

Legislative Bills of Interest – April 14, 2011

Actions April 1 through April 14, 2011 are indicated in “**Red**”

Modifications or changes may be made as additional information is available

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
HB 33	Allison 8th; Harden 28th: Provides for the application of zero-base budgeting to the budget process; to provide for consideration of alternative funding levels.	Passed House (CS) 3/14/11
HB 47	Ramsey 72nd; Meadows 5th; Maxwell, Howard 17th To authorize insurers to offer individual accident and sickness insurance policies in Georgia that have been approved for issuance in other states.	Passed and Awaiting the Governor’s Signature
HB 76	Kidd, 141st; Powell, 29th; Epps, Bubber 140th Authorizes the Dept. of Economic Development to coordinate the development and planning of the program with other state and local groups to encourage retirees and those planning to retire to make their homes in Georgia and to certify retirement communities. Baldwin County and Milledgeville may serve as the pilot.	Passed House (CS) 4/14/11
HB 77	Budget bills (Other budget bills – HB 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, and 86)	HB 77 FY 2011 budget signed as Act 2.
HB 78	Budget – FY 2012	HB 78 FY 2012 Awaiting the Governor’s signature 4/12/11.
HB 87	Ramsey, 72nd; Golick, 34th; Dempsey, 13th “ Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act of 2011 ”; Requires private employers to use an employment eligibility verification system and provide for civil penalties, etc.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 107	Ralston 7th; Bearden 68th; Parsons 42nd (Johnny Grant in Senate) Provides for dependents of state employees who are killed acting within the scope of his or her employment shall be eligible to continue health insurance at the same rate as state employees.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 109	Hamilton 23rd; Amerson 9th; Peake 137th Provides that public employees shall not use government owned or leased computers or telecommunications devices to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly or to promote or oppose the approval or veto of any legislation by the Governor. The bill excludes employees whose duties require such activity.	H: Government Affairs (2/2 /11)
HB 144	Willard 49 th : Revise, modernize, and correct errors or omissions in retirement and pensions – Title 47.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 147	House Committee on Health and Human Services Substitute: Additionally a patient has the right to inquire as to whether the physician carries medical malpractice insurance	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 156	Cheokas, Mike 134 th , Meadows, John 5 th ; Roberts, Jay 154 th ; England, Terry 108 th : Add State Highway employees to indemnification for partial permanent disability in the line of duty.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 159	Lucas 139th: Limits HOPE grants to families having income less than \$66,000 annually.	H: Higher Education 2/7/11
HB 171	Casas 103rd; Coleman 97th; Hembree 67th Allows a local school system to provide a scholarship equal to ½ of the per student	H: Education 2/9/11

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	expenditure for student’s tuition for higher education when the student completes high school course prior to entering the 12 th grade.	
HB 182	Marin 96th; Requires health benefit policies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of infertility .	H: Insurance 2/9/11
HB 183	Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th; Benton 31st Requires mandatory membership in the Legislative Retirement System beginning 7/1/12, and allows an irrevocable election for those who previously declined membership.	H: Retirement 2/9/11
HB187	Channell 116th; Cooper 41st; Huckaby 113th Requires a competitive contract for dental services for all Medicaid and Peach Care participants .	H: Health & Human Services 2/9/11
HB 189	Wilkinson 52nd; Maxwell 17th; Shaw 176th: Provides that no contract or agreement between a dental insurer or network and a dentist shall require the dentist to accept an amount for dental care services that are not covered dental services under a dental benefit plan; to provide that no dental insurer shall publish or otherwise communicate that discounts are available for noncovered dental services.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 208	Maxwell, Howard 17th: Adds the definition of board to the Employees Retirement System law.	H: Retirement (2/10/11)
HB 214	Channell 116th; Parrish 156th; England 108th. Establishes a Department of Public Health and transfers functions from the Department of Community Health.	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
HB 236	Maxwell 17th; Benton 31st; Pruett 144th: Allows the governing authority of each county to elect either a local pension or ERS, but not both for local tax commissioners and other tax employees taking office after July 1, 2012.	H: Retirement (2/10/11)
HB 246	Johnson, Terry 37 th ; Yates, John 73 rd ; Black, Ellis 174 th : Prohibits employees of ERS & TRS increase in compensation (including incentives and bonuses) in any year in excess of 50% of prior year’s salary.	H: Retirement (2/16/11)
HB 250	Weldon 3rd; Maxwell 17th; Benton 31st. Provides that a Judicial Retirement System member who rejected survivor's benefits may elect such benefits by paying the actuarial cost; to provide for a revised survivor's benefit option for persons who become members on or after July 1, 2012	H: Retirement (2/16/11)
HB 293	Benton 31st; Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th: Amends the definition of retirement fiscal bills to include any bill that grants an insurable interest on lives of pension members for which the pension plan must obligate funds.	Passed House 3/2/11 Favorably Reported by Senate Committee 3/28/11
HB 295	Maxwell, 17th; Benton 31st; Meadows 5th: Provide a method of calculating accrued benefits for persons subject to the Georgia State Employees’ Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS) who transfer between the Georgia ERS or TRS.	H: Retirement 2/22/11
HB 297	Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th; Benton 31st: No public retirement system shall have an insurable interest in members of such retirement system nor have authority to expend or obligate	Passed House 3/.2/11 Favorably Reported by Senate Committee

