

Plumbing and Mechanical Association of Georgia

Legislative Report

January 25, 2008

The Georgia General Assembly will reconvene for its 6th legislative day Monday after taking a week-long recess for budget hearings

Retrofit issues on the table.

Governor Sonny Perdue is reportedly considering numerous approaches to water conservation. At this point the Administration does not support tax incentives for those who replace old high volume toilets, but that could change as all the alternatives are considered.

Meanwhile, Rep. Karla Drenner has introduced legislation to provide a tax credit of up to \$100 for those who replace old inefficient plumbing fixtures with modern, efficient fixtures. HB 947 allows the credit for low flow toilets of 1.6 gallons per flush until the year 2014. After that, the credit would be available only for retrofits of high efficiency toilets with a flow of 1.28 gallons.

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. Referred to House Insurance 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. Referred to House Industrial Relations Committee.

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.

HR 1022” Smith of Newnan – a resolution to ratify the Statewide Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Approved by the House and a companion resolution, SR 701, approved by the Senate.

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.

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.

###