

GSRA Key Legislation Tracking Report

Bill	Sponsor	Committee	Status
HB45	(1) Smith, Earnest 125th	HC: Ways & Means	Jan/14/2015 - House Second Readers
Rep. Earnest Smith (D-Augusta) authored this proposal to amend O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27(a)(12.2), the computation of taxable net income. This proposal would provide that retirement income received as retirement benefits from military service would not be subject to State income tax. This includes survivor benefits.			
HB108	(1) Maxwell, Howard 17th	HC: Retirement	Jan/29/2015 - House Second Readers
Rep. Howard Maxwell (R-Dallas) authored this proposed change to O.C.G.A. § 47-20-83(a) to add two new paragraphs at (23) and (24), relating to certificated or non-certificated forms of investments and real estate investments. It would permit public retirement funds to invest in mutual funds (registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the United States under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as amended), commingled funds, collective investment funds, (as regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Department of Treasury), common trusts and group trusts.			
HB167	(1) Yates, John 73rd	HC: Ways & Means	Feb/03/2015 - House Second Readers
Rep. John Yates (R-Griffin) proposed a new paragraph (12.2) to subsection O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27(a), governing the imposition, rate and computation of State income taxes. His proposal would allow that retirement income received as retirement benefits from service in the United States armed forces would not be subject to State income taxation. This also includes survivor benefits			
HB238	(1) Harbin, Ben 122nd	HC: Ways & Means	Mar/16/2016 - Senate Passed/Adopted By Substitute
Rep. Ben Harbin (R-Evans) addresses a change to O.C.G.A. § 48-7-20 to provide that for all taxable years after January 1, 2017, the net income tax shall be 5.4% of all Georgia taxable net income. O.C.G.A. § 48-7-26 increases the exemption to an \$11,400 deduction for filing joint returns (previously \$7,400); a \$5,700 deduction for separate returns (previously \$3,700); a \$4,700 deduction for taxpayers who do not qualify for such exemptions (previously \$2,700); and a \$5,000 deduction for each dependent of a taxpayer (previously \$3,000). O.C.G.A. § 48-7-27 is amended to provide that the sum of "mortgage interest up to a maximum of \$25,000, all cash and noncash charitable deductions, and all medical deductions" be used to compute federal taxable income if the taxpayer used itemized nonbusiness deductions. O.C.G.A. § 48-13-70 is also amended to provide that no corporate net worth taxes shall be levied and no corporate net worth returns are required. This bill was engrossed prior to passage.			
HB240	(1) Brockway, Buzz 102nd	HC: Health & Human Services	Apr/02/2015 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted
Rep. Buzz Brockway (R-Lawrenceville) addresses the membership of the Board of the			

Department of Community Health in this initiative in O.C.G.A. § 31-2-3. It would require at least two members of this Board to also be members of the State Health Benefit Plan with one of those a member of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia and one of whom will be a member of the Teachers' Retirement System of Georgia. One would be required to be a retired person and the other an active participant in the respective retirement system. Another proposal in this legislation is that it creates a 12-member State Health Benefit Plan Customer Advisory Council (all must be participants in the State's plan).

HB266	(1) Battles, Paul 15th	HC: Retirement	Jul/01/2015 - Effective Date
Rep. Paul Battles (R-Cartersville) proposes to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-1-12(a) regarding the investment and reinvestment of assets of local retirement systems, valuation and limitation on investments. The present law permits the board of trustees of any local retirement system the power to invest and reinvest assets of that retirement system and to purchase, hold, sell, assign, transfer and dispose of any securities and other investments. This legislation addresses that the powers are required to be subject to all terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions outlined in Article 7 of Chapter 20 of Title 47 in making/disposing of those investments.			
HB269	(1) Battles, Paul 15th	HC: Retirement	Feb/11/2015 - House Second Readers
Rep. Paul Battles (R-Cartersville) alters Georgia's Employees' Retirement System of Georgia law at O.C.G.A. § 47-2-22(a) concerning the election of the chairman and director, actuarial services, application of the state system of personnel administration and payment of costs of personnel administration. It adds that the board of trustees is to elect, from among its membership, a chairperson and shall employ a director who shall not be a trustee. Currently, law allows the board of trustees to "elect a chairperson from its membership."			
HB383	(1) Holcomb, Scott 81 st	HC: Retirement	Feb/19/2015 – House Second Readers
Rep. Scott Holcomb (D-Atlanta) has proposed this legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 47-20-87 relating to eligible large retirement systems authorized to invest in certain alternative investments. It removes protections in alternative investments law.			
HB445	(1) Carson, John 46th	HC: Ways & Means	Feb/24/2015 - House Second Readers
Rep. John Carson (R-Marietta) provides for an overhaul of Georgia's tax laws in Titles 48, 36 and 46. In part, it addresses personal income taxation and also provides for a flat rate tax structure. There are some provisions as well for low-income tax credits. We will provide more on this proposal at a later time.			
HB689	(1) Martin, Chuck 29 th	HC: Insurance	Apr/02/2015 – House Second Readers
Rep. Chuck Martin (R-Alpharetta) would amend Title 20 to provide that any person who becomes eligible for participation in health insurance plans on or after July 1, 2016 would be required to pay a premium that reflects the entire cost of such coverage. It also provides that any new employee who leaves employment after eight or more years of service would be entitled to			

