

**Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL**  
**Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”**)

<b>Bill Nr.</b>	<b>Author/Description</b>	<b>Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)</b>
HB 33	Allison 8th; Harden 28th: Provides for the application of <b>zero-base budgeting to the</b> budget process; to provide for consideration of alternative funding levels.	See SB 33
HB 183	Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th; Benton 31st Requires mandatory membership in the <b>Legislative Retirement System</b> beginning 7/1/12, and allows an irrevocable election for those who previously declined membership.	Act 646
HB187	Channell 116th; Cooper 41st; Huckaby 113th Requires a competitive contract for <b>dental services for all Medicaid and Peach Care participants.</b>	H: Health & Human Services 2/9/11
HB 208	Maxwell, Howard 17th: Changes the repeal date for rehiring retired teachers from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 3013.	Act 647
HB 250	Weldon 3rd; Maxwell 17th; Benton 31st. Provides that a <b>Judicial Retirement System member who rejected survivor's benefits</b> 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	Act 649
HB 293	Benton 31st; Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th: Amends the <b>definition of retirement fiscal bills</b> 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 Retirement (1/25/12)
HB 295	Maxwell, 17th; Benton 31st; Meadows 5th: Provide a method of <b>calculating accrued benefits</b> for persons subject to the Georgia State Employees’ Pension and Savings Plan ( <b>GSEPS</b> ) who transfer between the Georgia ERS or TRS.	HCS passed House 1/24/12; Senate Committee Favorably Reported 2/22/12
HB 297	Maxwell 17th; Meadows 5th; Benton 31st: <b>No public retirement system shall have an insurable interest in members of such retirement system nor have authority</b> to expend or obligate funds to purchase life insurance except where all benefits are paid to the beneficiary designated by the member.	Act 650
HB 308	Maxwell 17th: The <b>duties of the boards of trustees of public retirement systems or pension plans</b> contained in this title are in addition to, and not in limitation of, the common law duties of the trustee found in Title 53, ( <b>WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES</b> ) 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 149 <sup>th</sup> , Maxwell 17 <sup>th</sup> , and Benton 31 <sup>st</sup> This bill deals with the <b>Sheriffs Retirement System</b> options for <b>divorce and remarriage.</b>	Act 652
HB 351	Maxwell of the 17 <sup>th</sup> \$3.00 of such fines and forfeited bonds shall be paid to the <b>Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund</b> of Georgia	Act 653
HB 371	Maxwell 17th, Benton 31st, and Meadows of the 5 <sup>th</sup> The state and any political subdivision of the state may only <b>purchase</b>	Passed House 3/14/11 Favorably report by Senate

## Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL

Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	<b>insurance</b> 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	Insurance & Labor – 2/3/12
HB 385	Channell 116 <sup>th</sup> , O`Neal 146 <sup>th</sup> <b>This is a tax structure bill.</b>	Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure 2/28/11
HB 386	Channell 116 <sup>th</sup> , O`Neal 146 <sup>th</sup> <b>This is tax structure bill.</b> Among other things, the bill caps the retirement income exemption at \$65,000 (\$130,000 Joint), which is currently at \$35,000 (\$70,000) for persons age 62+, requires sales/use tax on purchase of cars, provides exemption on some energy type businesses. <span style="color: red;">Other major changes to the Georgia Tax code not reflected in this brief.</span>	Act 607
HB 397	Powell 171st, Bearden 68th, Powell 29th, Greene 149th, Baker 78 <sup>th</sup> The bill is a comprehensive revision of the law regarding <b>open meeting and open records.</b>	Act 605
HB 424	Weldon 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Maxwell 17 <sup>th</sup> , Meadows 5 <sup>th</sup> , Benton 31 <sup>st</sup> , Brooks 63 <sup>rd</sup> The bill provides for a death benefit for <b>active or retired</b> members under the <b>Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund</b>	Pass House 1/24/12. S: favorably reported 3/14/12
HB 456	Byrd 20 <sup>th</sup> , Hill 21 <sup>st</sup> , Braddock 19 <sup>th</sup> , Jerguson 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Sheldon 105 <sup>th</sup> The "Georgia Government Accountability Act" creates the <b>Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee</b> ; 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	VETOED
HB 542	Powell of the 171 <sup>st</sup> . Provides for the <b>transfer service credits from the Georgia Judicial Retirement System to the Employees' Retirement System.</b>	CS Passed House 2/1/12. S: Passed Senate 3/22/12.
HB 625	Hatfield 177 <sup>th</sup> : <b>The Peace Officer' Annuity and Benefit will cover communications officers.</b>	H: Retirement 3/30/11
HB 630	Drenner 86 <sup>th</sup> , Jacobs 80 <sup>th</sup> , Abrams 84 <sup>th</sup> , Kidd 141 <sup>st</sup> , Bell 58 <sup>th</sup> The bill <b>prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identify</b>	H: Judiciary 3/31/11
HB 642	Collins of 27th; Hamilton of the 23rd, England of the 108th, Meadows of the 5th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Braddock of the 19th <b>Eliminates the Commissioner of Personnel Administration</b> , transfers the functions of the State Personnel Administration to the Department of Administrative Services, eliminates authorization for certain functions.	Act 630
HB 741	Ralston of the 7 <sup>th</sup> , Jones of the 46 <sup>th</sup> , O`Neal of the 146 <sup>th</sup> , England of the 108 <sup>th</sup> – <b>Supplemental Appropriations – FY 2012</b>	Act 406
HB 742	Ralston of the 7 <sup>th</sup> , Jones of the 46 <sup>th</sup> , O`Neal of the 146 <sup>th</sup> , England	Act 775

**Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL**  
**Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)**

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	of the 108 <sup>th</sup> – <b>General Appropriations – FY 2013</b>	
HB 805	Collins of the 27 <sup>th</sup> . Amends Title 47, to make conforming amendments and correct references with the <b>abolition of the State Personnel Administration, places the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services on the ERS Board of Trustees.</b>	Act 629
HB 831	McCall of the 30 <sup>th</sup> , Collins of the 27 <sup>th</sup> , Hatchett of the 143 <sup>rd</sup> , Carter of the 175 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Transfers the Division of Rehabilitation Services</b> , including the disability adjudication section and the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation <b>from the Department of Labor to the Department of Human Services</b> ; transfers the direction and supervision of the Georgia Industries for the Blind to the Department of Human Services	House Committee Favorably Reported 2/7/12
HB 850	House Committee on Judiciary <b>Persons seeking to become a guardian or conservator may be required to have criminal background checks.</b>	Committee Substitute Favorably Passed House 2/22/12 S: favorable reported 3/12/12
HB 868	Collins of the 27 <sup>th</sup> , Carter of the 175 <sup>th</sup> , Atwood of the 179 <sup>th</sup> , Hatchett of the 143 <sup>rd</sup> , Clark of the 98 <sup>th</sup> . Provides for a comprehensive <b>revision of income tax credits for business enterprises engaged in manufacturing and creating new jobs</b> located in less developed areas, designated by tiers, for business enterprises located in less developed areas consisting of contiguous census tracts, for existing manufacturing and telecommunications facilities located in certain tier counties and for establishing new quality jobs or relocating quality jobs.	Act 767
HB 944	Willard of the 49 <sup>th</sup> . Revise the code for errors and omissions relating to the <b>Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority’s membership in the Employees Retirement System</b>	Act 685
HB 987	Riley of the 50 <sup>th</sup> , Maxwell of the 17 <sup>th</sup> . Institutes the duty of a member of the <b>Peace Officers’ Annuity and Benefit Fund</b> to notify the Fund when no longer serving in an eligible positions.	Act 690
HB 1110	Cooper 41 <sup>st</sup> , Benton 31 <sup>st</sup> , Yates 73 <sup>rd</sup> , Howard 121 <sup>st</sup> , Lindsey 54 <sup>th</sup> The Department of Community Health is authorized to provide for additional criminal offenses for <b>background checks</b> for owners and employees of <b>personal care homes.</b>	Act 617
HB 1234	Dawkins-Haigler of the 93 <sup>rd</sup> , Frazier of the 123 <sup>rd</sup> , Scott of the 76 <sup>th</sup> , Stephenson of the 92 <sup>nd</sup> , Dickson of the 6 <sup>th</sup> . No health insurance plan for employees of the state shall offer certain drug coverage for erectile dysfunction.	H: Insurance Committee 3/13/12.
HR 810	Rogers 26 <sup>th</sup> , Meadows 5 <sup>th</sup> , England 108 <sup>th</sup> , Parrish 156 <sup>th</sup> , Stephens 164 <sup>th</sup> , Gardner 57 <sup>th</sup> . The Resolution creates the <b>House State</b>	Adopted 4/14/11. Committee appointed and

**Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL**  
**Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)**

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	<b>Health Insurance Plan Alternative Funding Study Committee</b> to study <b>alternative funding, cost management strategies, and reinsurance options</b> in order to provide adequate and effective coverage for employees while ensuring actuarial soundness and budgetary responsibility.	held meetings during 2011 Summer/Fall. Awaiting the Committee’s Report.
HR 1163	Byrd of the 20 <sup>th</sup> , Horne of the 71 <sup>st</sup> , Braddock of the 19 <sup>th</sup> , Holt of the 112 <sup>th</sup> , Brockway of the 101 <sup>st</sup> . Urges the Department of Audits and Accounts to <b>Georgia Transparency in Government Spending</b> website.	House Adopted 2/2/12
SB 33	House Substitute <b>authorizes the creation of the Joint Legislative Budget Office</b> as a successor to the Senate Budget Office and the House Budget Office which will identify zero-base budgeting for the agencies and programs which the Governor shall include in his report.	<b>Act 716</b>
SB 38	Rogers 21st; Millar 40th: Transfer the <b>authority</b> from the <b>State Board of Education</b> solely to the State School <b>Superintendent</b> to hire and fire employees of the Dept. of Education, including employees in the classified service.	<b>VETOED to keep some of the current checks &amp; balances between an elected Superintendent and a Governor appointed Board.</b>
SB 167	Hill 4th, Williams 19th, Albers 56th, Bethel 54th, Millar 40 <sup>th</sup> <b>Weekly unemployment benefits would be reduced by a benefit received from</b> 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 <sup>nd</sup> All agencies would be able to <b>conduct meetings by telecommunications conference</b> and not just those agencies with state wide jurisdiction	Passed Senate 2/18/12. H: Judiciary Committee 2/19/12.
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.	Passed Senate. Recommitted to House Insurance Committee – 4/12/11.
SB 203	Bethel of the 54 <sup>th</sup> , Mullis of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> , Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> .	Passed Senate 3/16/2011;

## Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL

Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	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 House as a CS on 4/12/11. Senate disagrees with HCS on 1/23/12
SB 223	Ligon, Jr. 3rd, Rogers 21st, Hill 32nd, Ginn 47th, Albers 56 <sup>th</sup> The " <b>Georgia Government Accountability Act</b> "; creates the Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee; to review and evaluate state agencies' productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness and provided for the <b>automatic abolition of certain state agencies</b> contingent upon adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly. <b>See HB 456</b>	Different versions passed House & Senate. Senate adopted 2 <sup>nd</sup> Conference Report 1/30/12.
SB 246	Hill 4 <sup>th</sup> Increase the employee contribution to the <b>Public School Employees Retirement System</b> to provide for an increase in the retirement benefit	<b>Act 763 – Effective 7/1/2012</b>
SB 286	Heath 31 <sup>st</sup> , Hill 4 <sup>th</sup> , Stoner 6 <sup>th</sup> , Hooks 14 <sup>th</sup> , Murphy 27 <sup>th</sup> . <b>No person</b> who first or again, (not including reelection), becomes a <b>tax commissioner, tax collector, tax receiver, or an employee of any such officer on or after July 1, 2012, shall be eligible</b> for membership in the Employees Retirement System of Georgia.	<b>Act 729</b>
SB 292	Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> , Rogers of the 21 <sup>st</sup> , Gooch of the 51 <sup>st</sup> , Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> , Goggans of the 7 <sup>th</sup> . Requires Department of Human Services to establish and administer a drug test for each applicant for <b>temporary assistance for needy families or Medicaid benefits.</b>	SCS passed Senate 3/7/12. H: CS favorably reported 3/22/12
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 <b>unclaimed prize money</b> and eliminates the provision to transfer up to \$200,000 to the Department of Behavioral Health for treatment of the compulsive gambling persons.	Assigned to Senate Appropriations 1/13/12
SB 330	Senators Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st, Stoner of the 6th, Orrock of the 36th and Thompson of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Requires individual insurance policies to included coverage for dependent children’s cancer and autism.	Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor 1/24/12
SB 343	Senators Heath of the 31st, Hill of the 32nd, Miller of the 49th, Chance of the 16th and Jackson of the 24 <sup>th</sup> . Designates <b>the State Accounting Officer as the Comptroller General and transfers the Comptroller General</b> functions from the Commissioner of Insurance to the State Accounting Officer (Comptroller General).	<b>Act 739</b>
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.	Assigned to the Finance Committee – 1/26/12

## Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL

Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)

Bill Nr.	Author/Description	Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)
	Permits a <b>\$3,500 tax credit for employers who hire a veteran</b> under certain circumstances.	
SB 387	Mullis of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> , Hamrick of the 30 <sup>th</sup> , Crosby of the 13 <sup>th</sup> , Tolleson of the 20 <sup>th</sup> , Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> . Authorizes the Secretary of State to create a <b>will registry</b> .	S: Special Judiciary 2/6/12
SB 391	McCoon of the 29 <sup>th</sup> , Gooch of the 51 <sup>st</sup> , Miller of the 49 <sup>th</sup> , Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> , Stone of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> . Revises the <b>Ethics in Government Act</b> , renames the <b>Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission to the State Accountability Commission</b> , 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 <sup>th</sup> , Millar of the 40 <sup>th</sup> , Stoner of the 6 <sup>th</sup> , Rogers of the 21 <sup>st</sup> , Tolleson of the 20 <sup>th</sup> , Heath of the 3 <sup>st</sup> . 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. <span style="color: red;">See the GSRA March Newsletter.</span>	Act 603
SB 434	Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> , Loudermilk of the 51 <sup>nd</sup> , Ligon of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Williams of the 19 <sup>th</sup> , Crane of the 28 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Prohibits coverage for abortion</b> in health plans provided in the federal healthcare act.	Favorably Reported Senate Insurance & Labor, 2/29/12
SB 438	Crane of the 28 <sup>th</sup> , Rogers of the 21 <sup>st</sup> , Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> , Williams of the 19 <sup>th</sup> , Ligon of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Prohibits the DCH Board from including coverage for <b>abortions in the state employee health insurance plan</b> .	SCS Passed Senate 3/7/12. H: Assigned to Insurance 3/12/12.
SB 460	McKoon of the 29 <sup>th</sup> , Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> , Ligon of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> . Provides for a “religious exclusion” for contraceptives.	Passed Senate 3/7/12. H: Assigned to Insurance 3/12/12.
SB 471	Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> , Gooch of the 51 <sup>st</sup> . Authorizes the Commissioner of Insurance to <b>establish a coalition of other states to adopt an alternative policy approval process for comprehensive major medical policies</b>	Passed Senate 3/7/12 H: Assigned to Insurance 3/12/12.
SB 506	Mullis of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> . Extends sovereign immunity to health care providers engaged in graduate medical education training programs 15 miles outside the state.	Passed Senate 3/7/12 H: favorably reported 3/22/12
SR 20	Rogers 21 <sup>st</sup> ; Williams, 19 <sup>th</sup> ; Heath 31 <sup>st</sup> : A Resolution to <b>amend the State Constitution</b> by setting a <b>cap</b> on the amount of <b>revenue the state can budget each year</b> . 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

## Legislative Bills of Interest – 2012 - FINAL

**Final Report –Governor’s Actions since 4/24/12 are shown in “red”)**

<b>Bill Nr.</b>	<b>Author/Description</b>	<b>Committee/Status (H=House; S=Senate)</b>
SR 54	Hill 32nd The <b>Health Care Transformation Study Committee</b> shall undertake a study of issues surrounding the <b>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)</b> and its impact on the states.	Recommitted to Health & Human Service 1/9/12.
SR 473	Seay 34 <sup>th</sup> <b>Bridging the Digital Divide in Aging Communities Study Committee.</b>	Recommitted to S & T Committee 1/9/12
SR 979	Unterman 45 <sup>th</sup> This resolution would create the Senate Aging Study Committee.	Senate adopted 3/29/12
SR 1220	Mckoon of the 29 <sup>th</sup> . Create a Senate Study Committee on Georgia ethics and accountability	Rules Committee 3/21/12.