

From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 7:15 PM

To: Dobbs, Elly

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...

- [CAPITOL UPDATE](#)
- [LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS](#)
- [MORE LEGISLATIVE NEWS](#)
- [www.ellydobbs.com](#)
- [JOB HUNTING RESOURCES](#)
- [INTERNSHIPS](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Increase in Crime? Contact your Police Precinct

Anyone within the city limits of Atlanta should call the Atlanta Police Department to request that your police precinct increase a drive-by presence in your neighborhood. Unfortunately, there is no map of the police precincts, so you should call Atlanta Police at 404-853-3434, they'll look up your precinct, and then you should call your precinct to request an increased police presence and drive-by in your neighborhood.

Plant Trees in Your Community and Keep Atlanta Green

Volunteer with Trees Atlanta to plant trees in your community and other parts of Atlanta. Tree planting every Saturday morning this winter. Call 404-522-4097 for details.

State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 11, 2009

Greetings!

The General Assembly is now scheduled to end Sine Die on Friday, April 3, with a new adjournment resolution which was passed on Thursday, March 5. Lawmakers were scheduled to break from the end of March until June and come back for five days in order to pass a state budget based on whether the state received federal stimulus money from Washington. Now it has been determined that the Governor has lowered the revenue estimate and so the legislature can go back to ending in the beginning of April as has been the case in past years.



Legislative Day 30 or "cross over day," is scheduled to occur this Thursday, March 12. This is the deadline for bills to pass at least one of the chambers, the House or the Senate, in order to cross over to the other chamber and be considered for passage this year. Bills and resolutions that fail to pass their respective chambers by the close of business on Day 30 can still be considered, but only if they are attached as amendments to surviving legislation, or they are offered as substitute bills. In addition, since the Georgia General Assembly is biennial in structure, a bill that is withdrawn in the 2009 Session, can be reintroduced in the 2010 session.

Below is a summary of what has transpired during the last week of the session. 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

CAPITOL UPDATE

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:

The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly March 3 to approve legislation that proposes a one-cent statewide sales tax for transportation projects, if approved by voters in the 2010 general election. The proposed funding package would generate up to \$25 billion over the next decade for construction of new highways, bridges and transit facilities across the state.

[HR 206](#), a proposed constitutional amendment, was approved 151-15 by House members and still needs a two-thirds majority approval in the Senate before going to the voters next year. The Senate had earlier passed a transportation funding proposal of its own, calling for a regional sales tax plan under which counties could join together to generate funding for specific transportation projects in those counties. Reconciling the competing



Plant the community gardens for the Atlanta Community Food Bank

Saturday, April 4
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Join Democrats Work volunteers to help plant community gardens in low-income areas of Atlanta. Working with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, we will help make sure neighborhoods have fresh, nutritious food to eat. We will know the location of the garden two weeks prior to our work day, so stay tuned!

Democrats Work

StandUp for Kids

To see training calendar and to get more information, please visit their website.

Link to website

Bobby Dodd Institute

Looking for volunteers to provide Client Professional Services for young adults, including conducting mock interviews, doing field trips to museums, and helping with special projects. For more information, contact Charlotte Margolin at 678-365-2279.

Link to website

Repair a senior's house with the ToolBank and Democrats Work

55 Ormond St SE
Atlanta, GA 30315

Saturday, March 14
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Join volunteers the

proposals will likely be debated by a joint House- Senate conference committee later in the session.

The enabling legislation for the House plan, [HB 277](#), includes a list of the transportation projects that would be built with the statewide tax. HB 277 was approved 149-18.

Democratic leaders successfully amended the legislation on the House floor, ensuring bipartisan support. The amendments include an assurance of minority representation in the oversight structure for spending the sales tax revenue, a provision that the Department of Transportation would be the designated recipient of federal highway funds and that one cent from the four-cent state sales tax on gasoline would be designated for transportation projects.

MARTA REVENUES:

In a third transportation measure, House members passed an amended version of [SB 39](#), which would give MARTA, the Atlanta rapid transit system, more flexibility in its handling of sales tax revenues. Under SB 39, up to 60 percent of MARTA sales tax funding could go toward operations, with the remainder for capital expenditures. Current law requires MARTA to comply with a 50/50 split between operations and capital expenses with regard to sales tax funds.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Legislation that would increase the state's homestead tax exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000 failed to receive the required two-thirds majority approval in the House on March 4. Proponents of [SB 83](#) said it would provide additional and needed tax relief to homeowners, but opponents were concerned about the impact the bill would have on the revenues of local governments, which would likely be forced to raise millage rates and cut vital services as a result.

The following day, a simple majority of House members voted to reconsider the legislation later in the session. But Wednesday's outcome was 22 votes short of the 120 needed for passage.

