

**Final Legislative Alert # 5**  
**May 19, 2010**

Status	Assigned to:	Bill #	Author(s)	Title and or Summary	GACP Comments
House Agrees with Senate Amendment on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	HB 23	Representatives: Ramsey, Matt 72nd; Rice, Tom 51st; Lindsey, Edward 54th; Williams, Mark 178th; and others.	<p><b>HB 23 - Motor vehicles; revocation of licenses; wireless telecommunication devices; prohibit use</b></p> <p>GACP had been tracking several bills dealing with prohibiting texting while driving. The three bills getting the most publicity on this issue were; SB 360, HB 938 and HB 944. However, at the last minute, our legislators elected to pass two bills with the same topic matter, HB 23 and SB 360 to be known as the Caleb Sorohan Act. The sum and substance of these bills include but are not limited to, prohibiting texting while driving and if under 18 years of age, no texting and no cell phone use except under limited authority.</p> <p>To view, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/hb23_Sen_ctee_sub_LC_34_2733S_12.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/hb23_Sen_ctee_sub_LC_34_2733S_12.htm</a></p>	See SB 360 also.
House Conference Committee Report Adopted on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	HB 948	Representatives: Ralston, David 7th; Harbin, Ben 118th; Jones, Jan 46th; Keen, Jerry 179th; Cole, Jim 125th; Pruett, Jimmy 144th and others.	<p><b>HB 948 - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011</b></p> <p>This is the entire State Budget.</p> <p>To view, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/hb948_LC_14_0175_DB_2.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/hb948_LC_14_0175_DB_2.htm</a></p> <p>GACP had sent out several email to the membership regarding the law enforcement part of the 2011 budget warning its members that our profession may lose a great deal of State funds because of budget cuts.</p> <p>We did lose a substantial amount of money; however, the cuts could have been deeper. Basically, the GPSTC had to take additional cuts this upcoming FY 2011, which equates to cutting some of their services. GPSTC will be providing information on those cuts in the near future. Regretfully, GACP lost some additional training money which means for most tenured chiefs and new chiefs an addition cut in reimbursement (conference and new chief schools).</p>	<p><i>GACP's budget cuts amounted to approximately 13% this upcoming FY from FY 2010.</i></p> <p>It should be noted that the State's budget cuts directly effecting GACP over the last three years amounts to over 31%. Remember, our training money, as well as GPSTC's training money comes from the 10% that is added onto court fines.</p>
House Passed on 4/27/10	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 291	Senators: Shafer, David 48 <sup>th</sup> ; Douglas, John 17 <sup>th</sup> ; Sims, Freddie 12 <sup>th</sup> ; Rogers, Chip 21 <sup>st</sup> ; Powell, J. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ; and Tolleson, Ross 20 <sup>th</sup> .	<p><b>SB 291 - Firearms; laws concerning carrying of concealed weapons; revise comprehensively</b></p> <p>This bill has two main objectives. The bill will allow a gun permit holder to carry his or her weapon in airports but not in federally prohibited areas and the bill prohibits guns from being seized by authorities during times declared emergencies including Governor declared emergencies.</p> <p>Another requirement of this bill states that firearm license that are issued to former law enforcement officers "shall be distinctive in design by the use of color or style or other means from other licenses issued under this Code section."</p> <p>To view current version, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/sb291.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/fulltext/sb291.htm</a></p>	

