

Legislative Bills of Interest – March 23, 2012

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2012 Bills begin with HB 658 and SB 293 (Actions since 3/16/12 are 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 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.	HCS passed by House 2/24/12. S: Passed Senate 3/21/12
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: Changes the repeal date for rehiring retired teachers from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 3013.	HCS passed House 2/29/12; S. Passed Senate 3/21/12
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	Passed House 2/27/12. S: favorably reported 3/14/12.
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 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.	HCS passed House 1/24/12; Senate Committee Favorably Reported 2/22/12
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 Passed Senate 3/22/12.
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	Greene149 th , Maxwell 17 th , and Benton 31 st This bill deals with the Sheriffs Retirement System options for divorce and remarriage.	Passed House. S: favorably reported 3/21/12
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. S: favorably reported 3/22/12
HB 371	Maxwell 17th, Benton 31st, and Meadows of the 5 th The state	Passed House 3/14/11

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	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	Favorably report by Senate Insurance & Labor – 2/3/12
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 tax structure bill. 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. Other major changes to the Georgia Tax code not reflected in this brief.	HCS Passed House 3/20/12. Passed Senate 3/22/12.
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.	HCS Passed House 3/5/12, S: Judiciary Committee 3/7/12 S: CS favorably reported 3/20/12.
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. S: favorably reported 3/14/12
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	HCS Passed House 2/28/12; S: CS favorably reported 3/20/12.
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. S: Passed Senate 3/22/12.
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 27th; Hamilton of the 23rd, England of the 108th, Meadows of the 5th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Braddock of the 19th 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.	HCS passed House 2/7/12; S: Passed Senate 3/13/12
HB 741	Ralston of the 7 th , Jones of the 46 th , O'Neal of the 146 th , England	Act 406

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	of the 108 th – Supplemental Appropriations – FY 2012	
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	Passed House 3/7/12. Passed Senate and Conference Committee Appointed 3/22/12
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.	HCS passed House 2/7/12; Passed Senate 3/13/12
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 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	House Committee Favorably Reported 2/7/12
HB 850	House Committee on Judiciary Persons seeking to become a guardian or conservator may be required to have criminal background checks.	Committee Substitute Favorably Passed House 2/22/12 S: favorable reported 3/12/12
HB 868	Collins of the 27 th , Carter of the 175 th , Atwood of the 179 th , Hatchett of the 143 rd , Clark of the 98 th . Provides for a comprehensive revision of income tax credits for business enterprises engaged in manufacturing and creating new jobs 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.	HCS passed House 3/7/12 Senate passed with FA 3/19/12; House Agrees 3/20/12.
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	Passed House 2/28/12. S: favorably reported 3/21/12
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.	Passed House 3/35/12. S: favorably reported 3/21/12
HB 1110	Cooper 41 st , Benton 31 st , Yates 73 rd , Howard 121 st , Lindsey 54 th The Department of Community Health is authorized to provide for additional criminal offenses for background checks for owners and employees of personal care homes.	HCS passed House 3/7/12. S: favorably reported 3/22/12
HB 1234	Dawkins-Haigler of the 93 rd , Frazier of the 123 rd , Scott of the	H: Insurance Committee

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	76 th , Stephenson of the 92 nd , Dickson of the 6 th . No health insurance plan for employees of the state shall offer certain drug coverage for erectile dysfunction.	3/13/12.
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 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 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 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	Passed Senate 2/18/12. H: Judiciary Committee 2/19/12.

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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 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 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 2 nd 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. H: CS favorably reported 3/19/12
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; H: CS favorably reported 3/19/12
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.	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 unclaimed prize money and eliminates the provision to transfer up to \$200,000 t 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 th Requires individual insurance policies to included coverage for dependent children’s cancer and autism.	Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor 1/24/12

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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; H: Governmental Affairs Favorably Reported 2/24/12. S: Passed House 3/13/12
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. See the GSRA March Newsletter.	SCS Passed Senate 2/23/12. Amended and Favorably Reported by House Retirement 3/7/12.
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.	Favorably Reported Senate Insurance & Labor, 2/29/12
SB 438	Crane of the 28 th , Rogers of the 21 st , Shafer of the 48 th , Williams of the 19 th , Ligon of the 3 rd . Prohibits the DCH Board from including coverage for abortions in the state employee health insurance plan .	SCS Passed Senate 3/7/12. H: Assigned to Insurance 3/12/12.
SB 460	McKoon of the 29 th , Shafer of the 48 th , Ligon of the 3 rd and Hill of the 32 nd . 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 nd , Gooch of the 51 st . Authorizes the Commissioner of Insurance to establish a coalition of other states to adopt an alternative policy approval process for comprehensive major medical policies	Passed Senate 3/7/12 H: Assigned to Insurance 3/12/12.
SB 506	Mullis of the 53 rd . Extends sovereign immunity to health care	Passed Senate 3/7/12

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	providers engaged in graduate medical education training programs 15 miles outside the state.	H: favorably reported 3/22/12
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
SR 979	Unterman 45 th This resolution would create the Senate Aging Study Committee.	S. Health and Human Services 2/22/12
SR 1220	Mckoon of the 29 th . Create a Senate Study Committee on Georgia ethics and accountability	Rules Committee 3/21/12.