

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Serving secondary school administrators across Georgia
Weekly Legislative Update-March 20, 2009



THIS WEEK

1. Furloughs
2. No News is Good News
3. Budget News
4. Action on Education Bills
5. Bills that Survived Crossover

All the @\$%#@#@# about Furloughs

The adoption of HB 118 and its signature by the Governor put enough Federal Stimulus money in the FY09 to hopefully eliminate furloughs for teachers and students for this school year but the 2009-2010 is still in the fire. Rep. Ed Lindsey, the only city of Atlanta Republican and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Education, claimed the stage this week by suggesting that teachers be furloughed six planning days for 2009-2010. Hopefully that will not come to pass but if it does, teachers and administrators are far better off if it is done at the beginning of the year because the **loss of six days pay** would be spread over twelve months rather than doing it in the spring and spreading it over a few months. It is a bad solution to an even worse problem but the bottom line is we will do what we have to do!

No News is Good News

So much of the Legislature's energy was spent on budget matters this week that very little was done to act on bills that had passed the other chamber. The pace picked up some on Thursday but the last six days of the session (spread over two weeks and ending April 3) promise to be at the very least entertaining.

Budget News—Reported by Skip Yow

The House passed the FY10 budget on Thursday. Of importance in this report is that nurses are returned to the budget; teacher cards (also known as Sonny Money) are gone; and RESAs, ETTCs, and the National Board Certification supplement are restored for now. This is only the FIRST step in the budget process, next comes the Senate, and finally the Governor.

FY 2010 BUDGET AS PASSED BY THE *HOUSE*

ACADEMIC COACH

Transfer the Math and Science Mentor subprogram from Academic Coach to School Improvement

Governor's recommendation – (42,621,358)

House - \$0.00

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit Plan, a decrease from 22.165% to 16.567% for state employees and from 18,534% to 17,245% for teachers, to reflect a reduction in Other Post-Employment Benefits and an increase in the expected employee contribution from 25% to 30% of the cost of the plan (H: Adjust the employer contribution rate the SHBP to eliminate fund balance and OPEB contributions; an increase from 16.567% to 17.329% for state employees and from 17.245% to 18.046% for teachers, effective January 1, 2010

Governor's Recommendation – (\$79,496)

House – (\$32,593)

Reduce funds to reflect the revised revenue estimate

Governor's Recommendation – (\$269,569)

House – (\$169,569)

Transfer funding for teacher salaries from Food Processing Plants to Extended Year/Extended day (\$200,00) and reduce remaining funds (\$100,00)

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House – (\$100,000)

CENTRAL OFFICE

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the SHBP: (H: Adjust the employer contribution rate for SHBP to eliminate fund balance and OPEB contributions: an increase from 16.567% to 17.329% for state employees and from 17.245% to 18.046% for teachers effective January 1, 2010

Governor's Recommendation – (\$1,246,325)

House – (\$1,077,003)

Provide for a reduction of \$10 per position in the State Personnel Administration (Merit System) assessment from \$147 to \$137

Governor's Recommendation – \$0.00

House – (\$8,530)

Eliminate 20 vacant positions and realize savings from other vacancies (\$1,910,869), reduce contractual services by 10% (\$1,534,456) , and reduce other operating expenses (\$1,623,764), (H: provide for additional reductions to contract (\$1,534,456) and operating expenses (\$900,000)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$5069,089)

House – (\$7,503,545)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Eliminate one-time start-up funds for the Charter School Commission

Governor's Recommendation – (\$260,000)

House – (\$120,000)

Eliminate funding for implementation grants

Governor's Recommendation – (\$625,000)

House – (\$500,000)

Reduce funding for planning grants

Governor's Recommendation – (\$25,000)

House – (\$45,000)

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Reduce funding by 10%

Governor's Recommendation – (\$132,062)

House – (\$39,619)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Reduce regular operating expenses (\$74,833) and contractual services (\$121,553) by 10% (H: Provide for additional reductions to contracts and operating expenses

Governor's Recommendation – (\$196,386)

House – (\$574,833)

Transfer the graduation coach salaries and operating expenses to operate under the QBE program

Governor's Recommendation – (\$49,225,901)

House - \$0.00

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Redirect funds from contracts for administration (\$105,000) and increase state general funds (\$1,135,240) to add an additional 2,000 slots for the GA Virtual School.

