

LEGISLATIVE ALERT #3 - FEBRUARY 18, 2005

*	Bill #	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
	HB 6 Cross Ref:	Representative Ben Bridges	Misdemeanor traffic offenses; fines to be paid into state treasury: For infractions / misdemeanor committed on interstate highways or controlled access highways	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 489	Representative Burke Day	Same Bill different Author but co-signed by Rep. Bridges who is the author of HB 6	House Judiciary SC	Original form as HB 6
	HB 13	Representative Timothy Bearden	Aggravated sodomy; change age limitation; provide for imposition of death penalty	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	Increases penalty to include death if the victim is less than 12 years of age.
	HB 18	Representative Calvin Hill	Seat belts; passenger vehicles; eliminate certain exceptions	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee Favorable Report from Committee on the way to Rules	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	Motor vehicle; window tint restrictions	Passed the House, however, under a motion to reconsider (this is an extremely unusual motion)	Intended to clean-up a law declared invalid because it treats State residents different than non-State residents.
**	HB 29	Representative Tyrone Brooks	Law enforcement officers and agencies; electroshock devices; prohibit use	House Public Safety Committee Committee voted not to pass this bill, however a steady Committee is probable.	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.

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	HB 30	Representative Tyrone Brooks	Law enforcement officers stopping motorists; prohibit race considerations	House Public Safety Committee	Same old Racial Profiling Bill Note: This is not GACP's Bill.
	HB 45	Representative Timothy Bearden	Controlled substances; methamphetamine; regulate sales of certain products	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	County officers; nonpartisan election; General Assembly provide by local law	House Government Affairs Committee	If passed, as is, many county elected officials could run for office without declaring party affiliation; Sheriff's, etc.
	HB 92	Representative Timothy Bearden	Speed Detection devices (radar & laser) to repeal visibility provisions	House Public Safety Committee	Applies to bridges, etc.
	HB 101	Representative Tyrone Brooks	Give service credit to peace officers employed before 1-1-76 who were not entitled to join the POAB	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	Amending certain retirement benefits to State Sworn Law Enforcement Officers	House Retirement Committee	Two year Bill because it has a fiscal impact.
	HB 187	Representative Billy Mitchell	Obstructing or hindering a person who is making an emergency telephone call	House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee	Shall make violations a felony.

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	HB 193	Representative Bobby Franklin	Changing provisions of carrying firearms	House Public Safety Committee	Would allow person's to carry deadly weapon in certain food establishments that serve alcohol.
*	HB 286	Representative Burke Day	Makes the presence of Alcohol & Marijuana drugs in system illegal (Per se)	House Judiciary NC	If passed, this would save a lot of personnel time and money. Less – safe would not be required.
*	HB 294	Representative Phyllis Miller	Use of cameras in school zones to curtail speeding	House PS Committee Reported favorable by Committee (Rules)	Great idea, used in other states, will save staff hours.
**	HB 289	Representative Burke Day	Authorize Members of the State Board Pardons and Paroles to have full law enforcement authority when called upon to assist local and state law enforcement	Passed House and on its way to the Senate.	Great idea, in fact, GACP endorsed this idea with a formal Resolution voted on at our Winter Training Conference.
*	HB 324	Representative Burke Day	Only full-time employed L.E. to operate speed detection devices, etc.	House Judiciary NC	Very bad Bill for small law enforcement agencies.
**	SB 64	Senator John Douglas	Repeals the requirement that officers enforcing traffic laws have a blue light on the roof of their vehicles	Passed Senate by Substitute on its way to the House.	Good Bill for most of Law Enforcement.

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	SB 151	Senator Brian Kemp	Adding the PBA President to be a Voting Member to the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council	Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security	Same old bad Bill as in year's past.
*	SB 213	Senator Bill Hamrick	Racial and Ethnic Public Safety Act of 2005	Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security	This is GACP's very reasonable answer to all of the poor Racial Profiling Bills.

The above Bill is GACP's creation. Please read the Bill in it's entirety at http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/sum/sb213.htm