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Senate Committee Favorably Reported on 3/17/10. Senate read second time 3/18/10.	DID NOT PASS	SB 295	Senator: Seabaugh, Mitch 28 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>SB 295 - Motor Vehicles; prohibit municipalities from using speed detection devices on federal aid systems</b></p> <p>GACP sent out several email reference this bill which if passed in its original form would have vertically eliminated the use of speed detection devices on interstate roads and other federally funded highways.</p> <p>To view substitute bill, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb295_Committee_sub_LC_34_2569S_4.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb295_Committee_sub_LC_34_2569S_4.htm</a></p>	Due in part to the efforts of several GACP members who testified against this bill the bill was neutralized and when it went to the Senate Rules Committee its progress was halted.
House Passed on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 308	Senators: Seabaugh of the 28 <sup>th</sup> , Rogers of the 21 <sup>st</sup> , Smith of the 52 <sup>nd</sup> , Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> , Mullis of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> and others	<p><b>SB 308 - Firearms; carrying and possession; change provisions; definitions</b></p> <p>This bill is complex to define in a few sentences therefore, please read the bill. The most recent version available for review can be obtained by clicking on the below link. The sum and substance of this gun bill includes but is not limited to; permitting persons with carry gun permits to carry their firearms in bars, allows storage of firearms in a vehicle in a parking lot, abolishes 1,000 foot school safety zone by removing any reference to it and imposes new time restrictions on Probate Court judges.</p> <p>To view final version, click on the link below:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/pdf/sb308.pdf">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/pdf/sb308.pdf</a></p>	
Sent to the Governor on 5/4/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 324	Senators Grant of the 25th, Douglas of the 17th, Murphy of the 27th, Crosby of the 13th, Mullis of the 53rd and others	<p><b>SB 324 - Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; clarify the authority of the council to impose administrative fees</b></p> <p>This bill will allow POST to charge petitioners administrative fees for such items as; petitions for reinstatement of certifications, etc.</p> <p>To view final version, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb324_SB324_APP_4.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb324_SB324_APP_4.htm</a></p>	
Passed on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 360	Senators Murphy of the 27th, Tate of the 38th, Hamrick of the 30th, Balfour of the 9th, Jackson of the 24th and others	<p><b>SB 360 - Motor Vehicles; prohibit persons 18 years of age or younger from using wireless telecommunications devices; text messages</b></p> <p>Establishes the "Caleb Sorohan Act for Saving Lives by Preventing Texting While Driving"; to amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic...</p> <p>To view the final version, click on the link below.  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb360_CCR_to_SB360_9.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb360_CCR_to_SB360_9.htm</a></p>	See HB 23.

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Senate Agrees House Amend or Sub on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 373	Senators: Grant of the 25th, Murphy of the 27th, Crosby of the 13th, Douglas of the 17th and Staton of the 18th	<p><b>SB 373 - Peace Officers; investigation of a applicant's good moral character; applying for appointment or certification</b></p> <p>This bill relates to background investigation for peace officers. This bill states that when investigations are conducted for the purpose of hiring, certifying, or continuing the certification of a peace officer, an employer shall disclose employment related information to the investigating law enforcement agency upon receiving a written request from such agency. Disclosure shall only be required under this subsection if the law enforcement agency's request is accompanied by a copy of a signed, notarized statement from the applicant, candidate, or peace officer releasing and holding harmless such employer from any and all liability for disclosing complete and accurate information to the law enforcement agency.</p> <p>To view final version, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb373_LC_35_1882S_hss_9.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb373_LC_35_1882S_hss_9.htm</a></p> <p>Many thanks go to GACP members who testified on behalf of this bill and to the author, Senator Grant. However, the Senator had legislative help from law enforcement supporters such as, Chairman Burke Day, Representative Billy Maddox (the original author) and Representative Doug Collins among others.</p>	This is a win for law enforcement!
Senate agrees to House substitute on 4/29/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 419	Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Douglas of the 17th, Buckner of the 44th, Harbison of the 15th, Henson of the 41st and others	<p><b>SB 419 - Drivers' License; provide for notation; post traumatic stress disorder; members of armed services/veterans</b></p> <p>Members of the armed services and veterans who have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder may request to have a notation of such diagnosis placed on his or her driver's license.</p> <p>To view, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb419_LC_34_2692S_hss_7.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb419_LC_34_2692S_hss_7.htm</a></p>	Agencies may wish to develop policies for officers to follow when individuals present this type of drivers' license.
House Passed on 4/27/10.	Awaiting Governor's Signature	SB 458	Senators Thomas of the 54th, Williams of the 19th, Moody of the 56th, Hawkins of the 49th, Harp of the 29th and others.	<p><b>SB 458 - Safety Belts; eliminate certain exceptions to the required use of safety belts</b></p> <p>Requires seat belt use in trucks and SUVs</p> <p>To view, click on this link:  <a href="http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb458_As_passed_Senate_3.htm">http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2009_10/versions/sb458_As_passed_Senate_3.htm</a></p>	See HB 22.