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	funds to purchase life insurance except where all benefits are paid to the beneficiary designated by the member.	3/28/11
HB 308	Maxwell 17 th : The duties of the boards of trustees of public retirement systems or pension plans contained in this title are in addition to, and not in limitation of, the common law duties of the trustee found in Title 53, (WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES) except to the extent inconsistent with those within this title."	Substitute Passed House 3/11/11 Favorably Reported by Senate Committee 3/28/11
HB 337	Greene 149 th , Maxwell 17 th , and Benton 31 st This bill deals with the Sheriffs Retirement System options for divorce and remarriage .	H. Retirement 2/24/11
HB 344	Baker 78 th , Weldon 3 rd , Allison 8 th , Epps 140 th , Neal 75 th Juvenile court judges and other members of such retirement system may obtain creditable service for prior service as a full-time associate juvenile court judge in the Judicial Retirement System	H: Retirement 2/24/11
HB 351	Maxwell of the 17 th \$3.00 of such fines and forfeited bonds shall be paid to the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund of Georgia	H: Retirement 2/24/11
HB 354	Martin 47 th This bill increases individual state income tax standard deductions .	H. Ways and Means 2/24/11
HB 355	Martin 47 th The bill repeals corporate net worth taxes	H. Ways and Means 2/24/11
HB 371	Maxwell 17 th , Benton 31 st , and Meadows of the 5 th The state and any political subdivision of the state may only purchase insurance on the life of active or retired public officers or employees when all benefits are paid to an officer's or employee's estate or to a beneficiary designated by the individual officer or employee	Passed House 3/14/11 Favorably report by Senate Committee 3/30/11.
HB 380	Jacobs 80 th Requirements for continuing care providers and facilities would be revised.	Insurance 2/28/11
HB 385	Channell 116 th , O'Neal 146 th This is a tax structure bill.	Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 2/28/11
HB 386	Channell 116 th , O'Neal 146 th This is a tax structure bill.	Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 2/28/11
HB 387	Channell 116 th , O'Neal 146 th This is a tax structure bill.	Recommended to Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 4/14/11

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HB 388	Channell 116 th , O'Neal 146 th This is a tax structure bill.	Recommitted to Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 4/14/11
HB 397	Powell 171 st , Bearden 68 th , Powell 29 th , Greene 149 th , Baker 78 th The bill is a comprehensive revision of the law regarding open meeting and open records.	Judiciary 3/2/11
HB 403	Stephens 164 th This bill increases a business tax break.	H. Ways and Means 2/28/11
HB 405	Martin 47 th , Lindsey 54 th , Abrams 84 th , Houston 170 th , Dickson 6 th Assisted living communities regulations and licensing requirements are stated. Certified Medication Aides may be employed. An assisted living community shall not be permitted to enroll as a provider of Title XIX eligible medical assistance. Personal Care Homes shall not admit individuals in need of continuous medical or nursing care or a resident who is not ambulatory.	Passed House (S) 4/14/11
HB 412	Stephens 164 th The bill removes certain limitations on the use of a tax credit for research and development by a business enterprise	Ways and Means 3/1/11
HB 416	Franklin of the 43 rd Prohibits collective bargaining by public employees	Industrial Relations 3/2/11
HB 424	Weldon 3 rd , Maxwell 17 th , Meadows 5 th , Benton 31 st , Brooks 63 rd The bill provides for a death benefit for active or retired members under the Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund	Retirement 3/2/11
HB 432	Dempsey 13 th , Manning 32 nd , Smith 129 th , McKillip 115 th , Sims 119 th Employees would be allowed to use sick leave for care of immediate family members.	Industrial Relations 3/2/11
HB 446	Mitchell 88 th An employee of a financial institution shall be immune from all civil and criminal liability for actions taken in good faith related to the investigation into or reporting of fraud or possible fraudulent actions committed against an elder person or disabled adult , including the gathering of information from consumers.	Judiciary Non Civil 3/3/11
HB 456	Byrd 20 th , Hill 21 st , Braddock 19 th , Jerguson 22 nd , Sheldon 105 th The "Georgia Government Accountability Act" creates the Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee ; to authorize the committee to review and evaluate state agencies' productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness; to provide for the automatic abolition of certain state agencies contingent upon adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly	H: Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight 3/4/11
HB 458	Bruce 64 th , Kidd 141 st , Mayo 91 st , Long 61 st , Frazier 123 rd This bill creates the Georgia Commission on Family Economic	H: Special Rules 3/4/11

