

Plumbing and Mechanical Association of Georgia

Legislative Report

March 29, 2010

The General Assembly has now completed 30 of its 40 legislative days, and all bills which have not passed their House of origin are dead. The legislature will meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week, and will be in recess next week.

Sprinkler and lien law bills still alive.

A substitute version of SB 362 cleared the Senate on the 30th day deadline and now awaits committee assignment in the House of Representatives. As passed by the Senate, SB 362 retains the 60-day deadline for a subcontractor to file an affidavit of non-payment. However, the bill eliminates the requirement that the claim of lien be filed with the county. Instead the subcontractor would send an affidavit of non-payment by registered or certified mail or statutory overnight delivery to the owner of the property or to the contractor as agent for the owner.

HB 1196 passed the House last week and is now in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee. This bill would stipulate that no building code may require fire sprinklers in single family dwellings.

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. Remained in Ways & Means Committee and is now dead.

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. Passed House and now in Senate Finance Committee.

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

HB 1173 – Ashe of Atlanta: to change definitions related to local government code enforcement boards. Remained in State Planning & Community Affairs Committee and now dead.

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. Passed House and now in Senate Natural Resources Committee.

HB 1218 – Cole of Forsyth: Administration bill to provide new funding for transportation. Would provide for special transportation districts to decide by referendum whether to levy a one cent sales tax to fund transportation projects. Remained in House Rules Committee and is now dead. However, a House/Senate conference committee appointed on bills passed by both chambers last year can still resurrect this issue.

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. Remained in House Industrial Relations and is now dead.

HR 1293 – Dodson of Clayton County: a resolution calling for a study committee on the licensing of residential and general contractors. Favorably reported by Regulated Industries Committee but did not come out of Rules Committee. Now dead.

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

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. Passed Senate and now in House 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 and now in House Ways & Means Committee.

SB 370 – Tolleson of Perry: Administration bill to implement state-wide water management plan. Focuses on commercial and residential conservation, including installation of high efficiency plumbing fixtures in new construction.

SB 460 – Hill of Marietta: Would require contractors on public works projects to use only those subcontractors who use the federal employment verification system. Favorably reported by Senate Regulated Industries Committee but remained on general calendar and is now dead.

SB 462 – Butterworth of Cornelia: to provide for permitting interbasin transfers of water. Remained in Senate Natural Resources and now dead.

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