

Legislative Bills of Interest – February 19, 2012

Bills of Interest from the 2011 Session are Listed First (continue to be active)

Bills Introduced in the 2012 Session begin with HB 658 and SB 293 (Action in 2012 is shown in “red”)

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 Assigned to Senate Appropriations
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.	Recommitted to Economic Development Committee – 4/14/11
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 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; Hembreel 67th Allows a local school system to provide a scholarship equal to ½ of the per student expenditure for student’s tuition for higher education when the student completes high school course prior to entering the 12 th grade.	H: Education 2/9/11
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: Favorably Reported CS by Retirement Committee 2/16/12
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 208	Maxwell, Howard 17th: Adds the definition of board to the Employees Retirement System law.	H: Retirement (2/10/11)
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: Favorably Reported by Retirement Committee 2/16/12
HB 293	Benton 31st; Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th: Amends the	Passed House 3/2/11

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	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.	Favorably Reported by Senate Retirement (1/25/12)
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.	Passed House 1/24/12; Assigned Senate Retirement 1/25/12.
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 funds to purchase life insurance except where all benefits are paid to the beneficiary designated by the member.	Passed House 3/.2/11 Favorably Reported by Senate Retirement – 1/9/12
HB 308	Maxwell 17th: 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 Retirement 1/9/12.
HB 337	Greene ^{149th} , Maxwell 17 th , and Benton 31 st This bill deals with the Sheriffs Retirement System options for divorce and remarriage .	Passed House. Favorably Reported by Senate Retirement 1/26/12
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	Passed House. Assigned Senate Retirement 1/26/12
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 17th, Benton 31st, 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 Insurance & Labor – 2/3/12
HB 380	Jacobs 80 th Requirements for continuing care providers and facilities would be revised.	Insurance 2/28/11

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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 HB 387 HB 388	Channell 116 th , O`Neal 146 th These are tax structure bill.	Recommitted to Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 4/14/11
HB 397	Powell 171st, Bearden 68th, Powell 29th, Greene 149th, 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.	Recommitted to House Health & Human Services Committee – 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	Pass House 1/24/12. Assigned to Senate Retirement – 1/25/12.
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	House Committee Substitute Favorably Reported 2/16/12

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	abolition of certain state agencies contingent upon adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly	
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 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	H: Special Rules 3/4/11
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 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	H: Health and Human Services 3/7/11

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	another employer who contracts with such private home care provider. See SB 196	
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.	Recommended 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 3/16/11
HB 542	Powell of the 171 st . Provides for the transfer service credits from the Georgia Judicial Retirement System to the Employees’ Retirement System.	CS Passed House 2/1/12. Assigned to S. Retirement 2/2/12
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 642	Collins of 27 th ; Hamilton of the 23 rd , England of the 108 th , Meadows of the 5 th , Ehrhart of the 36 th , Braddock of the 19 th Eliminates the Commissioner of Personnel Administration , transfers the functions of the State Personnel Administration to the Department of Administrative Services, eliminates authorization for certain functions.	Substitute passed House 2/7/12. S: Government Oversight 2/8/12.
HB 644	Commission to Implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.	H: Insurance 4/14/11
HB 668	Spencer of the 180 th , Willard of the 49 th , Braddock of the 19 th , Houston of the 170 th , Atwood of the 179 th . Applicants for Temporary Assistance must have drug tests at their expense.	H: Judiciary 1/10/12
HB 677	Holcombe of the 82 nd , Thomas of the 100 th , Taylor of the 55 th , Parent of the 81 st , Buckner of the 130 th , Abrams of the 84 th . Provides for Members of the General Assembly to be subject to the same drug testing requirements to which Georgia residents may be subjected.	H: Judiciary 2/1/12
HB 689	Horne of the 71 st , Smith of the 70 th . Authorizes local boards of education to provide health insurance benefits to members leaving office on or after 12/31/12 if such members have served on the board for at least 12 years. Former members shall pay the entire cost of the health insurance coverage.	H: Retirement 2/1/12
HB 698	Stephens of the 164 th . Requires over the age of 18 recipients of state public assistance and state administered federal public assistance to take drug tests.	H: Judiciary 1/10/12