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	Security to determine the extent of poverty throughout the state and to seek policy remedies aimed to protect and afford opportunity to all citizens , including job training, educational and work opportunities, health care, and safety	
HB 460	Gardner 57 th , Neal 1 st , Lindsey 54 th , Jacobs 80 th , Stephenson 92 nd The Psychiatric Advance Directive Act provide a means for a competent adult to control either directly through instructions written in advance or indirectly through appointing an agent to make mental health care decisions on behalf of such person according to a written psychiatric advance directive	H: Health and Human Services 3/4/11
HB 461	Jaspere of the 12 th , Meadows of the 5 th , Bearden of the 68 th , England of the 108 th , Williams of the 4 th Health Care Compact ...see SB 177.	Passed – Awaiting Governor’s Signature
HB 464	Harden 28 th , Allison 8 th , Pruett 144 th , Smith 129 th , Morris 155 th The Department of Human Services shall institute a random drug testing program for recipients of state public assistance and state administered federal public assistance where the recipient is 18 years of age or older; provided, however, that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any public assistance related to the provision of medical care or any public assistance provided, directly or indirectly, for the benefit of persons under the age 18	H: Judiciary 3/4/11
HB 473	Coleman 97 th , Meadows 5 th , Benton 31 st , Buckner 130 th , Weldon 3 rd The monthly contribution to the Public School Employees Retirement System for new members would rise from \$4.00 to \$10.00 and the pensions will rise.	H: Retirement 3/7/11
HB 476	Smith 131 st and Meadows 5 th The purpose of this Act is to provide for a Georgia Health Exchange to facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans in the individual market in this state in accordance with federal law. This Act also provides for the establishment of a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange to assist qualified small employers in this state in facilitating the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans offered in the small group market. The intent of the exchanges are to reduce the number of uninsured people in this state, provide a transparent exchange, provide consumer education, and assist individuals with access to programs, premium assistance tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions.	Recommitted to Rules Committee 3/16/11.
HB 479	Dempsey 13 th , Channell 116 th , Parrish 156 th , Drenner 86 th , and Sheldon 105 th Private home care providers shall only include services provided by individuals who are employees, and not independent contractors, of a private home care provider or another employer who contracts with such private home care provider. See SB 196	H: Health and Human Services 3/7/11

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HB 486	Morris 155 th , Dollar 45 th , Davis 109 th , and Heard 114 th Membership subscription agreements for prepaid air ambulance service shall not constitute a contract of insurance.	Recommitted to Health & Human Services 4/14/11
HB 521	Morris 155 th This bill reduce the amount of the employee contribution to the Superior Courts Clerks’ Retirement Fund for creditable service for certain prior service as a deputy clerk	H. Retirement 3/11/11
HB 533	Baker 78 th and Weldon 3 rd Juvenile Court Judges would also be able to transfer previous contributions to the Judicial Retirement System	H: Retirement 3/14/11
HB 625	Hatfield 177 th : The Peace Officer’ Annuity and Benefit will cover communications officers.	H: Retirement 3/30/11
HB 630	Drenner 86 th , Jacobs 80 th , Abrams 84 th , Kidd 141 st , Bell 58 th The bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identify	H: Judiciary 3/31/11
HB 644	Commission to Implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.	H: Insurance 4/14/11
HR 342	Clark 98 th ; Cooke 18 th ; Braddock 19 th : A Resolution titled a Taxpayer Dividend Amendment . The resolution provides for a State Constitution amendment to provide a priority for appropriating excess revenue received over that appropriated. It also limits expenditures from the Revenue Shortfall Reserve to one-time needs.	H: Budget & Fiscal Affairs Oversight 2/22/11
HR 421	Channell of the 116 th and O`Neal of the 146 th Citizens could vote on a constitutional amendment to create an Economic Development Trust Fund .	H, Special Committee on Small Business and Job Creation 2/28/11
HR 422	Channell of the 116 th and O`Neal of the 146 th Citizens could vote on a constitutional amendment to require any general bill or resolution that enacts or amends a tax exemption or tax credit comply with fiscal impact standards unless waived by a two thirds vote.	H. Special Committee on Small Business and Job Creation 2/28/11
HR 425	Neal 1 st , Walker 107 th , Mills 25 th , Collins 27 th , Clark 98 th This bill proposes a constitutional amendment to allow public funding of social service by a religious or faith based organizations.	H. Judiciary 3/1/11
HR 549	Kidd of the 141 st The bill creates the House Durable Medical Equipment Study Committee	H. Health and Human Services 3/11/11
HR 640	Bruce of the 65 th , Kidd of the 141s, Buckner of the 130h, Fludd of the 66 th , and Gardner of the 57 th : A resolution to create House Family Economic Security Study Committee.	H: Health & Human Services 3/22/11
HR 757	Lucas of the 139 th , Stephens of the 164 th , Parrish of the 156 th , Harden of the 147 th , Heard of the 114 th : The House State Health Benefit Plan Study Committee will do a thorough legislative study of the SHBP in order to provide adequate and effective coverage for employees while ensuring actuarial soundness and	Favorably Reported by House on 4/11/11 and recommitted to Health & Human Services on 4/14/11.

