152; Lewis, 656-9198; Lindsey and Bryant, 656-0298; Mills, 656-5099; Peake, 656-0188; Rice, 656-5912; Roberts, 656-5025; Royal, 656-0265; A. Scott, 656-5132; Setzler and Tumlin, 656-0177; Stephens, 656-5099; R. Williams, 656-3904; Beasley-Teague, 656-0220; Fludd, 656-0314; Jamieson, 656-0202; Stanley-Turner, 656-0325.

S.B. 155 of '07, Alive for '08, Mandates HPV Vaccinations for 6th-Grade Girls

S.B. 155, introduced in '07, requires sixth-grade virgin girls to be injected with a drug said to protect against cancer-causing strains of human papillomavirus (HPV), although it's contracted only by sexual contact. Mandatory vaccinations that might protect against sexually transmitted diseases could lull children into a false sense of security about sexual activity. Both males and females are susceptible to contracting HPV infections during heterosexual or homosexual acts and, without symptoms, can infect others through contact with skin or mucous membranes.

Facts about HPV infections reveal an obvious truth. It's over-kill to mandate HPV shots for minors. The National Vaccine Information Center reports that (a) HPV infections, naturally, clear within two years in over 90 percent of the cases and (b) cause only about one percent of all cervical cancer cases in the U.S. Whatever the female's age when she contracts any or all HPV infections, HPV-related cervical cancer won't show up until she's about 50 years old. Even then, the cancer is quickly diagnosed by pap smears and can be successfully treated.

S.B. 155 didn't pass in '07, although it appeared to be a slam-dunk. Senator Don Balfour, who introduced it, withdrew it after parental pressure became too much to ignore, although the governor showed his support by designating \$4,339,738 for the drug in his FY2007 budget. Religious objections are the only basis for opting out. So, sixth-grade girls without a religion-based opt-out would be injected, despite inadequate research and documented harmful effects.

Gardasil is the drug in question. The parental opposition focused on Merck's Gardasil, the first such drug on the market, although others are racing to make their version. Wise parents had reasons to be skeptical. Five years of research could never and did not prove that Gardasil protects against HPV-related cancer, because such surfaces 40 or 50 years after infection. Of 2,000 patients in Gardasil research, 102 had adverse¹ reactions - sudden collapse, seizures, facial paralysis, Guillain Barre Syndrome, arthritis – and some participants died.

Merck's 2006 Patient Information Sheet explains that the first dose of Gardasil requires three separate injections, the second two months after the first and the third four months later. Five-year booster shots may be needed. The Sheet didn't explain that a three-shot course costs \$360, plus doctor visits and administrative costs. Merck *does* explain that of over 100 types of HPV, Gardasil guards against only Types 6, 11, 16 and 18, but does *not* protect against genital warts. Merck's Sheet recommends Gardasil for virgin girls as young as 9 years old and virgin women through age 26. Then, gives a list of side effects that include pain, swelling, itching and redness of the injection site, fever, nausea, dizziness and difficulty breathing (bronchospasm). *Note:* the National Vaccine Center's reaction list is different from Merck's list, which seems to be too short. Merck says, "For a more complete list of side effects, ask your health care professional."

The Texas Governor was the first to mandate vaccinations against HPV, but he did it with an executive order that was over-ridden by the Texas legislature before it was enacted. Otherwise, in Texas 11-year-old girls would have been injected with Gardasil before entering school in '06. After parents and legislators learned the facts, other states rejected it, too, and Merck stopped lobbying for laws mandating Gardasil. However, voluntary injections are available to families that want their virgin girls inoculated and for emancipated female virgins through 26 years old.

ACTION – Oppose. Ask Senator Don Balfour, 404 656-0095, to kill S.B. 155. Sexual abstinence prevents HPV infection.

¹ By 5-11-07, 11 months after June '06 approval, Gardasil had caused 1,637 adverse effects – 371 serious, three deaths. Of 42 women vaccinated while pregnant, 18 had side effects ranging from spontaneous abortion to fetal abnormalities.

S.R. 345 Faith-Based Grants Require Purging Religion from Social Services

Consider What Will Happen if Our Culture Loses Religious Influence

This page explains why S.R. 49 should be defeated. No one can, honestly, refute the facts. When I made these statements to the governor, he didn't deny their truthfulness, but simply said, "They [the religious entities] don't have to take the money!" I replied, "But they will if this bill passes." The conversation ended and the bill in question died. But in 2007, he reintroduced it as S.R. 345. Under this bill, all Christian entities that accept faith-based grants must purge religion from all services funded by as little as a dollar of grant money.

Since 2004, the governor has pushed his faith-based initiative to allow federal grants to go straight to religious entities to fund social services. The Georgia Constitution clearly states, "No money shall ever be taken from the public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious denomination or of any sectarian institution." Therefore, S.R. 345, introduced in 2007, is the latest effort to repeal that section.

Please note that the above section to be repealed would make grants available to sects and cults, as well as main-line religion. That includes such organizations as the United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors, a religious cult in Putnam County whose leader is in a Georgia prison for sexual acts with children. It includes Ravenwood Church and Seminary of Wicca that applied for a Department of Community Affairs grant April 1, 2003. Ravenwood, Atlanta's first public Wiccan church, claims to be "a faith-based organization dedicated to the education, science, promotion and practice of the old religion," which is witchcraft. The root word of witch is Wicca. Ravenwood was denied the '03 grant request due to a tax short-fall that year.

