

Jimmy Stokes

From: Jimmy Stokes [stokes30650@bellsouth.net]
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To: stokes30650@gmail.com
Subject: GASSP Legislative Update--April 1, 2011

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Georgia Association of
Secondary School Principals

LEGISLATIVE DAYS REMAINING: 2 of 40

April 1, 2011

No April's Fool—Legislature Almost Done for 2011...

The Georgia General Assembly is at last heading for *Sine Die* and LD 40. After meeting four days this week, the Legislature adjourned until Monday, April 11 for LD 38. The Legislature will be out on Spring Break April 4-8. Still looming is the budget for FY2012 which has a House version, a Senate version, and a Governor version. After the House's rejection of the Senate version on Wednesday, the budget goes to Conference Committee and more than likely will not be resolved until Day 40. One of the most interesting happenings of the week was the introduction of resolution by Sen. George Hooks of Americus to return all power to Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle. The Senate republicans held a caucus on Thursday afternoon and no announcement was made about changes in Senate leadership but you can bet it is hot and steamy in the Senate meeting rooms until this issue is clarified. Part of the dissatisfaction with the Williams-Rogers leadership team is the stymie that currently exists with the House over tax reform. There is a significant backlog of legislation awaiting some resolution to this issue. Check the table below and you can see the bills that have not been heard and only the Hope bill and the supplemental budget have gone to the Governor. Three legislative days remain and unless there is some break to the political log jam, a number of bills may be wasted.

House Rules Committee Amends Senate Bill 79 to Give Governor New Power...

On Thursday the House Rules Committee amended SB 79 to give the Governor the authority to remove local Board of Education members if the accreditation of the district is threatened or if the Board becomes dysfunctional. The amendment is aimed directly at

DeKalb County and the City of Atlanta. There are numerous constitutional questions about the amendment, but the Constitution of the State of Georgia has bothered legislators very little in the past. The amended bill goes to the floor of the House on Monday, April 11.

Georgia Supreme Court Delays Decision on Charter School Commission...

On Wednesday the Georgia Supreme Court announced they are delaying their decision on the constitutionality of the State Charter School Commission. It is a *highly irregular* move for the Supreme Court to delay decisions. Both sides argued that the delay favored them. The Court gave no indication as to when the decision will be announced. One observer posed that they may be waiting until the legislative session is over so that the legislature cannot immediately attempt to undermine their decision—one way or the other. A second explanation is waiting until school is out so that it will cause the least disruption among commission charter schools. A similar case in Florida let to the Florida Supreme Court declaring the state charter commission unconstitutional but that is no guarantee of what will happen here.

Legislation Moves Toward Final Day...

Several pieces of legislation went to the Governor this week, but a few items remain—all pawns in the last day hijinks for the Legislature. Observers expect there to be considerable trickery on the part of Sen. Chip Rogers to get his voucher legislation passed. Look for him to add it onto one of the pieces of legislation remaining in play. In the old days the Speaker or President of the Senate had to rule on the germane character of such add ons or tacks but in recent years the presiding officers have been very liberal in accepting the changes. Right now all we can do is wait and see. Perhaps the most dangerous legislative ploy is the addition of segments in Conference Committee negotiations on bills that have already passed both houses. Once the Conference Committee report goes back to the House and Senate floor, it is an up or down vote and some good pieces of legislation are lost because the add ons are so offensive. The game playing began on Tuesday afternoon in the Senate Education and Youth Committee. Sen. Chip Rogers added language to HB 39 that would require home school students to report attendance to the DOE rather than local superintendents—a measure which did not survive the Senate, but now it is tacked onto a bill to permit systems to use first class mail rather than certified mail to notify delinquent absentees. On Thursday word came that Rogers intends to add the contents of SB 34 granting non public school students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at their residence public high school to HB 175, the clearinghouse bill—it may spell death for the clearinghouse bill. Senate Education and Youth also removed the parent representative from the proposed QBE Study Commission in HB 192—go figure? It is only the beginning! Listed below is the status of **33** education bills left in play after crossover.

CHAMBER	BILL	BRIEF	STATUS
DESCRIPTION			
HB	33	Requires state to use Zero Based Budgeting	Senate
HB	39	Delinquent absentees notified by regular mail	Senate Rules

HB	77	FY2011 Supplemental Budget	Signed by Governor
HB	78	FY2012 Budget	Conference
HB	130	Requires CTAE Advisory Commission to meet at least once per year	Senate
HB	172	Extend current Title 20 exemptions and IE2 decision until 2015	Senate
HB	173	PSC expunges records when teacher found not guilty	Senate
HB	175	Establish clearinghouse for system to exchange electronic courses + SB 34	Senate
HB	181	Permits SBOE to waive residency for special ed voucher; can require expedited IEP	Senate Rules
HB	186	Expands career pathways offerings	Senate Rules
HB	192	QBE Commission to study and revise educational funding	Senate Rules
HB	227	Authorizes school personnel to administer auto injectable epinephrine	Senate Rules
HB	285	Revises criminal background checks so that FBI does some part of checks	Senate
HB	303	Permits physician assistants to do physical exams for state requirements	Senate
HB	308	Raises Public Educations Retirement System fees and benefits	Senate Rules
HB	314	Permits foster students in court to be counted present in school	Senate
HB	325	Modifies Scholarship Organizations but leaves \$50M cap in place	Senate
HB	326	HOPE revisions; Pre-K changes	Signed by Governor
HB	371	Prohibits state agency from purchasing insurance on lives of clients	Senate Rules
HR	248	Pledges to reinstate National Certification supplement when funds are available	Passed House*
HR	459	Commends PSC for rule on advanced degree certificate upgrades and pay	Passed House*
HR	491	Encourages performance based coaching programs for administrators	Passed House*
HR	497	Urges school systems to adopt tobacco free policies	Passed House*
SB	34	Permits non public school students to participate in extracurricular activities	House
SB	38	Authorizes SS Supt to hire/fire DOE staff; approve expends to \$250K	House Rules
SB	40	Requires use of Workforce Authorization Act; check citizenship of all hires	House Rules
SB	79	Requires local BOE to serve 4 year terms	House Rules
SB	161	Creates college and career academies as charter schools; adds commission to oversee	House Rules
SB	183	Permits systems to contract for telemedicine to assist nurses	House
SB	184	Sets teacher performance as first criteria in RIF situations	House Rules
SB	185	Judges may close childcare facility in which a child dies	House Rules
SB	219	Mandates Military Compact participation for military children	House
SB	223	Establishes commission to determine and recommend state agencies to be abolished	Senate Rules

