



**2009-2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY - BILLS OF INTEREST**  
**Updated through February 4, 2010**

The Georgia General Assembly convened the 2010 session on January 11, 2010 with all members concerned about the impending FY 2010 and FY 2011 revenue shortfall. February 4<sup>th</sup> was the 12<sup>th</sup> of 40 legislative days.

The following table provides information on bills of interest that have been introduced in the first 12 days of the Session plus the bills have are held over from the 2009 General Assembly Session. Legislative bills that have been introduced in the 2010 Session are listed in the first section in numerical order. Hold-over legislation is listed in the “2009 Introduced Legislation” section.

<b>2010 Introduced Bills</b>		
Bill Number	Short Description	Status (02/05/10)
SB 309	Authorizes insurers licensed in selected states to issue health insurance policies across state lines to Georgia citizens.	Assigned to Insurance & Labor 1/13/10
SB 310	Provides for regulating and licensing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), including mail-order PBMs that provide pharmacy services to Georgia citizens.	Assigned to Insurance & Labor 1/14/10.
SB 316	Requires insurers who offer Medicare Supplemental policies to provide the policies to citizens under the age of 65 who have Medicare because of a disability.	Assigned to the Insurance & Labor 1/14/10.
SB 320	Enacts a bill of rights for Georgia teachers, i.e. have independent thought, express constructive criticism, right to a grievance, have a non-attorney representative at any disciplinary hearing, etc.	Assigned to Education & Youth 1/26/10.
SB 329	In the insurance code removes a requirement for covering in medical policies dependent children up to age 26 only when the children are students.	Assigned to Insurance & Labor 1/28/10.
SB 330	Redefines “Major Medical” to prohibit lifetime maximums for coverage, limits ability of insurers to rescind or cancel policies, requires coverage for dependent children up to age 26 regardless of student status.	Assigned to Insurance & Labor 1/28/10
SB 331	Permits small employers to join together to purchase insurance for employees outside of an association arrangement.	Assigned to Insurance & Labor 1/28/10.
SR 795	Resolution to amend GA’s constitution to prohibit any restriction to a person’s freedom to choose medical coverage or to choose any plan.	Favorably Reported by Judiciary on 2/2/10.
SR 829	Resolution to request the Attorney General of Georgia to investigate the constitutionality of mandating health care coverage on Georgia citizens as required under H.R. 3590 (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act).	Favorably Reported by Judiciary on 2/2/10.



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SR 830	Requests the Attorney General to determine the constitutionality of the special exemption included in H.R. 3590 for Medicaid payments and to join other state attorneys general to investigate other provisions.	Favorably Reported by Judiciary on 2/2/10.
HB 916	Provides for nullifying retirement for persons under age 60 who return to State Government work within two consecutive months as an employee or a contract employee, unless the contract work for State Government is incidental to the contract employer.	Passed the House and assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee on 2/4/10.
HB 960	Defines the order of payments to beneficiaries for deceased members of the defined contribution plan when no beneficiary is on file.	Favorably Reported by House Retirement Committee on 2/4/10.
HB 968	Prohibits DOT from issuing RFPs for constructing traffic tunnels.	Assigned Transportation Committee 1/26/10.
HB 969	Changes state law to comply with federal IRC regarding retirement issues and normal retirement age although TRS states that the TRS pension plan is administered in compliance with IRS retirement law. A section of this bill impacts the Public School Employees Retirement (PSERS) in that it provides for suspension of the retirement benefit for a person under age 60 returning to work within two months or to choose not to receive retirement credit for work.	Favorably Reported by House Retirement Committee on 2/4/10.
HB 997	Transfers the state's administration of the federal social security plan for Georgia's state and local governments from the ERS to the State Personnel Administration.	Favorably Reported by House Retirement Committee on 2/4/10.
HB 1023	Provides an unemployment tax credit for employers who employs someone who is receiving unemployment benefits.	Assigned to Special Committee on Business Committee 2/1/10.
HB 1024	Provides for tax credit for a jobs program.	Assigned to Ways & Means 2/1/10.
HB 1086	Excludes release of e-mail addresses of employees of public and nonpublic schools to the public.	Assigned to Judiciary Committee on 2/4/10.
<b>2009 Introduced Bills – Active during 2010 Session</b>		
Bill Number	Short Description	Status (02/05/10)
SB 3	Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to oversee the operation of pharmacy benefits managers (PBM), including the ones used by the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). The response to a request for prior authorization must be completed within 24 hours, step-therapy must be used for medications excluded from the preferred drug list, and a physician must be reimbursed when prior approvals exceed 10 in a 30-day period, at the rate of \$10 per approval.	Assigned to Senate Insurance & Labor (I&L) Committee 1/14/09.
SB 129 <a href="#">See HB</a>	Amends Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law to allow retirement funds to be placed in	SB 129 assigned to Senate Retirement Committee