VOTER REGISTRATION:

A majority of House members voted to approve [HB 45](#), which would require Georgians to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship when they are registering to vote. A driver's license, birth certificate, passport and naturalization documents are acceptable for proof of citizenship. Opponents of the measure said there is no significant evidence of a problem with non-citizens trying to register to vote, and this requirement would be an unnecessary impediment for eligible voters to register and exercise their right to vote. HB 45 goes to the Senate for its consideration.

LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS

Bills passing the House:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

[HB 86](#) would require county election boards to tabulate and report the totals of absentee and advance ballots by precinct.

MATH & SCIENCE TEACHERS:

[HB 280](#), addresses the state's shortage of math and science teachers. The bill would provide more compensation for new math and science teachers that are certified by the Professional Standards Commission and are teaching in secondary schools. They would start at a step four salary level which is equivalent to six years of credible service and \$4,500 more than a starting teacher's salary. Another provision requires they show that student achievement increased every year to keep the step pay raise.

Additionally, a kindergarten or elementary school teacher in a local school system who receives an endorsement in mathematics, science, or both from the Professional Standards Commission shall receive a stipend of \$1,000.00 per endorsement for each year each such endorsement is in effect. This would last up to a maximum of five years and would take effect in 2010.

STUDENT HEALTH:

morning of Saturday, March 14th. Under the direction of skilled professionals, we will provide no-cost repairs to low-income senior or disabled homeowners, including roof repair, plumbing, weather stripping, and floor reinforcement.

[Click here for details and to RSVP](#)

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 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.

HB 300 would require schools to provide certain student health information to the student's guardian.

MORTGAGE LICENSING:

HB 312 would incorporate provisions of the federal SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 into state financial institutions law.

SICKLE CELL INFORMATION:

HB 184 would require sickle cell disease information to be provided when obtaining a marriage license. The bill was also amended to authorize the governor, lieutenant governor and top legislative leaders to perform marriage ceremonies.

Legislation in Committees:

WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

SB 155 - The Georgia Water Coalition has dubbed this bill "The Stream Buffer Destruction Bill." Department of Natural Resources rules, reflecting current Georgia law, require 25-foot buffers along Georgia's streams, tributaries, creeks, and even the smallest waterways, in order to protect Georgia's waters from increases in contamination from over-development. These rules also help insure cleaner water resources downstream. This bill seeks to relax these rules by exempting "unnamed tributaries" throughout Georgia. The Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee was scheduled to hear this bill last week, but it was pulled from the agenda.

TREATMENT OF ANIMALS:

HB 606, which I have co-sponsored, would provide humane methods for euthanasia of animals and training of certain persons authorized to euthanize animals.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT FEE

SB 91, which calls for a \$5 entrance fee to be charged those entering adult entertainment venues, was passed favorably by the Senate Finance Committee on March 5. Funds collected would be used for the treatment of victims of crimes under this bill. It now awaits being placed on the calendar of the full Senate by the Senate Rules Committee.

MORE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

DOCTOR OF THE DAY:

On Thursday, I was pleased to host Dr. Maria "Alex" Schiaffino, a resident of House District 53, as Doctor of the Day in the House of Representatives. Dr. Schiaffino has practiced family medicine in the Atlanta area for the past 10 years and now works for Kaiser Permanente at its Town Park facility in Kennesaw.

REVENUE ESTIMATE:

Work continues on the annual budget for FY 2010. This week, the governor lowered his revenue estimate for that budget to \$18.57 billion, an 8 percent cut. After some original hesitation, the governor announced he has decided to accept federal stimulus money for the state's unemployment trust fund - which will mean another \$150 million to help pay jobless benefits for Georgians who have been laid off. The governor also said he has abandoned his effort to impose a 1.6 percent provider tax on hospitals and health insurers, because of opposition from lawmakers.

www.ellydobbs.com

Your online legislative source

Visit www.ellydobbs.com to stay up to date on the Georgia General Assembly throughout the legislative session.

JOB HUNTING RESOURCES

E-mail

Senior Analyst-Chronic Disease and Environmental Health

The National Association of County and City Health Officials

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to: NACCHO, 1170 17th Street NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20036, fax 202-783-1583, Attn: Senior Analyst-Chronic Disease/Environmental Health

E-mail

Professional Early Education Substitute Teacher Program

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

March 23-27, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Link to website

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>

INTERNSHIPS

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

The Democratic Party of Georgia is currently accepting Intern applications for the spring semester. For more information visit the party [website](#).

The White House Project Women Helping Women Win Internship Program - To apply please send your resume and cover letter to [Stacey Chavis](#). The subject line should be Capitol Internship: Your Name.

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](#)

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. For more information, visit her web site at www.ellydobbs.com.
Newsletter email: newsletters@wordexpress.info
phone: 404.656.7859
web: <http://www.ellydobbs.com>

Forward email



This email was sent to elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov by newsletters@wordexpress.info.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



