

Georgia Baptist Legislative Overview 2015



These were bills of importance to the GBC - either to support or defeat. Bills that have not yet passed can still be voted on during the 2016 session, so vigilance and action are needed.

Religious Liberty

1. S.B. 129 Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act by Sen. Josh McKoon (passed Senate)
2. H.B. 218 Preventing Government Overreach on Religious Expression Act by Rep. Sam Teasley

Gambling

3. H.R. 1 Horse Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering by Rep. Harry Geisinger (now deceased)
4. H.B. 2 Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing prefiled by Rep. Harry Geisinger (now deceased)
5. S.R. 135 Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing by Sen. Brandon Beech
6. H.R. 5 Casino Poker Rooms by Rep. Keisha Weites
7. H.B. 677 Casino Gambling/Hope Scholarships by Rep. Ron Stephens
8. H.R. 807 Statewide Casino Gambling Resolution by Rep. Ron Stephens
9. H.R. 811 Casino Gambling Study Committee by Rep. Rusty Kidd
10. S.R. 123 General Assembly; authorize to provide by general law for casino gambling within each county and each municipal corporation approved by referendum by Sen. Horacena Tate
11. S.R. 143 Resolution on Pari-mutuel Horse Racing by Sen. Curt Thompson

Marijuana

12. H.B. 1 Haleigh's Hope Act by Rep. Alan Peake (signed into law)
13. S.B. 185 Clinical Trials of Cannabidiol by Sen. Lindsey Tippins
14. S.R. 6 Constitutional Amendment; Legalizes Marijuana for 21-Year-Olds & Older by Pre-filed resolution by Sen. Curt Thompson
15. S.B. 7 Controlled Substances Therapeutic Relief Act by Sen. Curt Thompson

Sex Trafficking

16. S.R. 7 Safe Harbor Fund by Sen. Renee Unterman (signed into law)
17. S.B. 8 Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission by Sen. Renee Unterman (signed into law)
18. H.B. 244 Safe Harbor/Rachel's Law Act by Rep. Chuck Efstrotation

19. H.B. 17 Bill to extend the statute of limitations for civil lawsuits for childhood sexual abuse by Rep. Jason Spencer (signed into law)

Life Issue

20. H.B. 19 Organ Donor Cards by Rep. Terry Rogers

21. S.B. 39 Woman's Right to Know Revision by Sen. Nan Orrock

22. S.B. 109 Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment by Sen. Nan Orrock (signed into law)

23. H.B. 429 No denying insurance coverage treatment based upon terminal condition by Rep. Ron Stephens (signed into law)

24. H.B. 287 Ethical Treatment of Human Embryos Act by Rep. Tom Kirby

25. H.B. 555 Reporting of certain statistics regarding juveniles seeking abortions by Rep. Joyce Chandler

26. H.B. 171 Georgia law for Georgia Courts by Rep. Dusty Hightower

Education

27. S.R. 80 Resolution to Promote Competition to College Board and to Return to Traditional Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) by Sen. William Ligon (passed Senate)

28. S.B. 116 Celebrate Freedom Bill by Sen. William Ligon (passed amended to another bill and signed into law)

29. S.R. 388 Resolution to allow religious/faith based organization to receive public aid by Sen. Bill Heath

Alcohol

30. S.B. 91 Distance requirements for sale of alcohol between schools and stores by Sen. Tyler Harper (passed amended to another bill)

31. H.B. 535 "The Sunday Brunch Bill" to begin alcohol sales at 10:30 AM by Rep. Brett Harrell (passed the House)

32. S.B. 63 Brewery Sales Bill by Sen. Hunter Hill (signed into law)

33. H.B. 34 Alcoholic beverage sales on Sunday during Saint Patrick's Day holiday by Rep. Jessie Petrea (passed the House)

34. S.B. 127 Ethics in Government; provide for waivers of certain civil penalties and fees incurred by candidates for local elected office by Rep. Rick Jeffares (stopped on 40th day)