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	budgetary responsibility, and no such study has been conducted for some time.	
HR 810	Rogers 26 th , Meadows 5 th , England 108 th , Parrish 156 th , Stephens 164 th . The Resolution creates the House State Health Insurance Plan Alternative Funding Study Committee to study alternative funding, cost management strategies, and reinsurance options in order to provide adequate and effective coverage for employees while ensuring actuarial soundness and budgetary responsibility.	Adopted 4/14/11.
SB 17	Golden 8th; Goggans 7th; Shafer 48th establish the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits ; to provide for review of proposed legislation containing a mandated health insurance benefit or provider;	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
SB 19	Hill 32nd; Butterworth 50th: The bill provides for punishment of .medical identify fraud & punitive damages for victims	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.
SB 20	Hill 32nd. Prohibits implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act until analysis and report to the General Assembly.	S: Health & Human Services 1/26/11
SB 25	Hill 32nd. Prohibits implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act until analysis and report to the General Assembly.	S: Health & Human Services (1/27/11)
SB 33	Shafer 48th; Chance 16th; Davis 22nd Provides for the application of zero-base budgeting to the budget process; to provide for consideration of alternative funding levels.	Conference Committee Report not Adopted 4/14/11.
SB 35	Seabaugh, Mitch 28th; Heath, Bill 31st; Cowsert, Bill 46th: Prohibits State Treasury from withdrawing funds from bank accounts without the account holder’s permission	Senate Committee Substitute Favorably Reported 3/10/11
SB 38	Rogers 21st; Millar 40th: Transfer the authority from the State Board of Education solely to the State School Superintendent to hire and fire employees of the Dept. of Education, including employees in the classified service.	CS Passed Senate 2/22/11, House Committee Substitute with a FA. Passed House 4/12/11. Recommitted to House Education on 4/14/11.
SB 137	Hamrick 30 th : Some Department of Juvenile Justice county probation and intake employees will need to opt for a state or local pension. The bill also references Juvenile Court Judges .	2/23/11
SB 159	Mullis 53rd, Chance 16th, Rogers 21st, Gooch 51st, Miller 49 th No meeting of a government agency discussing matters related to an economic development project of a private person or entity shall be a public meeting or be required to be opened to the public.	Senate Committee Substitute Favorably Reported 3/10/11
SB 166	Stone 23rd, Mullis 53rd and Jeffares 17 th The Commissioner of Insurance would have enforcement powers to revise provisions for continuing care agreements including liquidation of a	Passed—Awaiting the Governor’s signature.