Not only would witches and Nuwaubians qualify for faith-based initiatives, so would groups of homosexuals. The first faith-based grant in Georgia went to a homosexual group that applied through another state and was eligible because the group met in a room of a Unitarian church.

Public schools mirror what happens under government funding. Students and teachers can't read the Bible or pray in schools and many schools don't allow reading or carrying a Bible on school property, even in free time though other books are allowed. Christian songs are taboo in public schools. All these are samples of what happens where government money is used.

Another prime example is the case of United Methodist Children's Homes (UMCH). UMCH had always received per diem funding from the state to support foster children in their care and did so without controversy until Lambda Legal Defense won a lawsuit against them and DHR. On October 3, 2003, all UMCH and DHR-funded child welfare agencies, child-care institutions and child-placing institutions were put under the out-of-court agreement with Lambda. The following terms must be met by all children's services funded by DHR:

- No UMCH or other state-funded entity can require participation in religious activities.
- No Bible-based doctrine or Bible-based morality may be taught or encouraged.
- Neither faith nor sexual orientation may be considered when accepting volunteers and hiring employees for day-care, office and security, bus drivers, dieticians and cafeteria workers, counselors and teachers.
- Pro-homosexual counselors must be employed and no employee or volunteer may, within the funded program, speak negatively to anyone about homosexuality or positively about heterosexuality. All varieties of sexuality must be taught as equally acceptable.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Health & Human Services Senators, Thomas, 404 656-6436; Unterman, 463-1368; Goggans, 463-5263; Adelman, 463-1376; Balfour, 656-0095; Butler, 656-0075; Grant, 656-0082; Hawkins, 656-6578; Henson, 656-0085; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Preston Smith, 656-0034; Tate, 463-8053; Wiles, 657-0406.

S.B. 211 Gives Special Rights for Alternate Lifestyles

“[L]et it go through as quickly as possible as a crime-fighting and terrorism bill.

We certainly don't want to give legislators a reason t vote against the bill because they find out it gives gay rights.”

S.B. 211 in Georgia. As revealed in the above statement by Georgia Equality Political Board Chairman Kathleen Womack, S.B. 211 does far more than its promoters claim. It is the latest version of legislation masquerading as a hate crime bill, tailored to give special protected civil rights status to alternate lifestyles. This year, Senator Fort included “gender identity” in his list of orientations to get civil rights protection. When used alone, gender is defined as natural-born sexual identity – male or female. But the term “gender identity” indicates sexual preference.

When homosexual activists stormed the APA meeting in the early '70s and intimidated conferees into removing homosexuality from its list of deviant behaviors, no one mentioned that activists would soon demand the removal of other deviations, as well.

Now, pressure groups demand special protected status for LGBTQAI, the acronym for various branches of homosexuality –lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, allies and intersex, an umbrella term for a number of congenital anomalies of intimate organs. If S.B. 211 were to pass, Georgia would be in the same fix California's in since the governor signed bills requiring all schools to allow boys and girls to use bathrooms designated for the opposite sex if they do so claiming to be transgendered. So, the latest perk for transvestites in California is open access to any bathroom, but no bathroom is designated for “straight” male of female students.

Although it passed out of committee in '07, S.B. 211 was not brought to the Senate floor for a vote. It's still alive in the Judiciary Committee for '08 and must be kept there.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact Judiciary Committee Senators Preston Smith, Ch., 404 656-0034; Harp, 463-3931; Hamrick, 656-0036; Adelman, 463-1376; Brown, 656-5035; Carter, 651-7738; Cowser, 463-1366; Fort, 656-5091; Judson Hill, 656-0150; Meyer von Bremen, 656-0637; Reed, 463-1379; and Wiles, 657-0406.

Federal Bills, S. 1105 and H.R. 1592 provide money so states can implement the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, which gives civil rights protection for *sexual orientation, gender and gender identity*. Although H.R. 1592 is called “the most dangerous legislation in America,” it has 137 co-sponsors, including Democrat Representative John Lewis from Atlanta. Of 100 U.S. Senators, 42 co-signed S. 1105. Georgia's Senators Chambliss and Isakson *did not* co-sign it.

Both bills would suppress free speech and religious liberty. The House Judiciary Committee admitted that a pastor's sermon about homosexuality could be punished as a hate crime.

Under both bills, everyone, including pastors, could be investigated and prosecuted for sharing the gospel. In Canada preachers are afraid to read Bible passages against homosexuality. In both Canada and France legislators were fined for publicly criticizing homosexuality and in Sweden a pastor was sentenced to a month in jail for preaching that homosexuality is a sin.

A British couple denied the right to adopt was told their Christian faith might prejudice them against a homosexual child placed in their care. In the U.S., Catholic Charities of Boston stopped all adoption proceedings after being told the state pro-gay nondiscrimination law allows the state to license only agencies that put children in homosexual-led households.

ACTION – Oppose. Call Congressman John Lewis, 404 659-0116, requesting that he withdraw his support of H.R. 1592.

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