

LEGISLATIVE ALERT #4 – MARCH 17, 2005

These bills have made it past the crossover date. Therefore, if they continue to move, these bills may become laws.

*	Bill#	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
**	HB 20	Representative Calvin Hill	Motor vehicle; window tint restrictions	Sent to the Governor for signature	Will clean-up a law declared unconstitutional because it treats State residents different than non-State residents.
*	HB 106	Representative Terry Barnard	Changing the definition of "Sexual Violent Offenses"	Senate Judiciary Committee	Good and needed changes.
*	HB 170	Representative Rich Golick	Criminal Justice Act of 2005	Senate Judiciary Committee	Good changes including equal strikes (peremptory challenges).
*	HB 216	Representative Jay Neal	Pseudoephedrine Sales Restricted	Awaiting Senate approval	Good bill that has many good changes made while going through the process- i.e. precursors to methamphetamines will be behind the counter.
**	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	Sent to the Governor for signature	Great idea, in fact, GACP endorsed this idea with a formal Resolution voted on at our Winter Training Conference.
**	HB 294	Representative Phyllis Miller	Use of cameras in school zones to curtail speeding	Senate Judiciary Committee	Great idea, used in other states, will save staff hours.
*	HB 501	Representative Austin Scott	Driver's License Services	Senate Rules Committee	Abolish DMVS in favor of Department of Driver's License Services (Law Enforcement to go back to Department of Public Safety)

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*	Bill #	Author	Title and/or Summary	Status	GACP Comments
*	HB 521	Representative Mack Crawford	Sheriff Qualifications	Senate Public Safety Committee	To run for Sheriff- need to be P.O.S.T. certified.
*	SB 80	Senator Tommie Williams	Sheriff's Non-Partisan Election	House Government Affairs Committee	Sheriff Candidate will not have to declare party affiliation.
*	SB 178	Senator John Douglas	Emergency Lights (Blue Lights)	House Public Safety Committee	Prohibiting blue lights that blink or stationary blue lights.

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The below bills did not crossover before crossover day. Therefore, the probability of their passage this year is weak. However, the concept may be attached to a moving valid bill.

*	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 Favorable Report from House Committee	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 Motor Vehicle 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 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 *Cross Reference HB 216 which is a moving bill.	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 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	Tabled	Good Bill for most of Law Enforcement.
	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 ☞ Note- This bill is valid this year and next year. Hopefully, with the support of the Black Caucus, the bill will move in 2006.	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