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C.A.R.E. Clinic**Georgia International Convention Center**

2000 Convention Center Concourse
College Park, GA

Saturday, March 27
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the National Association of Free Clinics and the Georgia Free Clinic Network, the Communities Are Responding Everywhere (C.A.R.E.) Clinic will provide free care to Georgia's uninsured. Medical and non-medical volunteers are needed.

[Click here to register and learn more...](#)

No Health Insurance?**Free Health Clinic for the Uninsured**

Georgia International Convention Center
2000 Convention Center Concourse
College Park, GA

State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 15, 2010

Greetings!

Tuesday, March 16, will be the 25th legislative day of the 2010 session of the Georgia General Assembly. This past week was a busy week at the Capitol. Several important bills passed the House, and disappointing revenue figures were released. This past week, the House also honored the late Thomas B. Murphy, who served as Speaker of the House from 1974 to 2002. His portrait was unveiled, and it will be displayed in a prominent place in the Capitol. We also hosted over 170 Girl Scouts from around the state. I was honored to present a resolution recognizing March 12 as Girl Scout Day at the Capitol, marking the 98th anniversary of Girl Scouting. Please note the free health clinic for those who are uninsured on Saturday, March 27.



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**

The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to approve legislation that calls for statewide water conservation measures. The sponsor of [HB 1094](#) said the measure would help Georgia in its continuing negotiations with Florida and Alabama over the allocation of water from Lake Lanier.

The legislation phases in by 2012 requirements for the installation of low-flow plumbing devices in new residential and commercial buildings and includes an outdoor watering restriction similar to the statewide regulation in effect during recent drought conditions. Outdoor watering would not be allowed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local governments would be prohibited from enacting stricter outdoor water restrictions unless they receive authorization from the state Environmental Protection Division.

The Senate passed similar legislation the same day, and the measure is expected to be signed into law relatively quickly.

Local School Boards: House members voted Monday to approve legislation that would give the governor the authority to remove local school board members in systems that lose or are threatened with the loss of accreditation. [SB 84](#) would also require local school boards to develop an ethics policy and prohibit members



30337

Saturday, March 27
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Call 877-233-5159 to register. You must register. Walk-ins will be seen only on a limited basis, with no guarantee unless you have an appointment. Parking will be free. Please note: This event is for those WITHOUT insurance. Recipients of Medicare, Medicaid or Veterans Administration benefits are not eligible. If you are taking medications, please bring your medicine bottles.

Along with Clocks, Change Smoke Alarm Batteries

Daylight Saving Time returned at 2 a.m. Sunday, and fire safety officials are reminding metro Atlantans that the time change is a good time to change smoke detector batteries. Smoke alarms increase your family's chance of getting out of a home fire alive. Last year, there were 15 Georgia fire fatalities in homes with no smoke detectors, and two fatalities involving non-working detectors, according to the state's insurance and safety fire commissioner.

Earth Hour

from using the office to get special privileges, advantages or employment for the board member or family members. The amended legislation now goes back to the Senate for final approval.

Food Safety: On Tuesday, the House approved legislation aimed at strengthening food safety. [HB 883](#) would require food processing plants to have a written food safety plan and make it a misdemeanor to fail to report problematic test results. Under the bill, knowingly introducing a tainted substance into finished food or food ingredients at a plant would be a felony with penalties of up to 20 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine for violations. HB 883 now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

Other legislation approved by the House and sent to the Senate last week included:

[HB 180](#), which would change current law and allow tattooing around the eye socket, if the procedure is performed by a physician or appropriately licensed technician.

[HB 706](#), which would require county governments to grant first rights of purchase to original owners or their next of kin before selling condemned property.

[HB 984](#), which would repeal a provision in state law that allows county and city governments to adopt a local income tax.

[HB 1002](#), which would increase penalties against those who commit aggravated assault against judges, attorneys, clerks of court, deputy clerks, court reporters and probation officers while they are performing their official duties.

[HB 1015](#), which would add new offenses to be enforced under the Georgia Street Gang and Terrorism Prevention Act.

[HB 1073](#), which would allow uniformed and overseas voters to request absentee ballots by electronic transmission.

[HB 1135](#), which would authorize the Department of Transportation to enter into multiyear contracts.

Budget Update & Pending Legislation

Milton County Proposal: Legislation that would change an area of north Fulton County back to Milton County was approved by a 9-7 vote in the House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee on Thursday. There is significant opposition to this proposal because of the negative effect it would have on Fulton County's tax base. They also point out the costs to Georgia taxpayers to create a 160th county and that residents are already receiving all proposed services as citizens of Fulton County. As a constitutional amendment, [HR 21](#) would require two-thirds approval by both the House and Senate, which appears unlikely considering the close vote in committee.

Governor Slams Hospitals: In the wake of the February revenue report, which showed a decline in state tax collections for the 15th consecutive month, Gov. Perdue announced Thursday he is lowering his revenue estimate for the current fiscal year and transferring \$342 million in federal stimulus funds from the fiscal year 2011 budget to help pay the bills for the remainder of the current year. To fill the resulting 2011 budget hole, the governor is calling for \$96 million in new fee increases and slashing Medicaid reimbursements to Georgia hospitals by 10.25 percent. Along with removing the sales tax exemption on purchases by non-profit hospitals, the governor's plan will cost the Georgia health care community a total of \$274 million. These cuts will have a devastating impact on the delivery of health care in our state and some hospitals that are now troubled financially may have to close their doors. Closing these hospitals would increase the number of unemployed in Georgia and place an even greater burden on our health care system.

State Fee Increases: The House Appropriations Committee chairman is promoting a proposal to authorize state departments that currently charge user fees to raise them without legislative approval. Such legislation would strip elected representatives of any oversight over the level of fees the state charges citizens for various services and placing that power in the hands of agency bureaucrats.

Atlanta

Saturday, March 27
8:30 - 9:30 p.m.
During World Wildlife Fund's global event, residents and businesses are asked to pledge "lights out" for one hour. Energy conservation has a lasting impact on air quality, economic development and water supply, all critical issues for Atlanta. Because lighting is a visible energy user, it's a good way to encourage people to be mindful of energy use. Please mark your calendar and show your support for our environment.

More information...



Elly Dobbs in Action at the State Capitol

Rep. Dobbs discusses key legislation with fellow Rep. Kevin Levitas (D-Atlanta) on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Dobbs joins House Speaker David Ralston (R- Blue Ridge) at the Legislative Fundraiser, which brought in \$46,000 for Haiti earthquake relief.



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

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