

**2008**  
**GEORGIA ENGINEERS LEGISLATIVE COALITION**

Georgia Engineering Alliance  
Harris Tower, Suite 700  
233 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-521-2324

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Friday, April 4, 2008

**40<sup>th</sup> DAY – Sine Die**

**Updated based on May 14<sup>th</sup> deadline for Governor's signature/veto**

Below is a list of bills that passed the General Assembly and that have been signed by the Governor (except HB 1217 – home inspector licensing – which was vetoed):

**TRANSPORTATION**

HB 77 amends the law governing “red-light cameras” to require DOT approval of all such installations (and to prepare rules/regulations for the permit application process). The permit application must demonstrate a “genuine safety need” at the site of the camera and must be accompanied by a traffic engineering study that considers any other design/operational safety issues.

HB 1019 establishes the “Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank” at the State Road and Tollway Authority. The Bank is authorized to make loans to local Governments for transportation purposes. It was capitalized at \$28.1 million from the FY 09 budget.

HB 1189 requires DOT to prepare a statewide strategic transportation plan, which shows a realistic list of projects that can be funded over a 5-year period, their cost, and the source of funding. A draft plan is to be delivered to the General Assembly by the end of 2008, comments are to be received by February 15, 2009, and the final plan completed by June 30, 2009.

SB 417 requires DOT to publish project implementation benchmarks, report on progress, post project status on the DOT website, and VE projects over \$10 million.

**WATER**

HB 1281 prohibits local governments from imposing more restrictive water conservation measures than those imposed by EPD and does not allow restrictions on filling swimming pools and certain outdoor water use.

HR 1022 approves the State Water Plan. \$11 million is available from GEFA to fund the water planning efforts in the first year.

SB 342 authorizes the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to fund a portion of the cost of permitting water supply reservoirs. It also creates a Water Supply Division in GEFA and authorizes grants/loans for water supply reservoirs. \$40 million was appropriated from FY 08 budget and \$30 million more from FY 09 budget for reservoirs.

SB 352 allows legislative oversight of DNR rules that do not originate in federal rules.  
SB 463 permits grey water reuse for outside purposes.  
SB 466 exempts swimming pools and car washes from water conservation rules.  
SR 822 expresses support of the General Assembly for the Governor negotiating with the governors of Tennessee and North Carolina over the “erroneous” survey in 1818 of the northern boundary of Georgia and, if such negotiations fail to resolve the dispute, then authorizes the Attorney General to file suit in the U S Supreme Court over the issue.

#### OTHER

HB 89 is the “gun” bill for this season, but an amendment to the Good Samaritan law was added, which expanded it to include *organizations* and emergencies that *warrant* a declaration by the Governor, instead of where such has already occurred.

SB 374 makes technical changes to the lien law.

HB 1216 reduces the number of RDCs to 12 and renames them ‘regional commissions.

HB 1217 establishes licensure for home inspectors; includes language that protects PEs. **Vetoed by Governor.**

SB 130 includes HB 1125; the “Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Act of 2008”. It directs DCA to adopt policies and procedures for State-funded buildings related (primarily) to energy efficiency. ‘Major’ state buildings may exceed ASHRAE 90.1 by 30% where it is determined to be cost-effective based on no more than a 10-year payback. A PE must certify such analysis. (signed by the Governor)

You may go to [www.legis.state.ga.us](http://www.legis.state.ga.us) to look at specific bills and their status. You can also do word searches. If there are specific bills/issues that should be tracked, please contact the Legislative Coalition.