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	facility.	
SB 167	Hill 4th, Williams 19th, Albers 56th, Bethel 54th, Millar 40 th Weekly unemployment benefits would be reduced by a benefit received from a private retirement system regulated by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. Section 1001, et seq., and any public retirement system or fund created by an Act of the General Assembly or by any political subdivision of the state upon which public funds are expended. Such term also means any association of like political subdivisions the purpose of which is the pooling of funds for retirement or pension purposes. Such term shall not mean a defined contribution fund established under Section 401(k) or Section 457 of the federal Internal Revenue Code.	Substitute Favorably Reported 3/10/11
SB 176	Chance 16th, Mullis 53rd, Gooch 51st, Stoner 6th, Davis 22 nd All agencies would be able to conduct meetings by telecommunications conference and not just those agencies with state wide jurisdiction	Favorably Reported 3/10/11
SB 177	Bethel of the 54th; Mullis of the 53rd; Butterworth of the 50th; Gooch if the 51st; Albers of the 56th; Shafer of the 48th: To amend the insurance code so as to provide that health insurance exchange plans shall specifically prohibit use of tax credits and cost-sharing reduction payments to pay for abortion services; to provide for segregation of 4 such plans.	Floor Amd passed Senate 3/14/11. House CS with FA Passed House 4/12/11.
SB 178	Grant 25th, Williams 19th, Hill 32nd, Murphy 27th, Jackson 24 th . A bill to provide for the regulation and licensing of assisted living communities; to provide for procedures and criteria; to provide for requirements for medication aides; to revise provisions relating to personal care homes; to amend various provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, so as to provide changes for purposes of consistency and conformity. It establishes a new licensure category of long-term care provider which shall be referred to as 'assisted living community. An assisted living community shall be authorized to provide certain services that are beyond the scope of services that a personal care home is authorized to provide.	Passed—Awaiting Governor’s signature.
SB 196	Seabaugh 28 th Private home care providers shall only include services provided by individuals who are employees, and not independent contractors , of a private home care provider or another employer who contracts with such private home care provider	S. Health and Human Services 3/3/11

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SB 197	Seabaugh 28 th To eliminate unproductive employees the Commissioner of Personnel Administration shall do a comprehensive review of each state employment position compensation package and the person and whether the position is duplicated and deliver a report by 12/31/2011.	S. Appropriations 3/3/11
SB 215	Hill 32 nd Convert Medicaid and the PeachCare for Kids Program funds to premium assistance to allow low-income families to participate in private sector health insurance plans	S: Health and Human Service 3/7/11
SB 216	Hill 32 nd , Rogers 21 st The Commissioner of Insurance may authorize insurers to offer individual medical and surgical health insurance policies in Georgia that have been approved for issuance in selected other states	S: Interstate Cooperation 3/7/11
SB 223	Ligon, Jr. 3rd, Rogers 21st, Hill 32nd, Ginn 47th, Albers 56 th The "Georgia Government Accountability Act"; creates the Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee; to review and evaluate state agencies' productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness and provided for the automatic abolition of certain state agencies contingent upon adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly. See HB 456	Passed House & Senate and Conference Committee Appointed 4/14/11.
SB 246	Hill 4 th Increase the employee contribution to the Public School Employees Retirement System to provide for an increase in the retirement benefit	S. Retirement 3/10/11
SB 249	Mullis 53rd, McKoon 29 th , Staton 18 th that notice of meetings open to public of government agencies be posted on agency websites	Substitute Favorably Reported 3/11/11
SB 286	Heath 31 st , Hill 4 th , Stoner 6 th , Hooks 14 th , Murphy 27 th . No person who first or again, (not including reelection), becomes a tax commissioner, tax collector, tax receiver, or an employee of any such officer on or after July 1, 2012, shall be eligible for membership in the Employees Retirement System of Georgia.	S: Retirement 4/14/11
SB 287	Gin 47 th , Cowser 46 th , Butterworth 50 th . An election to participate in the Regents Retirement Plan in lieu of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia shall be revocable at will.	S. Retirement 4/14/11
SR 20	Rogers 21st; Williams, 19th; Heath 31st: A Resolution to amend the State Constitution by setting a cap on the amount of revenue the state can budget each year . The Resolution provides for the state budget to be equal to either of the prior two years' spending levels or can increase over the previous year's spending level by a formula of population growth plus government inflation growth.	Committee Substitute with Floor Amendment Passed Senate 2/24/11, H. Ways and Means 2/28/11
SR 29	Mullis 53rd; Rogers 21st; Williams 19th. A Resolution to encourage a 25% reduction in DOT employees by 6/30/15	2/22/11 Passed Senate

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SR 54	Hill 32 nd The Health Care Transformation Study Committee shall undertake a study of issues surrounding the availability and affordability of health care insurance, access to health care services, and the federal requirements for the states to implement the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P. L. 111-148) and its impact on the states.	Health and Human Services Favorably Reported 3/29/11
SR 55	Hill 32 nd , Butterworth 50 th , Shafer 48 th , Rogers 21 st , Heath 31 st This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that no law or rule or regulation shall compel any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in any health care system and to authorize persons and employers to pay directly for lawful health care services without penalties or fines.	Lost and Notice to Reconsider 3/7/11
SR 473	Seay 34 th Bridging the Digital Divide in Aging Communities Study Committee.	Favorably Reported 4/11/11.