

## Anne Bartoletti

**From:** Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:57 AM  
**To:** anne@vayasol.com  
**Subject:** House District 53 Legislative Update

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

You are receiving this email from State Representative Elly Dobbs to keep you informed on state government. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from Rep. Dobbs, add newsletters@wordexpress.info to your address book today. If you haven't done so already, click to [confirm](#) your interest in receiving email newsletters from Rep. Dobbs.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

### In this issue...

- [LEGISLATION THAT PASSED](#)
- [LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS](#)
- [2009 FAILED LEGISLATION](#)
- [www.ellydobbs.com](#)
- [JOB HUNTING RESOURCES](#)

### Job Announcements

#### Georgians for a Healthy Future

Please send (via mail, e-mail or fax) a cover letter, resume, three references, and a salary history to:  
Terri Theisen, Theisen Consulting LLC, 7140 Northgreen Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328, fax 770-396-2385

### E-mail

#### 2010 Census Jobs Available

For more information, contact the local Census office or call the agency's toll-free jobs line at (866) 861-2010.

### Link to website

#### Director of Communication

## State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 21, 2009

### Greetings!

With the end of the 2009 General Assembly, I summarize below some of the major legislation that passed both Houses of the legislature and also mention bills that did not pass during this Session. We do not know which bills the Governor may sign, which bills may be vetoed, or which bills he may let become law without his signature. He has 40 days after the last day of the session to take action. As of today, he has signed several bills that passed and they will become law on their effective date. Bills that did not pass both Houses may be taken up again during the next General Assembly in 2010.



I wish to thank my constituents from House District 53 for allowing me to represent them. I was honored to serve as your representative during this General Assembly at the State Capitol.

As always, please do not forget to [contact me](#) with your views on any issue that needs to be addressed or whenever I can be of service to you.

### Elly Dobbs

## LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

**The following measures were passed by both the House and the Senate and will become law if signed by the governor:**

[HB 119](#) proposes a fiscal year 2010 budget that includes \$1.3 billion in federal stimulus funds and reflects deep spending cuts to address a \$3 billion shortfall in state revenues. Lawmakers did add back funds to avoid Gov. Perdue's proposed 10 percent cut in Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals and 6 percent cut in repayments to physicians. The final version also added \$140 million to the budget to take care of an expected financial deficit for Medicaid next year due to rising unemployment in the state. Legislative budget writers also rejected the governor's plan to eliminate school nurses, adding \$30 million back to the budget for that program. Unfortunately, HB 119 fails to include funding for the Homeowner Tax Relief Grants the state provides to local governments. The result will be a \$200-\$300 property tax increase for the average Georgia homeowner later this year. This year's budget also includes another \$200 million in austerity cuts to public education.

[HB 120](#) renews Georgia's sales tax holiday periods. If the governor signs the

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Please send resume, writing sample (i.e. clips of published op-eds, press releases, or other published works), cover letter, names and contact information of three references, and salary requirements to Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, Communications Director Search, 100 Edgewood Ave, Suite 950, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

**E-mail**

bill, Georgians can shop for school supplies and clothing without paying a sales tax July 30-Aug. 2. The tax-free period for energy- efficient products would be Oct. 1-4.

[HB 157](#) makes sure that college students can continue using HOPE Scholarship funds for book purchases and related fees.

[HB 160](#) adds a \$200 fine against "super speeders," motorists who are convicted of driving more than 85 mph on a four-lane highway or more than 75 on a two- lane road. According to the bill's sponsor, revenues raised by the extra fees would go toward trauma care funding.

[HB 228](#) reorganizes the state Department of Human Resources.

[HB 229](#) requires public school systems to conduct an annual fitness assessment and comply with state physical education instruction requirements.

[HB 233](#) freezes property valuation reassessments for two years.

[HB 243](#) retains the additional pay for educators who have earned national board certification but restricts the future use of the program.

[HB 251](#) allows students to transfer from one school to another within a school district, provided there is room to transfer.

[HB 261](#) stimulates the housing industry by giving home buyers a one-time income tax credit of up to \$1,800.

[HB 310](#), which I co-sponsored, expands the recycling program in state buildings, adding steel cans, plastic and glass bottles and cardboard to the list of items collected for recycling, joining aluminum and paper.

[HB 388](#) authorizes the adoption of human embryos.

[HB 481](#) provides a tax credit of \$2,400 to businesses when they hire an unemployed worker, suspend the collection of \$100 corporate filing fees, cuts the capital gains tax by 50 percent and eliminates corporate net worth taxes for businesses.

[HB 482](#) eliminates the state's inventory tax on businesses.

[SB 13](#) allows a "life without parole" sentence in murder cases when the prosecutor does not seek the death penalty.

[SB 20](#) prohibits local governments from adopting "sanctuary policies" that protect illegal immigrants from being arrested or deported.

[SB 31](#) allows Georgia Power to raise its customers' rates to finance the construction of two nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle, six years ahead of when they are scheduled to be up and running. The expansion is expected to cost \$14 billion.

[SB 55](#), already signed into law by the governor, requires tax assessors to consider the impact on property values of home foreclosures and bank sales of comparable real estate, along with the decrease in property values caused by conservation easements.