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House - \$1,135,240

GEORGIA YOUTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Eliminate funding for the GA Youth and Science Technology Center

Governor's Recommendation – (\$250,000)

House - \$0.00

GOVERNOR'S HONOR PROGRAM

Reduce contractual services funding

Governor's Recommendation – (\$75,000)

House - \$0.00

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Provide for a 3% reduction to ETTCs

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House – (\$110,469)

Redirect funding from ETTCs to QBE (\$2,752,130) and to the Georgia Virtual School program (\$930,180) for 1,500 additional courses

Governor's Recommendation – (\$3,682,310)

House - \$0.00

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Eliminate funding for the National Board Certification program. (H:NO; Provide funds for National Board Certification based on projected need

Governor's Recommendation – (\$123,294,628)

House - \$1,450,000

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTER AND FOUNDATION

Eliminate funding for the National Science Center and Foundation. (H: NO)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$750,000)

House - \$0.00

NON-QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION GRANTS

Increase funds for SB10 Special Needs Scholarships

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House - \$5,978,162

NUTRITION

Provide for a 3% reduction in Nutrition

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House – (\$1,194,697)

PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the SHBP (H: Adjust the employer contribution rate for SHBP to eliminate fund balance and OPEB contributions; an increase from 16.567% to 17.329% for state employees and from 17.245% to 18.046% for teachers, effective January 1, 2010

Governor's Recommendation – (\$470,178)

House – (\$729,432)

QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the SHBP, etc (Same as above)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$72,456,845)

House – (\$29,707,306)

Replace state funds with fiscal stabilization funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Governor's Recommendation – (\$319,175,639) – State Funds – Total funds \$0.00
House – State Funds – (\$375,000,000) – Total Funds \$0.00

Utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds to mitigate austerity reductions

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00
House - \$25,000,000

Transfer the graduation coach (\$49,225,901) and class card (\$11,473,726) subprograms to operate under the QBE programs. (H: NO)

Governor's Recommendation - \$60,699,627
House - \$0.00

Redirect funding from the Education Technology Training Center (\$2,752,130) and RESA's (\$12,467,421) to QBE (H: NO)

Governors Recommendation - \$15,219,551
House - \$0.00

Add funds for charter system grants per HB881

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00
House - \$1,757,611

Provide funds for dual enrollment courses (H: Reduce dual enrollment administration from \$161.44 per segment to \$88.40 per segment)

Governor's Recommendation - \$1,390,960
House - \$761,613

REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCIES

Provide for a 3% reduction to RESAs

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00
House – (\$374,022)

Redirect funding from RESAs to QBE (H:NO)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$12,408,840)
Subcommittee - \$0.00

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Transfer the Math and Science Mentor subprogram (\$2,621,358) and the Teacher Success/CLASS Keys subprogram (\$257,500) from the Academic Coach program to operate under the School Improvement program

Governor's Recommendation - \$2,878,858
House - \$257,500

SCHOOL NURSES

Eliminate state funding support for school nurses (H:NO Provide for a 3% reduction)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$30,000,000)
House – (\$900,000)

SEVERELY EMOTIONAL DISTURBED

Reduce the employer contribution rate for SHBP (Same as others)

Governor's Recommendation – (\$611,953)
House – (\$250,901)

STATE INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

Provide funds to pay the employer contribution for eligible non-certificate manager who elect to participate in the Teachers Retirement System

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House - \$450,000

STATE SCHOOLS

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the SHBP

Governor's Recommendation - (\$177,241)

House - (\$72,669)

TECHNOLOGY/CAREER EDUCATION

Reduce the employer contribution rate for the SHBP (Same as others)

Governor's Recommendation (\$63,511)

House - (\$26,039)

TESTING

Remove unused Advanced Placement funds for private school students

Governor's Recommendation - \$0.00

House - (\$354,075)

