

Plumbing and Mechanical Association of Georgia

Legislative Report

March 15, 2010

The General Assembly recessed March 11 and will return Tuesday, March 16, for the 25th legislative day. Budget concerns are dominating the 2010 legislative session and affecting all bills with even a perceived impact on state revenues.

No action on sprinkler or lien law bills.

SB 362 remains in the Senate Special Judiciary Committee, and no hearing has been scheduled. The bill would eliminate provisions that a mechanic or materialman who has executed a waiver and release upon payment shall be presumed to have received payment if no affidavit of nonpayment is filed within a 60 days.

HB 1196 has been withdrawn from the State Planning Committee and recommitted to the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee chaired by Rep. Tom McCall. This bill would stipulate that no building code may require fire sprinklers in single family dwellings. Strong opposition to the bill has surfaced, with a contingent of fire chiefs calling on the sponsor this week.

With only five legislative days remaining before the crossover deadline, both SB 362 and HB 1196 have little opportunity to pass this session.

Panel adopts substitute water bill.

Both the House and Senate have passed slightly different versions of the Administration's water resource management bill. Both SB 370 and HB 1094 continue to focus on residential and commercial water conservation measures.

Hearings continue on transportation bill.

After hours of hearings, a special subcommittee has passed an amended version of the Administration's transportation funding bill. Yet another hearing was held before the full House Transportation Committee this week. HB 1218 would allow special transportation districts to decide by referendum whether to levy a one cent sales tax to fund transportation projects.

Bill status report.

HB 953 – Smith of Newnan: to exempt from sales and use tax certain energy efficient products and water efficient products from October 1 through October 10, 2010. Still in Ways & Means Committee.

HB 1016 – Golick of Smyrna: to include businesses as potential victims of identity theft. Passed House and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 1069 – Wilkinson of Dunwoody: would provide tax credits for qualified equipment that reduces business or domestic energy or water use. Still in Ways & Means.

HB 1076 -- Dodson of Clayton County: would repeal provisions relating to the licensing of residential and general contractors. Still in Regulated Industries Committee.

HB 1173 – Ashe of Atlanta: to change definitions related to local government code enforcement boards. Referred to State Planning & Community Affairs Committee.

HB 1206 – Maddox of Zebulon: would change provisions relating to the requirement for a water well contractor's license and drilling under the direction of a professional geologist or engineer. Referred to Natural Resources Committee.

HB 1277 – Collins of Gwinnett: relating to employment-at-will, to make it unlawful to an employer to discriminate against an individual because of the individual's credit history or credit report. Referred to House Industrial Relations.

HR 1293 – Dodson of Clayton County: a resolution calling for a study committee on the licensing of residential and general contractors. Still in Regulated Industries Committee.

HB 1301 – McCall of Elberton: would restrict inter-basin transfers of water and amend water use permit requirements. Still in House Natural Resources Committee.

SB 148 – Shafer of Duluth: carryover bill from 2009, to provide for review and evaluation of existing occupational regulatory entities. Passed Senate and referred to House Regulated Industries Committee.

SB 321 – Pearson of Dawsonville: to provide for private ownership of new public water supply reservoirs. Favorably reported by Senate Natural Resources Committee.

SB 339 – Seabaugh of Sharpsburg: to make it unlawful to disqualify a licensed utility contractor from doing work on a utility system on the basis that the utility contractor does not hold a general contractor license. Passed Senate and referred to House Regulated Industries Committee.

SB 346 – Rogers of Woodstock: to make comprehensive revisions in property tax law, providing more transparency and equity for property owners. Passed Senate.

SB 462 – Butterworth of Cornelia: to provide for permitting interbasin transfers of water. Referred to Senate Natural Resources.

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