

Jimmy Stokes

From: Jimmy Stokes [noreply@eboardsolutions.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 11:52 AM
To: stokes30650@bellsouth.net
Subject: GASSP Legislative Update--Sine Die Edition

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SINE DIE EDITION

April 15, 2011

Sine Die 2011...

One of Disney's signature theme park attractions is *Mr. Toad's Wild Ride*—after Thursday's antics at the General Assembly, the ride may have received some inspiration. The day was contentious from the outset, provoked by two non-education bills—the Delta fuel tax exemption and the immigration legislation. **Sen. Tommie Williams**, a great enemy of public education and **Speaker David Ralston** had a nose-to-nose confrontation in the House Chamber that left observers reeling but by day's end it was obvious who holds the power in the Georgia General Assembly. NOT ONE of **Chip Rogers** and **Tommie Williams'** bills aimed at expanding non-public school interests passed. The House's position on immigration held firm. Three times the House stripped the extracurricular activities for charter and virtual schoolers from bills and it became clear that the power of the Senate had shifted to **Casey Cagle** and that the House is now the dominant player in the General Assembly. Perhaps the way it ended sums up the day and the session. Near 11:40 PM Ralston called for page pictures (a daily and annual tradition near the end of the day or session) and as Representatives were milling around enjoying themselves, Ralston called on Larry O'Neal for a motion and in a *flash* he announced this House is adjourned *Sine Die*. Over in the Senate no one had a clue as to what was going on as Sen. Rene Unterman was in the well speaking. When the noise from the adjournment in the House was heard, Casey Cagle banged the gavel and announced the Senate is adjourned *sine die* right in the middle of Unterman's speech. (Traditional practice has been that both chambers adjourn at precisely the same time.) Representatives left joyously, Senators in some state of frustration and shock.

The 2011 General Assembly was not a significant session for public education—it was more what did not pass that was important. Other than the budget, only **17** education related bills survived the session as compared to 30 last year. It may not have been a productive session for education, but it most certainly was an entertaining one! Thank you so much for your support of education by voicing your concerns to your legislators. ***Sine Die.***

Special Session Announced...

On Thursday when the Governor visited the House of Representatives, he announced that the Special Session to deal with **reapportionment** will convene on August 15 for ten days. The Governor may assign other items for the Special Session including tax reform, but that is specifically at the discretion of the Governor. The Special Session for reapportionment occurs every ten years following the national census.

Some Bills Pass, Others Don't...

Listed below are the 2011 education bills that passed the 2012 General Assembly. A full description of each bill can be found at <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx>. Because of changes made in Conference Committees, the final bills probably will not be on the website until Monday, April 18. The **highlighted** bills failed to be adopted. **Listed below is a TENTATIVE list of bills and their outcome—there may be some changes when the final documentation is posted.**

Chamber	BILL	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HB	39	Delinquent absentees notified by regular mail	FAILED
HB	77	FY2011 Supplemental Budget	ENACTED
HB	78	FY2012 Budget	To Governor
HB	130	Requires CTAE Advisory Commission to meet at least once per year	FAILED
HB	172	Extend current Title 20 exemptions and IE2 decision until 2015	FAILED
HB	173	PSC expunges records when teacher found not guilty	FAILED
HB	175	Establish clearinghouse for system to exchange electronic courses + SB 34	FAILED
HB	181	Permits SBOE to waive residency for special ed voucher; can require expedited IEP	FAILED
HB	186	Expands career pathways offerings	To Governor
HB	192	QBE Commission to study and revise educational funding + HB 172	To Governor
HB	227	Authorizes school personnel to administer auto injectable epinephrine	To Governor
HB	285	Revises background checks so that FBI does some part of checks + HB 173	To Governor
HB	303	Permits physician assistants to do physical exams for state requirements	To Governor
HB	308	Raises Public Educations Retirement System fees and benefits	FAILED
HB	314	Permits foster students in court to be counted present in school	To Governor
HB	325	Modifies Scholarship Organizations but allows \$50 M cap to rise	To Governor
HB	326	HOPE revisions; Pre-K changes	ENACTED
HB	371	Prohibits state agency from purchasing insurance on lives of clients	FAILED
HR	113	Creates House school bus safety taskforce	ENACTED
HR	248	Pledges to reinstate National Certification supplement when funds are available	ENACTED
HR	459	Commends PSC for rule on advanced degree certificate upgrades and pay	ENACTED
HR	491	Encourages performance based coaching programs for administrators	ENACTED
HR	489	Establishes professional learning rules task force	FAILED
HR	497	Urges school systems to adopt tobacco free policies	ENACTED
SB	33	Requires use of zero based budgeting procedures	To Governor
SB	34	Permits non public school students to participate in extracurricular activities	FAILED
SB	38	Authorizes SS Supt to hire/fire DOE staff; approve expends to \$250K	FAILED
SB	40	Requires use of Workforce Authorization Act; check citizenship of all hires	FAILED
SB	79	Requires BOE to serve 4 year terms; allows Governor to remove BOE members	To Governor
SB	161	Creates college/career academies as charter schools; adds commission	To Governor
SB	183	Permits systems to contract for telemedicine to assist nurses	FAILED
SB	184	Requires use of teacher performance in RIF situations	FAILED
SB	185	Judges may close childcare facility in which a child dies	To Governor