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249 Also	“alternative investments”. Applies to large retirement systems, including the Employees Retirement System (ERS), <u>but not</u> the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).	2/10/09.
SB 161 & HB 426	Original bill amends the insurance code and the State Health Benefit Plan code to require coverage of autism. Later versions of SB 161 delet4d reference to the SHBP.	SB 161 tabled by Senate and recommitted to the Insurance & Labor Com. HB 426 assigned to House Insurance Committee 2/17/09.
SB 171	Amends the retirement code to require divestiture of investments in companies doing business with Sudan.	Assigned to Senate Retirement Committee 2/18/09.
SB 176	Amends Public Retirement Systems Standards Law to require full funding of any bill during the first year that creates liability so that no unfunded liability will be created. <i>(See GSRA Newsletter of 2/28/09 for analysis)</i>	Assigned to House Retirement Committee on 3/10/09.
SB 181	Increase Judicial Retirement Board by 2 and specifies the courts from which the Governor’s appointees shall be appointed.	Assigned to the House Retirement Committee 2/19/09.
SB 245	Amends the insurance code to require insurers, including contracts for the SHBP, to provide coverage for oral cancer chemotherapy if other forms of chemotherapy are covered.	Assigned to the Senate Insurance & Labor Committee on 3/5/09
SB 257 & HB 740	Allows a Board of Regent faculty member or principal administrator to revoke his/her choice to participate in the Board of Regents optional retirement plan.	Assigned to the respective Retirement Committees.
SB 260	Allows any school system employee to join the Teachers Retirement System.	Assigned to the Senate Retirement Committee.
SB 283	Eliminates eligibility for local future tax collectors, commissioners, and receivers in ERS	<b>Favorable Reported by Senate Retirement on 1/28/10.</b>
HB 54	Amends the Georgia Judicial Retirement System to allow members who initially rejected spouses’ benefits to elect such benefits by paying an actuarially determined amount.	Assigned to House Retirement Committee 1/15/09.
HB 171	Provides that public disclosure will not required for personal contact information of individuals obtained by local governments.	Passed House recommitted to Senate Governmental Oversight.
HB 172	Amends the ERS law to require the periodic re-examination of a disability beneficiary to be performed by a physician designated by the ERS medical board and to include workers’ compensation payments to the exclusions in the amount earnable by the beneficiary.	Passed House and recommitted to Senate Retirement Committee.
HB 194	Requires pharmacies to include both the brand and generic names for prescription drugs where the generic has been dispensed.	Passed House 2/10/09 and assigned to Senate H&HS Committee 2/11/09.



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HB 211	Amends the retirement code for the state supported retirement systems to assure that Fulton County is the exclusive jurisdiction of any action against the respective retirement systems.	Favorably reported on 2/4/09. Recommitted to House Retirement Committee on 2/24/09
HB 249 Originally the same as SB 129	Original bill amended Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law to allow retirement funds to be placed in “alternative investments”. HB 249 was amended in the House Retirement Committee to apply only to the Firefighters Pension Plan. <b>See GSRA’s Feb. 13 Action Alert! HB 249 amended to apply only to the Firefighters Pension Plan.</b>	Recommitted to House Retirement Committee.
HB 277	Amends methods of funding Transportation.	Versions passed House and Senate, but Conference Committee failed to agree on 4/1/09.
HB 345	Changes the vesting provisions for the Teachers Retirement System from 10 to 5 years of service.	Assigned to House Retirement Committee 2/10/09.
HB 354	Separates the Division of Aging Services from the Department of Human Resources and establishes a new Department of Aging.	Assigned to House H&HS Committee 2/10/09.
HB 377	Requires that all Department of Community Health contracts, fee reimbursements, contract rates and schedules be subject to open records.	Assigned to House H&HS Committee 2/11/09.
HB 426 & SB 161	Amends the Insurance Code and the State Health Benefit Plan Code to require coverage for autism. SB 161 amended in Committee to delete references to SHBP and Medicaid. .	HB 426 assigned to House Insurance Committee on 2/18/09. After floor amendments, the Senate tabled SB 161.
HB 489	Amends the Insurance Code and the State Health Benefit Plan Code to require coverage for infertility.	Assigned to House Insurance Committee 2/19/09.
HB 542	Amends the monthly retirement payment from \$15 to \$20 for each year of employment for persons in the Public School Employees Retirement System, if funded.	Assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 2/25/06.
HB 546	Amends the Firefighter Pension Fund to include part-time firefighters, repeal certain prohibitions relative to creditable service and other matters	Assigned to House Retirement Committee 2/25/09.
HB 605	The Transforming Transportation Act to abolish the State Road & Tollway Authority and create the State Transportation Agency and State Transportation Authority. The act changes the role of the Transportation Authority and transfers many of the Transportation Board duties to the State Transportation Authority.	Assigned to the Transportation Committee on 2/26/09.
HB 671	Allows furloughed State employees to continue to	Assigned to House State



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	accumulate sick and annual leave as though they were not furloughed.	Institutions & Property on 3/5/09
HB 739	Allows service credit for an Assistant District Attorney to buy credit under certain conditions at a cost not to create an unfunded liability.	Assigned to the House Retirement Committee on 3/18/09.
HR 642	Establish a Study Committee to study the Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESAs) services and assistance to local school systems and other educational institutions.	Favorably reported by House Education Committee 3/20/09.