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HB 699	Stephens of the 164 th , McKillip of the 115 th . . Requires over the age of 18 recipients of TANF to take drug tests.	H: Judiciary 1/10/12
HB 718	Peake of the 137 th , Lindsey of the 54 th , Sheldon of the 105 th , Stephens of the 164 th , Williamson of the 111 th . Creates a new Georgia Capital Acceleration Authority assigned to the Dept of Economic Development for administrative purposes. The bill allows authorizes the auction of premium tax credits to insurance companies – up to \$200 million for the purposes of investing in growth stage venture capital.	H: Insurance 1/10/12
HB 719 HB 720	England of the 108 th – Supplemental Appropriations, FY - 2012	H: Appropriations 1/11/12
HB 721 HB 722	England of the 108 th – General Appropriations, FY 2013	H: Appropriations 1/11/12
HB 741	Ralston of the 7 th , Jones of the 46 th , O’Neal of the 146 th , England of the 108 th – Supplemental Appropriations – FY 2012	House passed 2/3/12. S: Appropriations 2/6/12
HB 742	Ralston of the 7 th , Jones of the 46 th , O’Neal of the 146 th , England of the 108 th – General Appropriations – FY 2013	H: Appropriations 1/11/12
HB 747	Beverly of the 139 th , Peake of the 137 th , Randall of the 138 th , Abrams of the 84 th , Holt of the 112 th . Provides that any census tract having a poverty rate of 45% of greater shall be deemed to have the same eligibility for tax treatment as tier 1 counties	H: Ways and Means 1/24/12
HB 798	Smith of the 168 th , Oliver of the 83 rd . Revises the Ethics in Government Act by renaming the Georgia Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission as the State Ethics Commission , changes provisions for campaign contributions, powers an duties of the commissioner, conduct and lobbyist disclosure, and postemployment restrictions on public officers.	H: Rules 1/5/12
HB 801	Gardner of the 57 th , Beverly of the 139 th , Dobbs of the 53 rd , Smyre of the 132 nd , Buckner of the 130 th , Abrams of the 84 th . Establishes the Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace Authority to facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans. Establishes a small business health insurance marketplace to assist qualified small employers enroll their employees so as to reduce the number of uninsured people.	H. Insurance 1/26/12
HB 805	Collins of the 27 th . Amends Title 47, to make conforming amendments and correct references with the abolition of the State Personnel Administration, places the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services on the ERS Board of Trustees.	Passed House 2/7/12.
HB 831	McCall of the 30 th , Collins of the 27 th , Hatchett of the 143 rd , Carter of the 175 th . Transfers the Division of Rehabilitation Services, including the disability adjudication section and the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation from the	Assigned to Human Relations & Aging 1/31/12.

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	Department of Labor to the Department of Human Services; transfers the direction and supervision of the Georgia Industries for the Blind to the Department of Human Services	
HB 944	Willard of the 49 th . Revise the code for errors and omissions relating to the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority’s membership in the Employees Retirement System	H: Judiciary 2/9/12
HB 987	Riley of the 50 th , Maxwell of the 17 th . Institutes the duty of a member of the Peace Officers’ Annuity and Benefit Fund to notify the Fund when no longer serving in an eligible positions.	H: Retirement 2/16/12
HB 1032 HB 1033 HB 1034 HB 1035 HB 1036	Hatchell of the 143 rd , Collins of the 27 th , Carter of the 175 th . Holding bill for changing definitions relating to income taxes. Holding bill for changing definitions regarding sales & use Tax.	H: Ways & Means 2/17/12
HB 1072	Manning of the 32 nd , Dempsey of the 13 th , England of the 108 th , Oliver of the 83 rd . Requires the Veterans Service Board to apply to the Center of Medicare & Medicaid for the Georgia Ware Veterans’ Home to become a participant in the Medicare & Medicaid programs.	H: Defense & Veteran Affairs 2/7/12
HR 342	Clark 98th; Cooke 18th; Braddock 19th: 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 ,	Favorably Reported by

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	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 budgetary responsibility, and no such study has been conducted for some time.	House on 4/11/11 and recommitted to Health & Human Services on 4/14/11.
HR 810	Rogers 26 th , Meadows 5 th , England 108 th , Parrish 156 th , Stephens 164 th , Gardner 57 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. Committee appointed and held meetings during 2011 Summer/Fall. Awaiting the Committee’s Report.
HR 1163	Byrd of the 20 th , Horne of the 71 st , Braddock of the 19 th , Holt of the 112 th , Brockway of the 101 st . Urges the Department of Audits and Accounts to Georgia Transparency in Government Spending website.	House Adopted 2/2/12
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	Recommitted to Banking & Finance – 1/9/12
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 .	Assigned to Senate Retirement – 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.	Recommitted to Economic Development Com – 1/9/12

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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.	Recommitted to Insurance & Labor 1/9/12.
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	Recommitted to State & Local Govern 1/9/12
SB 177	Bethel of the 54 th ; Mullis of the 53 rd ; Butterworth of the 50 th ; Gooch if the 51 st ; Albers of the 56 th ; Shafer of the 48 th : 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.	Passed Senate. Recommitted to House Insurance Committee – 4/12/11.
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
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 203	Bethel of the 54 th , Mullis of the 53 rd , Albers of the 56 th . Provides for insurance companies to purchase insurance credits up to \$125 million and establishes an investment company to invest the funds. The House Insurance Committee substitute the bill to provide for CAPCO—a private investment firm—to do business as a “certified capital company.	Passed Senate 3/16/2011; passed House as a CS on 4/12/11. Senate disagrees with HCS on 1/23/12
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

