

[<Back](#) [Print](#)**In this issue...**

- [Legislation Approved by the House of Representatives](#)
- [Other Capitol News](#)
- [Make the pledge, spread the word, Earth Hour Atlanta is March 27](#)
- [Elly's Legislation](#)

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 30337

Saturday, March 27

State Representative Elly Dobbs*GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT*

March 22, 2010

Greetings!

Monday, March 22, will be the 28th legislative day of the 2010 session of the Georgia General Assembly, the start of a busy week at the Capitol. This Thursday will be Day 30 of the legislative session and is known as "cross-over day." This is the final day for the House and Senate to pass legislation in time for it to be considered by the other legislative body. Since this is the second year of the two-year term, any legislation not passed by the end of Day 30 will not be considered and will need to be refiled as new legislation next year.



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 legislative process picked up this week, with numerous bills approved by the House and sent to the Senate, including the following:

[HB 571](#), which would change portions of the state's sex offender laws that have been rejected by recent court decisions. The legislation would allow low-risk inmates to petition the courts to be removed from the sex offender registry after completing their sentences, including those who are disabled, confined to hospice care or who were convicted in "Romeo and Juliet" cases of consensual teen sex. A judge could approve or deny the petition.

[HB 788](#), which would prohibit animal shelters from using carbon monoxide to euthanize stray dogs and cats. Only lethal injections would be allowed for euthanasia in shelters.

[HB 965](#), which would authorize local governments to choose whether they want to allow bicycle riding on their sidewalks and also to require motorists to yield to bicycles when they are required to yield to pedestrians.

[HB 979](#), which would increase the penalties for assault and battery on a member of a law enforcement agency's explorer program.

[HB 982](#), which would make it easier for the Department of Revenue to garnish the wages of persons who are delinquent in paying their taxes.

[HB 1093](#), which would require city and county governments to furnish the state Department of Revenue with information about businesses that are licensed locally. The department would then cross-check that information against its



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.

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. Most of you should have already received the Census in the mail. If you do not receive a questionnaire by the end of March, you can 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

records to crack down on businesses that are not submitting sales tax to the state. This is a step in the right direction toward increasing state revenues that are now going uncollected.

[HB 1106](#), which would require animal shelter personnel to scan dogs and cats for implanted microchip identification prior to euthanizing the animal.

[HB 1188](#), which would allow the Department of Revenue to hire up to 10 tax agents trained as state-certified law enforcement officers to handle tax fraud and theft cases.

[HB 1332](#), which would block law enforcement agencies from distributing certain explicit crime scene photos of victims. Credentialed journalists would be able to inspect the photos under supervision by GBI personnel but not copy or publish them.

Water Bill Sent to Governor: The House gave final approval to [SB 370](#), which is the Senate version of legislation that would implement a number of water conservation measures, including requirements for low-flow plumbing devices in newly constructed homes and buildings, an outdoor watering restriction and other measures. The bill, which is similar to [HB 1094](#) passed earlier by the House, now goes to the governor for his signature.

Other Capitol News

Transportation Funding: The House Transportation Committee approved [HB 1218](#), which would allow voters to consider a transportation sales tax on a regional basis in 12 special districts around the state. The committee's version of the bill includes an opt-out provision for regions and counties, which Gov. Perdue has said would cause him to veto the legislation. HB 1218 now awaits a vote on the House floor.

State of the Judiciary: Chief Justice Carol Hunstein of the Supreme Court of Georgia addresses a joint legislative session on Tuesday, reminding lawmakers of the serious consequences that deep funding cuts in the court system are having on public safety and business in our state. The chief justice said judicial budget cuts have contributed to a considerable backlog of criminal and civil cases in Superior Courts around the state. She quoted the Wall Street Journal as recently reporting, "The wheels of justice in Georgia are grinding more slowly each day."

Record Unemployment: Georgia's jobless rate climbed to 10.5 percent in February, up from 10.4 percent in January and 8.7 percent in February 2009. There was a significant decrease in first-time unemployment insurance claims for the month, which indicates Georgia's job market may be bottoming out, state Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond said.

Make the pledge, spread the word, Earth Hour Atlanta is March 27

Earth Hour Atlanta will join World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) global event on Saturday, March 27, from 8:30- 9:30 pm, by asking residents and businesses 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. Make your pledge at www.myeearthhour.org.

For local information on Earth Hour Atlanta visit www.SoutheastGreen.com under Green News with updates posted at www.twitter.com/EarthHourATL. The local buildings contact is Laura Thomas, 404.736.3652, laura@su.stainableatlanta.org.

By turning off non-essential lighting for one hour, Earth Hour, people around the world send a call to action on climate change. Led by the WWF, Earth Hour has grown into an annual phenomenon. Each year, individuals, organizations, businesses, and state and local governments turn off lights in homes, workplaces

critically important and only takes a few minutes.

[More information...](#)

and at iconic landmarks. Nearly one billion people turned out for Earth Hour 2009 involving 4,100 cities in 87 countries on seven continents. In the U.S. 80 million Americans and 318 cities went dark for Earth Hour, including more than 400 metro Atlanta buildings.

Activities include the Earth Hour Family Fun Festival on Saturday, March 27 at Atlantic Station from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. plus restaurant viewing parties and children's poster contest.

Elly's Legislation

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

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. 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](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

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

Email Marketing by



Rep. Elly Dobbs | 512 Coverdell Office Building | Atlanta | GA | 30334