

# GACP's Legislative Alert

## 2005 Session: Update as of February 1, 2005

The following is for your information:

Bill authors usually do not stand alone. Many bills have co-signers which support the introduced legislation.

Many of the identified pieces of legislation, in any legislative alert, will not go anywhere. However, legislation introduced this year is valid for two years (2005-2006).

GACP will track only those pieces of legislation that appear to be moving therefore, after the 33rd day of this session, if a bill has not shown the potential to pass this calendar year, tracking will stop.

All Committee Chairpersons have changed. In fact, several committee were subject to name changes. There is one newly formed committee that will have impact on law enforcement. That new committee is titled, Judiciary-Non-Civil. You will note that in this alert, several tracked bills are assigned to this newly formed committee which is Chaired by Representative David Ralston.

Hundreds of bills are introduced each session however, only Bills directly related to, or closely related to, the management of law enforcement will be tracked by GACP.

There are many more House Bills introduced then Senate Bills. Therefore, you will see GACP tracking mostly House Bills.

GACP, in pursuit of true law enforcement excellence, will have a bill introduced this session which may be referred to a Racial Profiling bill. However, the true title of the GACP endorsed bill will more then likely be; "Racial & Ethnic Justice Act of 2005". This is "not" the current bill proposed by Representative Tyrone Brooks (HB 30). It is important, if you are asked, "What do you think of the Racial Profiling Legislation", that you correctly identify GACP's endorsed bill, not Representative Brook's piece of legislation. When the GACP endorsed bill is formally introduced, you will be apprised of the bill number and sent a copy or advised where you may obtain a copy of that piece of legislation.

*	Bill #	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
*	HB 6	Representative Ben Bridges	<b>Misdemeanor traffic offenses; fines to be paid into state treasury: For infractions / misdemeanor committed on interstate highways or controlled access highways</b>	Non-Civil Judiciary Sub-Committee	At a 1-27-2005 meeting, this Bill took a different form. One main change is to reduce the 40% rule to 20%. GACP will closely monitor this very poor piece of legislation.
*	HB 13	Representative Timothy Bearden	<b>Aggravated sodomy; change age limitation; provide for imposition of death penalty</b>	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	Increases penalty to include death if the victim is less than 12 years of age.

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*	Bill #	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
*	HB 18	Representative Calvin Hill	<b>Seat belts; passenger vehicles; eliminate certain exceptions</b>	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	If passes, as is, most vehicle operators will have to use their seatbelts including those that were exempt under current law, i.e. pick-up trucks, SUV's, etc. Farm vehicles are not affected by this piece of legislation.
*	HB 20	Representative Calvin Hill	<b>Motor vehicle; window tint restrictions</b>	Unknown	Intended to clean-up a law declared invalid because it treats State residents different than non-State residents.
*	HB 29	Representative Tyrone Brooks	<b>Law enforcement officers and agencies; electroshock devices; prohibit use</b>	House Public Safety Committee	If passes, as is, any department that still uses electroshock devices (tasers) would lose State and Federal funds. Under this Bill, citizens can still use these types of devices.
*	HB 30	Representative Tyrone Brooks	<b>Law enforcement officers stopping motorists; prohibit race considerations</b>	House Public Safety Committee	Same old Racial Profiling Bill  Note: This is not GACP's Bill which has yet to be introduced.
*	HB 45	Representative Timothy Bearden	<b>Controlled substances; methamphetamine; regulate sales of certain products</b>	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	Would require drugs containing methamphetamine to be kept behind the counter (certain counties already have this type of control).
*	HB 62	Representative Alan Powell	<b>County officers; nonpartisan election; General Assembly provide by local law</b>	House Government Affairs Committee	If passed, as is, many county elected officials could run for office without declaring party affiliation; Sheriff's, etc.

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*	Bill #	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
*	HB 92	Representative Timothy Bearden	<b>Speed Detection devices (radar &amp; laser) to repeal visibility provisions</b>	House Public Safety Committee	Bill not available for full review.
*	HB 101	Representative Tyrone Brooks	<b>Give service credit to peace officers employed before 1-1-76 who were not entitled to join the POAB</b>	House Retirement Committee	Same Bill, same author as last year. If any of Rep. Brooks Bills passes, may it be this one.
*	HB 132	Representative Chuck Sims	<b>Amending certain retirement benefits to State Sworn Law Enforcement Officers</b>	House Retirement Committee	Two year Bill because it has a fiscal impact
*	HB 187	Representative Billy Mitchell	<b>Obstructing or hindering a person who is making an emergency telephone call</b>	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	Shall make violations a felony
*	HB 193	Representative Bobby Franklin	<b>Changing provisions of carrying firearms</b>	House Public Safety Committee	Would allow person's to carry deadly weapons at public gatherings including church, schools, etc. - "Dangerous Bill"
*	SB 64	Senator John Douglas	<b>Repeals the requirement that officers enforcing traffic laws have a blue light on the roof of their vehicles</b>	Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security	Scheduled for Senate PS Committee meeting, 2-2-2005, Room 307 Legislative Office Building (LOB) at 2:30 pm.

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