NO ACTION TAKEN AS OF APRIL 1, 2011

*does not require other chamber action

Senate/House Rules = Passed chamber, awaiting placement on voting calendar

FY2012 Budget Gets Senate Action...

On Wednesday the Senate passed the budget and sent it to the House with their changes. The bill went to a Conference Committee. Skip Yow reports the following analysis of the Senate version of the budget:

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Reduce funds (House: Reduce funds by 4%)(Senate: Reduce funds to direct instruction programs by 4% and support programs by 4%)

Governor – (643,983)

House – (321,991)

Senate – (403,719)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Eliminate funds for planning grants (Senate – Utilize existing funds to provide \$50,000 for the Charter Advisory Committee)

Governor – (124,973)

House – (124,973)

Senate – (0)

Eliminate funds for facility grants

Governor - (161,866)

House – (161,866)

Senate – (0)

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Reduce funds for local affiliate organizations

Governor – (77,758)

House – (77,758)

Senate – (38,879)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Eliminate funds for the GALILEO contract (House- NO, Senate- NO)

Governor – (125,512)

House – (0)

Senate- (0)

Reduce funds for operations

Governor – 0

House – (110,000)

Senate – (110,000)

GEORGIA YOUTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Eliminate funds – (House and Senate – NO; Reduce funds by 4%)

Governor – (150,000)

House – (6,000)

Senate – (6,000)

NON QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION FORMULA GRANTS

Reduce funds for Residential Treatment Centers (House and Senate: Reduce funds by 1%)

Governor – (709,608)

House – (38,701)

Senate – (38,701)

Reduce funds for Special Needs Scholarships (Senate: reduce funds by 2.255% to make cut comparable to the reduction to QBE)

Governor – (966,636)

House – (966,636)

Senate – (271,866)

PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED

Reduce funds (House and Senate: Reduce funds based on declining enrollment)

Governor – (284,659)

House – (574,851)

Senate – (574,851)

QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in the employer share of the Emplo7yees Retirement System (House and Senate: NO: Use

Governor – 113,738

House 0

Senate – 0

Increase funds for QBE enrollment growth of 0,57%. (House – Increase funds for QBE enrolment growth of 0.57% (58,530,532) and (458,106) (Senate – Increase funds for QBE enrollment growth of 0.57% (58,530,532), charter systems grants (1,691,475), and full

Governor – 61,489,980

House – 60,680,113

Senate – 62,900,454

Increase funds for training and experience – (House and Senate – Increase funds for training and experience (17,173,631)and pro
(12,648,503)

Governor – 29,839,683

House – 29,822,134

Senate – 29,822,134

Provide no more than \$5,200 in state and local equivalency funding for QBE formula earnings and all other state grant earnings fo

Georgia Charter School Commission (House –(YES) (Senate – NO)

Increase funds for Move On When Ready

Governor – 0

House – 523,796

Senate – 523,796

REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCIES

Reduce funds for RESA core services (House and Senate – Reduce funds by 8%)

Governor – (602,930)

House – (482,344)

Senate – (482,344)

Eliminate funds for the Education Technology Centers (House and Senate NO; Reduce funds by 8%)

Governor – (1,500,000)

House – (120,000)

Senate – (120,000)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Reduce funds for operations

Governor – (612,265)

House – (730,000)

Senate – (2,706,050)

Increase funds for Teach for America

Governor – 0

House – 0

Senate – 125,000

SCHOOL NURSES

Reduce funds for grants (House and Senate – Reduce funds by 4%)

Governor – (2,749,950)

House – (1,099,980)

Senate – (1,099,980)

SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED

Reduce funds based on declining enrollment

Governor – (655,738)

House – (1,298,054)

Senate – (1,298,054)

TECHNOLOGY/CAREER EDUCATION

Reduce funds (House – Reduce funds by 4%) (Senate – Reduce funds for Extended Day/Year (266,751), High Schools that work (40
(167,828) and Youth Apprenticeship Program (185,207)

Governor – (1,291,432)

House – (91,716)

Senate – (1,162,333)

TESTING

Reduce funds

Governor – 0

House – (250,000)

Senate – (250,000)

Legislation Introduced This Week...

HR 692 Urges local boards to implement renewable energy systems

SR 480 Urges local boards to adopt policies requiring vending machines to be stocked with only healthy options

These bills will be considered in the 2012 General Assembly