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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	Different versions passed House & Senate. Senate adopted 2nd Conference Report 1/30/12.
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	Passed Senate 2/15/12. Assigned to H: Retirement 2/16/12.
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	Passed Senate. Passed House 1/9/12.
SB 283	Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Gooch of the 51st, Stoner of the 6th, Miller of the 49th and Seay of the 34 th . Creates a Georgia Department of Public Transit to develop and implement a business plan for combining all regional public transit entities in this state into a streamlined and 50 integrated state-wide public transit system	Senate Transportation Committee – 4/12/11
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.	Passed Senate 2/15/12; Assigned to H: Retirement 2/16/12
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
SB 292	Albers of the 56 th , Rogers of the 21 st , Gooch of the 51 st , Shafer of the 48 th , Goggans of the 7 th . Requires Department of Human Services to establish and administer a drug test for each applicant for temporary assistance for needy families or Medicaid benefits.	Passed House 2/8/12. Assigned to S: Governmental Affairs 2/9/12.
SB 310	Senators Jeffares of the 17th, Chance of the 16th, Gooch of the 51st, Hill of the 4th, Millar of the 40th and others Amends the Lottery provisions for unclaimed prize money and eliminates the provision to transfer up to \$200,000 t the Department of Behavioral Health for treatment of the	Assigned to Senate Appropriations 1/13/12

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	compulsive gambling persons.	
SB 330	Senators Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st, Stoner of the 6th, Orrock of the 36th and Thompson of the 5 th Requires individual insurance policies to included coverage for dependent children’s cancer and autism.	Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor 1/24/12
SB 334	Senators Sims of the 12th, Jones of the 10th, James of the 35th, Henson of the 41st, Davenport of the 44th and others. Modifies the definition for the Zell Miller Scholarship for HOPE , changes the grade-point requirement to the top 3% of the class for eligibility	Assigned to Higher Education Committee on 1/25/12.
SB 335	Senators Carter of the 42nd, Jones of the 10th, James of the 35th, Henson of the 41st, Davenport of the 44th and others. Removes academic requirements for eligibility for HOPE.	Assigned to Higher Education Committee on 1/25/12
SB 343	Senators Heath of the 31st, Hill of the 32nd, Miller of the 49th, Chance of the 16th and Jackson of the 24 th . Designates the State Accounting Officer as the Comptroller General and transfers the Comptroller General functions from the Commissioner of Insurance to the State Accounting Officer (Comptroller General).	Passed Senate 2/8/12; Assigned to H: Governmental Affairs 2/9/12.
SB 349	Senators Stoner of the 6th, Harbison of the 15th, Jackson of the 2nd, Jones of the 10th, Sims of the 12th and others. Permits a \$3,500 tax credit for employers who hire a veteran under certain circumstances.	Assigned to the Finance Committee – 1/26/12
SB 387	Mullis of the 53 rd , Hamrick of the 30 th , Crosby of the 13 th , Tolleson of the 20 th , Hill of the 32 nd . Authorizes the Secretary of State to create a will registry .	S: Special Judiciary 2/6/12
SB 391	McCoon of the 29 th , Gooch of the 51 st , Miller of the 49 th , Shafer of the 48 th , Stone of the 23 rd , Hill of the 32 nd . Revises the Ethics in Government Act , renames the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission to the State Accountability Commission , changes provisions relating to campaign contributions, public officials’ conduct and lobbyist disclosure, and restricts postemployment of public officers.	S: Rules 2/7/12
SB 402	Golden of the 8 th , Millar of the 40 th , Stoner of the 6 th , Rogers of the 21 st , Tolleson of the 20 th , Heath of the 3 st . Authorizes ERS & other large pension systems to invest in alternative instruments, private placements and other private investments; limits investments in these instruments to 1% each year up to 5%, limits the percentage that the retirement system can hold to 20% of the investment pool, and other provisions.	Senate Retirement Favorably Reported 2/17/12.
SB 418	Orrock of the 36 th , Henson of the 41 st , Tate of the 38 th , Fort of the 39 th , Davis of the 22 nd . Establishes the Georgia Health Insurance Marketplace Authority to facilitate the purchase	S: Insurance & Labor 2/15/12

Legislative Bills of Interest – February 19, 2012

Bills of Interest from the 2011 Session are Listed First (continue to be active)

Bills Introduced in the 2012 Session begin with HB 658 and SB 293 (Action in 2012 is shown in “red”)

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	and sale of qualified health plans in accordance with federal law.	
SB 434	Hill of the 32 nd , Loudermilk of the 51 nd , Ligon of the 3 rd , Williams of the 19 th , Crane of the 28 th . Prohibits coverage for abortion in health plans provided in the federal healthcare act.	S: Insurance & Labor 2/16/12
SB 440	Jackson of the 2 nd , Ramsey of the 43 rd , Paris of the 26 th , Tate of the 38 th , Sims of the 12 th . Directs the Department of Revenue to report to the General Assembly every 4 years the loss of revenue to the state & local governments as a result of tax exemptions.	S: Finance 2/16/12
SB 455	Goggans of the 7 th , Hill of the 4 th , Williams of the 19 th , Golden of the 8 th , Orrock of the 36 th . Requires personal care homes and community living arrangements to be licensed as an “assisted living community” in order to use the term “assisted living services” or “assisted living” or “assisted living community.”	S: Health & Human Services 2/17/12
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 54	Hill 32nd 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.	Recommitted to Health & Human Service 1/9/12.
SR 473	Seay 34 th Bridging the Digital Divide in Aging Communities Study Committee.	Recommitted to S & T Committee 1/9/12