continue full coverage, which includes coverage for a spouse and dependant children. No person would be eligible for a reduction or supplementation to the premium.			
HB710	(1) Turner, Scot 21st	HC: Ways & Means	Jan/14/2016 - House Second Readers
Rep. Scot Turner (R-Holly Springs) creates a new Chapter 9 in Title 30 to be known as the "Georgia Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act." It is meant to encourage and assist families by allowing them to save private funds in tax-exempt accounts in order to pay for qualified disability expenses of an eligible individual with disabilities. It also establishes the "Georgia ABLE Program Corporation" for the purposes of establishing and administering this program in O.C.G.A. § 30-9-4 which would be governed by a board of directors with the Governor as its chairperson; the duties and responsibilities of this board are enumerated in the legislation.			
HB866	(1) Blackmon, Shaw 146th	HC:	Mar/24/2016 - House Agreed Senate Amend or Sub
Rep. Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire), addresses Chapter 50 of Title 33 and specifically O.C.G.A. § 33-50-3. This proposal concerns multiple employer self-insured health plans and will exempt those from the payment of premium taxes on the plan's net premium.			
HR305	(1) Kelley, Trey 16th	HC: Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight	Feb/17/2015 – House Second Readers
Rep. Trey Kelley (R-Cedartown) proposes to amend Georgia's Constitution at Article III, Section IX, Paragraph IV by adding a new subparagraph (e) to limit the rate of growth in the State budget, basing the growth on changes in the Consumer Price Index and population growth. The General Assembly could only exceed the limitation by a joint resolution which requires a two-thirds' vote of both houses of the General Assembly).			
HR502	(1) Welch, Andrew 110th	HC: Ways & Means	Feb/24/2016 - House Withdrawn, Recommitted
Rep. Andy Welch (R-McDonough) proposes this resolution to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the dedication of revenues derived from fees or other assessments to the public for the purpose for which such fees or other assessments were imposed.			
HR1382	(1) Buckner, Debbie 137th	SC: Health & Human Services	Mar/16/2016 - House Passed/Adopted
Rep. Debbie Buckner (R-Junction City) offers this resolution which would encourage the Department of Community Health to create and seek the counsel of a State Health Benefit plan Customer Advisory Counsel. Such counsel would be made up of 12 uncompensated members who are all participants in the SHBP and active or retired members of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia or the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia.			
SB145	(1) McKoon, Joshua 29th	SC: Health and Human Services	Mar/24/2016 - House Passed/Adopted By Substitute
Sen. Joshua McKoon (R-Columbus) originally had proposed to amend O.C.G.A. § 31-2-3 to			

provide that at least one member of the Board of Community Health is also a member of the state health benefit plan. This language was removed in the House on Sine Die and SB 145 became a vehicle to carry Rep. Alan Peake's "Low THC Oil Patient Registry" bill. The House passed it, however the Senate never took up SB 145 for an agreement vote, so it did not pass.

SB265	(1) Hill, Judson 32nd	SC: Insurance and Labor	Jan/13/2016 - Senate Read and Referred
Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta), creates a new Code Section at O.C.G.A. § 33-7-2.1 to clarify that a "physician agreement" is not considered to be an insurance arrangement or agreement and is not subject to state insurance laws, so long as the direct financial relationship with a patient does not exceed a fee of \$6,000,000 (adjusted for inflation).			
SB280	(1) Hill, Judson 32nd	SC:	Jan/22/2016 - Senate Read and Referred
Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta), eliminates itemized adjustments to Georgia's taxable net income except for limited mortgage deductions, charitable contributions and medical expenses and it further increases the personal exemption from State income tax. It also repeals the corporate net worth tax, if passed, on or after January 1, 2017.			
SR725	(1) Hill, Judson 32nd	SC: Retirement	Jan/21/2016 - Senate Read and Referred
Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta), proposes to amend Article III, Section X of the Constitution to provide that public funds associated with any retirement or pension system supported by public funds shall not invest in any foreign country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism. It also would require that such public funds shall not be used to purchase a security issued by an entity that engages in for-profit activities with a state sponsor of terrorism, if such activities relate to the provision of military equipment, oil or mineral extraction, or the generation of electricity.			
SR756	(1) Hill, Judson 32 nd	SC: Appropriations	Mar/07/2016 - House Second Readers
Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta) proposes to amend Article III, Section X of the Constitution which sets specific triggers so that when the State's general fund exceeds \$23 billion and general reserve fund holds at least 7 percent of that amount, the State income tax shall decrease by .2 percent. The next trigger kicks in once the general fund exceeds \$23.6 billion dollars. The income tax would be reduced by .2 percent until it reaches the 5 percent minimum. This amendment will be placed on the ballot for approval by voters.			