[SB 80](#) strengthens food inspection regulations and require immediate reporting of any tests that show contamination. The proposal is aimed at preventing future situations like the shipping of salmonella-tainted peanut butter products from the Peanut Corp. of America plant in Early County.

[SB 82](#) adds new requirements for the recycling of certain metals as a means of reducing metal thefts that cost utilities and private citizens millions of dollars each year.

[SB 86](#) requires Georgians to produce birth certificates, passports or other documents proving U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote.

[SB 155](#) removes buffer zones from streams carrying mostly rainwater.

[SB 168](#) would require the Department of Revenue to release the names of legislators who have not paid state income taxes.

[SB 200](#) creates a new position of Director of Planning at the Department of Transportation, who is appointed by the governor. This position is charged with developing a long term plan for the DOT which is submitted to the governor and General Assembly for approval. DOT board members and rank-and-file Senators and House members, who have a say in what projects are funded now, will have their voices limited under the bill. Top Senate and House leaders and the governor will have greater authority over the DOT appropriations process. The DOT commissioner will still be appointed by the board but will only be responsible for running the department and implementing the long range plan. Members of the General Assembly currently elect DOT board members from the state's 13 congressional districts.

---

## LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS

### **The following legislation passed the House but is still pending in the Senate:**

[HB 277](#) and [HR 206](#) would allow voters to decide on a statewide one-cent sales tax to generate \$25 billion over 10 years for transportation improvements.

[HB 480](#) would eliminate the yearly ad valorem tax on vehicle license plates and replace it with a one-time title fee.

### **These measures passed the Senate but are still pending in the House:**

[SB 5](#) would remove the exemption to Georgia's seat belt law for drivers and passengers in pickup trucks.

[SB 39](#) and [SR 44](#) would authorize multicounty regions to levy an additional 1-cent sales tax if a referendum is approved by the voters in those regions.

[SB 67](#) would require driver's license examinations to be conducted in English only.

[SB 84](#) would give the governor the power to remove elected members of local school boards.

[SB 120](#) would relieve MARTA of the requirement to use 50 percent of its sales tax revenue on capital expenditures, authorizing the transit system to use more of the funds it has already collected to make up its operating deficit.

[SB 169](#) would outlaw embryonic stem cell research in our state, even though many in the medical and scientific communities believe such research could lead to treatments for major diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and spinal injuries.

[SR 277](#) calls for a constitutional amendment authorizing a \$10 annual fee on motor vehicle registrations, with the proceeds going directly to the trauma trust fund.

---

## 2009 FAILED LEGISLATION

### **The following proposals failed to get out of either house this year:**

[HB 39](#) would have increased the state tobacco tax by \$1 per pack.

[HB 67](#) would have reinstated the state sales tax on groceries, which was removed in the 1990s.

[HB 138](#) and [SB 16](#) would have authorized local referendums on Sunday package sales of alcoholic beverages.

[SB 49](#) and [SB 56](#) would have prohibited pharmacists from making generic substitutions for immuno-suppressive and anti-epileptic drugs.

[SB 90](#) would have provided taxpayer-funded vouchers for parents to send their children to private schools.

### **The following proposals were defeated this year:**

[HR 1](#) would have changed the constitution to cap increases in property tax valuations.

[SB 83](#) would have raised the annual homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

[SB 164](#) would have allowed outdoor advertising companies to clear-cut trees in public rights of way where billboards are located.

---

### [www.ellydobbs.com](http://www.ellydobbs.com)

Your online legislative source

Visit [www.ellydobbs.com](http://www.ellydobbs.com) to stay up to date on the Georgia General Assembly throughout the legislative session.

---

### JOB HUNTING RESOURCES

Georgia Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.state.ga.us/>

Careers.ga.gov: <https://www.careers.ga.gov/careersLocations.asp>

AJC Jobs - Atlanta listings: <http://hotjobs.yahoo.com/job-search-l-Atlanta-GA-m-0?partner=ajcjobs>

SimplyHired - Atlanta listings: <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/jobs/list/l-Atlanta%2C+GA>

CNN - Job Hunting articles and resources:  
<http://money.cnn.com/news/specials/jobs/index.html>

#### Quick Links

- [Rep. Elly Dobbs](#)
- [State Government](#)
- [Georgia General Assembly](#)
- [City of Atlanta](#)
- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)
- [Fulton County Government](#)
- [Fulton County Schools](#)
- [Democratic Party of Georgia](#)
- [Register to Vote](#)
- [Georgia Crisis & Access Line 800-715-4225](#)

#### Representative Elly Dobbs

Representative Elly Dobbs represents the 53rd District (Fulton County) in the Georgia House of Representatives. Contact her at 512 Coverdell Office Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30334; by phone at 404-656-7859; or by e-mail at [elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov](mailto:elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov). For more information, visit her web site at [www.ellydobbs.com](http://www.ellydobbs.com).

Newsletter email: [newsletters@wordexpress.info](mailto:newsletters@wordexpress.info)  
phone: 404.656.7859  
web: <http://www.ellydobbs.com>

#### Forward email

#### ✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to [linton.johnson@wordexpress.info](mailto:linton.johnson@wordexpress.info) by [newsletters@wordexpress.info](mailto:newsletters@wordexpress.info).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by

