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Census Assistance

Having questions or need assistance with filling out your census you can call the following contact numbers: Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA)
 English: 1-866-872-6868; Chinese: 1-866-935-2010;
 Korean: 1-866-955-2010; Russian: 1-866-965-2010;
 Spanish: 1-866-928-2010;
 Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010; TDD (Telephone Display Device for the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010

From the website...**Homebuyer's Tax Credit ending soon**

If you or someone you know wants to take advantage of the Homebuyer's Tax Credit, now's the time. The buyer must be under contract by April 30, 2010 and close no later than June 30, 2010.

More information...**State Representative Elly Dobbs***GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT*

April 6, 2010

Greetings!

I hope that you are enjoying our magnificent spring. We are blessed to have a city that rivals other with our flowering trees, shrubs and flowers. I am enjoying the blossoming red bud tree outside my window as I type this newsletter. The General Assembly is in official recess until Monday, April 12. Only seven legislative days are left in the session, with plenty of unfinished business, including the budget for the remainder of fiscal year 2010 and the annual budget for fiscal year 2011. Both remain to be addressed. A few bills passed the House last week, and some are summarized below.



Feel free to circulate this email to friends and neighbors. You can subscribe to our newsletter by emailing newsletters@wordexpress.info or visiting my web site at <http://www.ellydobbs.com>. I also welcome any submissions for news stories or community events and information that would be interesting to those in our District. Please forward them to my email address at elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov.

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 Approved by the House of Representatives**

Bullying Bill: The House of Representatives voted last Tuesday to approve legislation that would require school officials to notify parents when their child is involved as either the victim or instigator of bullying.

Under an amended version of [SB 250](#), the state Department of Education would have until January 2011 to develop an anti-bullying policy that can serve as a model for local school systems.

The policies would include age-appropriate consequences for bullying in grades K-12. Current policies deal with bullying only in grades 6-12.

The measure passed as an amendment to legislation dealing with disruptive behavior on school buses. SB 250 now goes back to the Senate for final action.

In other action last week, House members approved:

Financial Reporting: [SB 206](#), which would require the Department of Audits and Accounts to conduct a yearly review of the financial impact of tax breaks and exemptions on the state budget and provide a report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for inclusion in his annual budget report. SB 206 goes back to the Senate for final approval of House changes to the bill.



Join Crime Stoppers Atlanta

Help solve crime in our community - join Crime Stoppers Atlanta today! Serving all of Metro Atlanta, call 404-586-0180. If you witness a crime, call 404-557-TIPS (8477).

[More information...](#)

Name Change: [SB 296](#), which would change the name of the Office of Treasury and Fiscal Services to the Office of the State Treasurer.

Textbook Definition: [SB 319](#), which would expand the definition of textbooks to include computer hardware and technical equipment to support the use of non-printed or digital content.

HOPE Scholarship Residential Requirement: [SB 341](#), which would require recipients of the \$500 HOPE Scholarship voucher awarded to high school dropouts who obtain their GED and want to continue their studies to have lived in Georgia for at least 12 months. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

Other Legislation to Follow

Hospital Tax Update: Like the House did a week earlier, the Senate voted April 1 to approve Gov. Perdue's proposal for a 1.45 percent "bed tax" increase on Georgia hospitals, a plan that would bring in approximately \$169 million in new tax revenue in an effort to offset the state's Medicaid deficit. The Senate amended [HB 307](#) to repeal the state's insurance premium tax sometime in the future when the state's reserve fund exceeds \$500 million.

But the next day, House Speaker David Ralston announced he would rule the Senate amendment as non-germane, sending the issue back to the Senate and into an uncertain future.

"I am disappointed they amended the bill in a way to include a change that is likely unconstitutional and non-germane to the underlying bill," the Speaker said. "This is not a time to make last minute changes to major legislation by adopting proposals which have not had a thorough discussion."

Trauma Care: [SR 277](#), a proposed constitutional amendment will impose a \$10 vehicle tag registration fee, the proceeds to be used to fund the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund. Having passed the Senate in 2009, the resolution passed favorably out of the House Ways and Means Committee and must be scheduled for a vote by the whole House.

Remember to send in 2010 Census form

This year, the federal government is conducting the 2010 Census. The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted, including both citizens and non-citizens. The census is important for a number of reasons. It will determine state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts. Census data also guides planning for new hospitals, roads, job training centers, schools and other programs essential to communities. Your participation is particularly important in this year's census. Georgia is poised to pick up one or two congressional seats, expanding our representation in Congress.

You should have received your census questionnaire by mail sometime last month. If you do not receive a questionnaire, you will be able to pick one up from several public sites. Households should complete and mail back questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit homes that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

I encourage everyone to participate in the 2010 Census. It is critically important and only takes a few minutes.

[More information...](#)

Elly's Legislation

[Click here](#) to review 2009-10 legislation sponsored or co-sponsored by Rep. Elly Dobbs.

Quick Links

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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.

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