



LEGISLATIVE ALERT #1

January 27, 2012

In addition to the bills being tracked on this GACP Legislative Alert, there are at least three Senate Bills (SB 296, SB 311 & SB 321) that have been crafted and at least one House Bill, not yet crafted earmarked at curtailing metal thefts. Almost all of the bills have the same components such as; issuing permits to scrap metal dealers and having the Sheriffs issue the permits to scrap metal dealers. The language on all of the bills need to be refined before GACP will select one or two of the bills to track. However, having the sheriff's offices control the permitting process is concerning to many of the members of the GACP. We will be working with several associations to help hone the bills with anticipation that one of the bills, after the legislative vetting process is completed, will pass and become law. Clearly, all of the stakeholders (e.g., chiefs, marshals, sheriffs, prosecutors, legitimate scrap metal dealers) want to stop the growth of metal thefts.

There is one other potential piece of legislation which will impact law enforcement. That legislation is being drafted and has not yet been introduced; however, its focus is internet gambling. Once legislation on this hot topic is introduced, GACP will be tracking that bill or bills.

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>BILL #</u>	<u>AUTHOR(S)</u>	<u>TITLE AND/OR SUMMARY</u>	<u>GACP COMMENTS</u>
Jan/09/2012 - House Second Readers	House Judiciary Non-Civil	HB 656	Rep. Jacobs of the 80th	Privilege of witnesses; confidentiality of communications; -- To provide for confidentiality of communications between a family violence or sexual assault victim and agents providing services to such victims at family violence shelters and rape crisis centers; to provide for definitions; to provide for a waiver of confidentiality;	This appears to be a reasonable bill which will help to foster a strong relationship between victims and caregivers who provide assistance and counsel to sexual assault victims. Exception are noted in the bill.
				http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/656	
Jan/10/2012 - House Second Readers	House Judiciary Non-Civil	HB 663	Rep. Neal of the 1st, Lindsey of the 54th and others.	Georgia Crime Information Center; inspection or modifying criminal records; change provisions -- Relating to the Georgia Crime Information Center, so as to change provisions relating to inspection, purging, modifying, or supplementing of criminal records;	Good bill encouraged by the GBI.
				http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/663	
Jan/11/2012 - House Second Readers	House Public Safety and Homeland Security	HB 679	Rep. Spencer of the 180th, Byrd of the 20th and others.	Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2012 -- Relating to carrying and possession of firearms, so as to provide a definition; to revise the provisions of law regarding the carrying of firearms...	This is a very long bill; but, the bottom line is ... if this bill passes, anyone who would normally be eligible to obtain a carry permit may possess a firearm without the need to obtain a permit.
				http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/679	



LEGISLATIVE ALERT #1

January 27, 2012

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>ASSIGNED TO</u>	<u>BILL #</u>	<u>AUTHOR(S)</u>	<u>TITLE AND/OR SUMMARY</u>	<u>GACP COMMENTS</u>
Jan/11/2012 - House Second Readers	Public Safety and Homeland Security	HB 687	Rep. Taylor of the 79th, Riley of the 50th, Cooke of the 18th and Atwood of the 179th.	Alarm monitoring service companies; utilize alarm verification; provisions -- Require persons and companies licensed to provide alarm monitoring services to utilize alarm verification in order to preserve valuable municipal and county law enforcement resources; http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/687	This is GACP sponsored legislation. This bill is designed to reduce law enforcement staff hours in responding to false alarms. It is a simple bill that requires an alarm company to make two attempts to locate a key holder before asking authorities to respond...hold-up alarms are exempted.
Jan/11/2012 - House Second Readers	House Judiciary Non-Civil	HB 691	Rep. Mitchell of the 88th.	Criminal offenses; failure to report a crime -- relating to prosecution of parties who did not directly commit the crime, so as to provide for a new criminal offense of failure to report a crime; http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/691	At face value, GACP does not see anything wrong with this bill. It encourages, under penalty of law, a person who witnesses a felony to provide assistance to authorities.
Jan/26/2012 - House First Readers	House Governmental Affairs	HB 811	Rep. Powell of 171st and Meadows of the 5th.	Budgetary and financial affairs; automatic fee adjustment in certain cases; To provide for automatic fee adjustments in cases where funds are not appropriated in certain amounts for specified purposes when certain fees are imposed for such purposes; http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/811	This bill includes many fees collected and remitted to the State; however, GACP will be tracking this bill because it includes add-on fees collected to fund peace officer and prosecutor training.
Jan/09/2012 - Senate Recommended	Senate Judiciary	SB 225	Senator Miller of the 49th, Bethel of the 54th and others.	Criminal Offenses; provide for new offense of transmitting a false report; penalties -- To provide for a new offense of transmitting a false report of a crime; to provide for penalties; http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/SB/225	Very good law enforcement bill; through any medium a person claims falsely that he/she or another committed a "serious violent felony" and causes a law enforcement investigation to commence shall be guilty of a felony with punishment up to 5 years in prison and/or \$10,000 fine.



LEGISLATIVE ALERT #1

January 27, 2012

STATUS	ASSIGNED TO	BILL #	AUTHOR(S)	TITLE AND/OR SUMMARY	GACP COMMENTS
Passed Senate. Awaiting action in the House.	House Judiciary	SB 231	Senator Tippins of the 37th and Williams of the 19th.	Probation; provide additional offenses for which first offender status shall not be granted -- Provide additional offenses for which first offender status shall not be granted;	Very good law enforcement bill. This bill will prohibit first offender status for certain offenses, including offenses committed against law enforcement officers while in the performance of his or her official duties.
				http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/SB/231	