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Provide \$12,000,000 in 20 year bonds to fund the Capital Outlay Program - Low-Wealth, statewide (H: Provide \$2,020,00 in 20 year bonds to fund the Capital Outlay Program - Low-Wealth statewide)

Governor's Recommendation - \$1,089,600

House - \$183,416

Action on Education Bills

The House Education Committee gave a DO Pass to the following bills this week:

SB 84 Governor's local Board of Education ethics bill

SB 160 Veteran's Day as a school holiday will be held by House Education Committee and is DEAD for the Session

SB 178 Extends capital outlay and construction financing provisions through next year

SB 210 Permits home school students to apply for Governor's Honors

HR 642 Establishes a study commission on RESAs

The House of Representatives gave a PASS to the following bills this week:

No Education bills were considered by the House this week.

The Senate Education and Youth gave a DO pass to the following bills this week:

HB 149 Move on When Ready

HB 455 Extends offer of contract deadline to May 15 for this year only DID NOT PASS SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE BUT MAY BE RECONSIDERED

HB 300 Requires school systems to provide parents of students 6-12 with information on meningococcal meningitis when information is available

HB 555 Requires local school boards to make **UNUSED** property available to local charter schools

The Senate gave a PASS to the following bills this week:

HB 100 Reorganizes the private school scholarship organization legislation that was implemented last year

SB 229 The NEW Shape bill requiring annual physical fitness assessments in all classes taught by certified physical education teachers (1-12)

Education Legislation That Survived Crossover Day Reported by Skip Yow

For more information on the following bills, go to <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>

BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE HOUSE AND NOW IN SENATE

HB 2 Grants; recipients comply with certain provisions; require

HB 23 Motor vehicles; cell phones; text messaging; prohibit use

HB 118 Budget Act; application of zero-based budgeting; provisions

HB 46 Sales and use tax; certain sales of dyed fuel oils; provide exemption

HB 59 Sales and use tax; controlled substances and dangerous drugs; certain exemptions; provide

HB 100 Education; student scholarship organizations; provisions

HB 116 Sales and use tax; repair of certain aircraft; sale of parts; provide exemption

HB 120 Sales and use tax exemption; certain school supplies; energy efficient products; provide

HB 121 Revenue and taxation; prepaid state fuel tax; provide exemption

HB 129 Sales and use tax exemptions; zoological institute; provide

HB 143 Local government; homeowner tax relief grants; change certain provisions
HB 149 Move on When Ready Act; enact
HB 172 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; disability benefits; provisions
HB 190 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia; death benefit; clarify provisions
HB 193 Elementary and secondary education; 180 day school year; provisions
HB 202 Retirement and pensions; computing contributions and benefits; define certain terms
HB 212 Sales and use tax; jet fuel; continue exemption
HB 229 Student Health and Physical Education Act; enact
HB 233 Ad valorem tax; property; change certain definitions
HB 243 Elementary and secondary education; salary increase; repeal
HB 251 Quality Basic Education Act; public school student; attend any local school; provide
HB 278 Quality Basic Education Act; direct instructional costs; temporarily waive certain expenditure controls
HB 280 Quality Basic Education Act; mathematics or science teachers; additional compensation; provide
HB 300 Student health; school provide certain information to guardians; require
HB 313 Quality Basic Education Act; calculating grade point averages; revise certain provisions
HB 333 Georgia Building Authority; exempt from certain sales and use tax; provisions
Sales and use tax exemption; new construction of civil rights museum; provide
HB 358 Sales and use tax; food for hunger and disaster relief; extend exemptions
HB 364 Sales and use tax; airplane flight simulation training device; provide exemption
HB 371 Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law; increase in allowable fund investment; provisions
HB 395 Sales and use tax; personal property; construction of certain symphony halls; extend exemption
HB 400 Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act; enact
HB 438 Income tax; tax credits for qualified jobs and projects; comprehensive revision; provide
HB 439 Income tax; credits; business enterprises; provide
HB 452 Retirement and pensions; postretirement benefit adjustment; provide statement of legislative intent
HB 455 Elementary and secondary education; annual contracts for certified personnel; extend certain deadlines
HB 477 Retirement and pensions; creditable service; application requirement; remove
HB 480 Taxation of motor vehicles; comprehensive revision; provisions
HB 481 Jobs, Opportunity, and Business Success Act of 2009; enact
HB 482 Ad valorem tax exemption; property constituting the inventory of a business; provide
HB 483 Ad valorem tax; modernization and revisions of certain provisions; provide
HB 484 HOPE scholarships and grants; dependent children of military personnel; provide
HB 493 Georgia Youth Conservation Corps; creation and purposes of the corps; change certain provisions
HB 553 Local Government Equipment Financing Authority Act; create
HB 555 Charter schools; use of surplus property; revise certain provisions
HR 642 House Study Committee on Regional Educational Service Agencies; create

BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THE SENATE AND NOW IN THE HOUSE

- SB 1 Zero-Base Budgeting Act; provide for the application**
- SB 7 Truth in Testimony Act; require an oath for purposes of presenting certain evidence to committee/subcommittee of General Assembly**
- SB 8 Student Health; provide for possession/self-administration of auto-injectable epinephrine by students**
- SB 14 Local Boards of Education; no person on the national/state sex offender registry shall be eligible for election/service on board**
- SB 27 Confederate Heritage/History Month; create; encourages observances/celebrations; provide statutory construction**
- SB 36 Local Boards of Education; provide for adoption of codes of ethics to govern members; annual review of such codes**
- SB 44 Public Schools; certain supplies, materials, agricultural products manufactured in this state; provide contractual/purchasing preferences**
- SB 55 Ad Valorem Taxation; change factors to be considered in determining fair market value of real property**
- SB 83 Ad Valorem; increase the amount of the state-wide homestead exemption; specify terms/conditions of the exemption and the procedures**
- SB 84 Local Boards of Education; election; revise provisions**
- SB 96 Ethics; reforms; provide for lobbyist training; provide for expanded lobbyist disclosure; change certain provisions**
- SB 114 Education; provide for transfer of students who are military dependents into a local school system**
- SB 122 State Employees Insurance; divide the Georgia Retiree Health Benefit Funds into two funds; define certain terms**
- SB 124 Public Disclosure; provide social security numbers in public documents shall not be disclosed**
- SB 157 Sexual Offenders; classification; registration, and restrictions on residences, workplaces, and activities; change/enact provision of law**
- SB 158 General Assembly; fiscal bills; requirements for fiscal notes regarding legislation; provide exceptions**
- SB 160 Education; Veterans Day; revise provision; elementary/secondary schools shall be closed on November 11**
- SB 176 Public Retirement Systems Standards Law; any increase in the actuarial accrued unfunded liability which occurs as a result of the enactment**
- SB 178 Education; advance funding, exceptional growth, low-wealth capital outlay grants; embed/extend a sunset date**
- SB 207 Proceedings; admit general public to hearings in juvenile court with certain exceptions**
- SB 210 High School Program; include home schooled students; eligible to participate in the student honors programs**
- SB 231 Education; establish the PROMISE III teacher's scholarship; provide for eligibility requirements**
- SB 239 Education; mandatory attendance; provisions; require new residents in a local school system to enroll a child within 30 days**
- SB 250 Education; unlawful disruption of/interference; operation of public schools or public school buses; revise provisions**
- SR 153 Education Improvement Districts; provide creation and comprehensive regulation -Const. Amend.**

SR 173 Regents; urged to establish/offer a teacher education program at each of its universities offering four-year degree programs

SR 406 Educational Agencies; urged to adopt policies/procedures that permit fair opportunity for school systems to submit necessary documentations

SR 453 Georgia Tax Reform Commission of 2009; providing access to certain otherwise confidential Dept. of Revenue information

SR 464 Board of Regents; urge to increase teacher production to meet the state's need for K-12 teachers

SR 465 Local School Systems/Postsecondary Institutions; value of partnership; recognize

SR 466 Performance Based Principal Certificate Renewal Design Team; establish

SR 595 Regional Educational Services Agencies; create Senate Study Committee

Responses should be directed to Jimmy C. Stokes at stokes30650@bellsouth.net