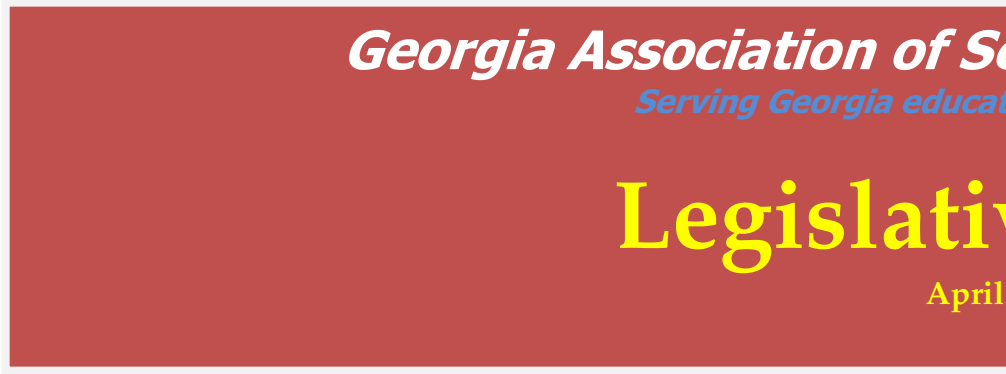


Jimmy Stokes

From: Jimmy Stokes [stokes30650@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Stokes30650@bellsouth.net
Subject: GASSP Legislative Update--April 16, 2010



ROUND 9 OF THE 2010 PRIZE FIGHT

This week saw what looked more like Round 9 of a bloody heavy weight prize fight than it did the 2010 General Assembly. In the three short days of the legislative week, legislators in both chambers took one shot after another at each other. Three Senators lost their chairmanship (a MOST valuable commodity in the General Assembly pecking order--elite status is engendered by the title *Mr. Chairman*), all over their vote on the hospital bed tax legislation. The House members got very testy with another over the political wrangling done to pass HB 1055, the fee increase/hospital bed tax bill. The general malaise with one another does not bode well for the final four days of the session. The Senate will have ample time to review the FY2011 Budget, but there continues to be significant philosophical differences between House and Senate versions. As usual, it will come down to the last minute of Day 40. Sine die day, April 29, promises more fireworks and antics than normal and who knows what legislation will survive.

BUDGET NEWS

Monday brought the report of the Subcommittee on Education Appropriations which was adopted by the House on April 14, 2010 as a part of HB 948 (FY2011 Budget)

Academic Coach Fund at \$1,787,328, a decrease of \$492,489

Ag Education Reduce extended year by 5%, area teacher program by 10%, Young Farmer reduced 10%, and Youth Camps reduced by 10%
Central Office (DOE) Eliminate AAASP, Spelling Bee, Science Olympiad, and Academic Decathlon; Reduce testing by \$650,000, Reduce 100 positions
Charter Schools Reduce planning grants by \$75,501
Georgia Virtual School Reduce Course Development by \$232,033; Increase slots by 1700 using current resources
GYSTC Cut funding by \$50,000
Information Technology Reduce funds by \$213,206
Non QBE Formula Grants Eliminate migrant education; reduce funds for High Performing Principals based on participation
Nutrition Reduce funds by \$3,328,376
Preschool Handicapped Reduce funds by \$893,242
Pupil Transportation Reduce funds by \$4,310,393 and use bond funds to purchase buses
QBE Equalization No change
Governor recommended to Revise the Equalization grant by adjusting the 5 mill base to 8 mills – House – NO
QBE Program Increase funds by \$100,000,000
RESA's Fund core services at \$6,029,301; transfer math mentor funds to RESAs; transfer ETC functions to RESAs
School Improvement Reduce funding by \$2,162,788
Severely Emotional Disturbed Reduce funding by \$2,073,620
Sparsity grants Eliminate all grants
State Interagency Transfers Reduce employer contributions to State Health Plan by \$51,954,094; Add all teachers from three state schools to program
CTAE Reduce extended day 5%, Vocational Supervisors 10%, Industry Certification 10%, YAP 10%; Eliminate funding for HSTW; Total=\$1,154,659
Testing Eliminate SAT Prep and use GACollege411 for practice tests; Reduce PSAT by \$815,000, AP reduced by \$4,200,000 (PSAT and 2 AP tests will be provided for Free and Reduced Price Lunch students), Eliminate optional ITBS, Eliminate Grade 1 and 2 CRCT, Eliminate writing assessment for grades 3 and 5

NEWS

On Monday, the Senate passed HB 703 with an amendment that permits local BOEs to sell school houses to state, county, or local municipalities IF

the school house property is adjacent to property currently owned by the state, county, or local municipality. The original bill establishes a protocol for selling school property.

Last week I reported that **SB 84** has passed both houses, but **that was in error. SB 84 has not passed both houses and is headed for a conference committee.** The apparent difference between House and Senate is the provision authorizing the SBOE to grant waivers of the nepotism rules.

Tuesday brought a flurry of activity in both the House Education and Senate Education Committees. **House Ed** gave a do pass to **SB 239**, requires parents to enroll students within in 30 days of moving into a school district; **SB 387**, eliminates the SAT Prep website and ensures the continuance of the GACOLLEGE411 website; **SB 427**, establishes Georgia Foundation for Public Education which enables public education to accept gifts; **SB 457**, empowers high school clusters to become charter systems; and **SR 153**, creates School Improvement Districts. The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** gave a do pass to a resurrected **HB 400**, the BRIDGE Bill; **HB 493**, creates Georgia Youth Conservation Corps; **HB 1103**, transfer criminal background check responsibility to the PSC; and **HB 1307** which forgives the 10 PLU requirement for recertification for the next five years.

Wednesday saw the House adopted **HB 1055** which is the fee bill, increasing most state fees. The Senate had amended the hospital bed tax to the bill and there was considerable debate as to the legality of the legislation. The House also adopted **HB 948**, the FY2011 Budget.

The House and Senate voted to adopt an adjournment resolution that calls for Day 37 on Tuesday, April 20; Day 38 on Wednesday, April 21; Day 39 on Tuesday, April 27; and Day 40 on Thursday, April 29.