

Plumbing and Mechanical Association of Georgia

Legislative Report

February 1, 2008

The Georgia General Assembly recessed today and will re-convene at 1 PM Tuesday, February 5 for the 11th legislative day.

Retrofit issues on the table.

A House “leadership bill” dealing with reservoirs and water conservation will likely be introduced next week. Indications are that the bill will provide incentives for retrofitting old high volume toilets with either the High Efficiency or Low Flow units. The Atlanta Regional Commission is also drafting legislation, but it apparently will limit incentives to retrofits with the High Efficiency toilets.

Other bills of interest.

HB 661: Burkhalter of Alpharetta – would create a workers compensation records inquiry service so that health insurers could match their claims against workers compensation claims. Provides no corresponding service for workers compensation insurers or self insurers. Would lead to higher workers compensation costs for employers. Still in House Insurance Committee.

HB 895: Levitas of Atlanta – would provide a “sales tax holiday” certain water efficient products, including High Efficiency toilets. Referred to Ways & Means Committee.

HB 901: Bruce of Atlanta – would require employers to provide leave for employees to attend school conferences and for medical appointments of children or parents. Still in House Industrial Relations Committee.

HB 947: Drenner of Atlanta -- to provide a tax credit of up to \$100 for replacement of inefficient plumbing fixtures with modern, efficient fixtures. Still in Ways & Means.

HB 979: Richardson of Hiram – would implement the GREAT plan, replacing the school portion of property taxes on homesteads with a new sales tax on consumer services. Hearings underway in a House Ways & Means subcommittee.

HB 1022: Porter of Dublin would codify the Statewide Water Plan and conform planning regions to river basins. Referred to Natural Resources Committee.

HR 1022: Smith of Newnan – a resolution to ratify the Statewide Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Approved by the House favorably reported by Senate Rules Committee.

SB 343: Pearson of the 51st – would create the Water Conservation and Drought Relief Act relating to issuance of permits, certifications, and construction of new public water reservoirs. Referred to Senate Natural Resources Committee.

SB 374: Weber of Dunwoody – would change provisions related to materialmen and mechanics liens. Referred to Special Judiciary Committee.

SR 687: Seabaugh of Sharpsburg – a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing local taxing jurisdictions to wholly or partially replace ad valorem taxation with a one percent sales and use tax. Referred to Senate Finance Committee.

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