SB	219	Mandates Military Compact for military children	FAILED
SB	223	Establishes commission to recommend state agencies to be abolished	FAILED

FY2012 BUDGET PASSES EASILY

In what was one of the most open budget resolution processes in modern history, the budget passed easily on the 39th day—again most unusual. Excluding Tommie Williams and Chip Rogers from conference process most certainly made it go much smoother. A brief overview of the FY2012 Budget changes as it impacts public education is given below.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Reduce funds (House: Reduce funds by 4%)(Senate: Reduce funds to direct instruction programs by 4% and support programs by 8%)

Governor – (643,983)

House – (321,991)

Senate – (403,719)

Final--(321,991)

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)

Final—(0)

Eliminate funds for facility grants

Governor - (161,866)

House – (161,866)

Senate – (0)

Final—(0)

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Reduce funds for local affiliate organizations

Governor – (77,758)

House – (77,758)

Senate – (38,879)

Final-- (38,879)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

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

Governor – (125,512)

House – (0)

Senate- (0)

Final—(0)

Reduce funds for operations

Governor – 0

House – (110,000)

Senate – (110,000)

Final—(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)

Final—(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)

Final—(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)

Final—(1,731,891)

PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED

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

Governor – (284,659)

House – (574,851)

Senate – (574,851)

Final—(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 other funds)

Governor – 113,738

House 0

Senate – 0

Final--0

Increase funds for QBE enrollment growth of 0,57%. (House – Increase funds for QBE enrolment growth of 0.57% (58,530,532)and increase funds for charter system grants (1,691,475) and dual enrollment (458,106) (Senate – Increase funds for QBE enrollment growth of 0.57% (58,530,532), charter systems grants (1,691,475), and full funding for dual enrollment (2,678,447)

Governor – 61,489,980

House – 60,680,113

Senate – 62,900,454

Final—60,680,113

Increase funds for training and experience – (House and Senate – Increase funds for training and experience (17,173,631)and provide differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers (12,648,503)

Governor – 29,839,683

House – 29,822,134

Senate – 29,822,134

Final—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 for each full-time student enrolled in a virtual charter school approved by the Georgia Charter School Commission (House –(YES) (Senate – NO)

Increase funds for Move On When Ready

Governor – 0

House – 523,796

Senate – 523,796

Final—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)

Final—(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)

Final—(120,000)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Reduce funds for operations

Governor – (612,265)

House – (730,000)

Senate – (2,706,050)

Final—(858,233)

Increase funds for Teach for America

Governor – 0
House – 0
Senate – 125,000

Final—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)

Final—(1,099,980)

SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED

Reduce funds based on declining enrollment
Governor – (655,738)
House – (1,298,054)
Senate – (1,298,054)

Final—(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 (464,142), vocational Industry Certification (78,405), Vocational Supervisors (167,828) and Youth Apprenticeship Program (185,207)
Governor – (1,291,432)
House – (91,716)
Senate – (1,162,333)

Final—(591,716)

TESTING

Reduce funds
Governor – 0
House – (250,000)
Senate – (250,000)

Final—(250,000)

Jimmy C. Stokes

**Executive Educator Services
328 E. Washington Street
Madison, GA 30650
770-601-3798 (cell)**

Jimmy C. Stokes

**Executive Educator Services
328 E. Washington Street
Madison, GA 30650
770-601-3798 (cell)**