

CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGISLATION REVIEW

STATE OF GEORGIA

1980 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

U.S. Department of Justice 78448 National Institute of Justice

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> Prepared By State Crime Commission August, 1980

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ACQUISITIONS

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FOREWORD

The <u>Criminal Justice Legislation Review</u> contains analyses of the legislation enacted by the 1980 Georgia General Assembly which impacts the foundation and operation of our criminal justice system. The purpose of this publication is to afford criminal justice practitioners, state and local government officials, and interested members of the general public an opportunity to review the content of such legislation. This analysis is the first of what will be an annual review of criminal justice legislation in Georgia.

Each major piece of legislation is analyzed in a similar manner. The first paragraph outlines the purposes of the legislation and "what the law says." The second paragraph provides insights as to what the law is expected to do, or how it affects a particular facet of the criminal justice system. The third paragraph explains the background of the legislation, or "where it comes from." The analyses are presented in the following order: House Bills, Senate Bills, House Resolutions, and Senate Resolutions.

In addition to the synoptic review of the major legislation passed and signed into law by the Governor, legislation of local interest is listed in numerical order, by the originating Chamber, along with the title of the Act. Because of the local, rather than statewide impact of this legislation, no analysis is included.

Legislation was reviewed and analyzed by staff members of the State Crime Commission, and is a product of the in-depth study which was conducted in preparation of the Governor's Criminal Justice Legislative package which was introduced during the 1980 General Assembly. Each piece of legislation forming that package has been identified as an Administration Bill in the synopsis.

It is hoped that this publication, by better informing the public officials and citizens of Georgia, will help bring about a greater understanding and belief in the laws of our State and thus insure their successful implementation and use.

WILLIAM D. KELLEY, JR. ADMINISTRATOR

The 1980 Georgia General Assembly considered legislation which was carried over from the 1979 session, as well as new legislation introduced in 1980. Laws and Resolutions resulting from this legislation which has an impact on a state-wide basis upon the criminal justice system are reviewed in this publication. Acts and Resolutions of a localized nature are also listed for the convenience of interested persons.

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The House considered 1,366 Bills. Of these, 596 were passed, 586 were signed into law by the Governor, and 52 are reviewed in this publication. Additionally, 143 Local Bills are listed. The House also introduced 765 Resolutions, 499 were adopted, and four of these are reviewed. Also listed are 12 Resolutions of a local nature.

The Senate introduced 451 Bills, of which 170 were passed, and 165 were signed into law by the Governor. Twenty-one of these new laws are reviewed herein. Additionally, 284 Resolutions were introduced in the Senate, with 184 of them passing. Nine of these Résolutions are reviewed, and 28 of a local nature are listed.

The Governor introduced a major Criminal Justice Legislative Package into the General Assembly consisting of 24 Bills. Of these, 22 were passed into law and are reviewed. A major contribution was made by the State Crime Commission in the development of the Governor's proposals, and we are particularly gratified with the success achieved in having them passed into law.

Users of this publication can readily see the impact of the statewide criminal justice legislation which was enacted into law. With 52 House Bills and 4 House Resolutions, along with 21 Senate Bills and 9 Resolutions, criminal justice legislation affecting all the citizens of the State occupied a considerable amount of the General Assembly's deliberative time and effort. In addition, 171 Bills and Resolutions of a localized nature were passed. The real impact of this new legislation will be felt throughout the State as the various components of the criminal justice system become aware of them and they are implemented. This publication is an effort to contribute to that awareness.

INTRODUCTION

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HOUSE BILLS

HOUSE BILLS

H.B. 116 - POLICEMEN SUBPOENAED: FEES; ATTENDING HEARINGS - ACT 892

H.B. 116 amends Georgia Laws 1966, p. 502 (Ga. Code Ann. 38-801). It provides that any member of the Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, a municipal or county police force or any deputy sheriff who shall be required by writ of subpoena to attend any hearing or inquest held or called by a coroner, or small claims court involving any criminal matter, as a witness on behalf of the State during any hours except the regular duty hours to which the officer is assigned, shall be paid for such attendance at a rate fixed by the court.

H.B. 116 merely adds coroner's hearings/inquests and small claims court hearings regarding criminal matters to a list of other courts' proceedings for which certain law enforcement officers are to be paid witness fees for attending during off duty hours if they are subpoenaed as witnesses on behalf of the State. Consequently, effective July 1, 1980 these officers can receive a maximum fee of \$12 per day when serving as a witness on behalf of the State at a coroner's hearing/inquest or a small claims court hearing involving any criminal matter.

H.B. 116 is an apparent response to the problem of law enforcement officers having to testify at coroner's hearings/inquests and small claims court hearings regarding criminal matters without any compensation during their off duty hours.

H.B. 273 - TRIAL/ACCUSATION AND WAIVER: INDICTMENTS - ACT 898

H.B. 273 amends Georgia Code Chapter 27-704. It creates a new code section (27-2705) for trial of misdemeanors by accusation rather than by indictment. It clarifies procedures and standardizes the format for accusations. It sets forth that an accusation need not be supported by an affidavit unless the accusation is to be used as the basis for issuance of a warrant for arrest of the defendant. It sets forth that the defendant, in misdemeanor cases arising out of violations of the traffic laws of the State, may be tried upon the uniform traffic citation.

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H.B. 273 is basically a procedural bill which standardizes the prosecution of misdemeanors in superior, state, and county courts based upon accusation, and sets forth the form of an accusation. Accusation forms have varied from jurisdiction to jurisdiction as established by local laws; this bill provides standardization of format and content. It describes how amendments to accusations shall be made, and codifies that the uniform traffic citation may serve as

H.B. 273 responds to complaints of prosecutors concerning the wide divergence of format used in accusations and the need for an affidavit. The Supreme Court of Georgia previously had raised questions concerning the legality of accusations in state and county courts based upon local law. This bill clarifies and standarizes procedures in all misdemeanor cases in superior, state, and county courts.

H.B. 274 - SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES: EMPLOY LAW CLERKS - ACT 899

H.B. 274 amends Ga. Laws 1957, p. 273 (Ga. Code Ann. 24-26) and Ga. Laws 1961, p. 147 (Ga. Code Ann. 89-1201). It provides state funding for a law clerk for each judicial circuit in Georgia, to be hired by the chief judge of each circuit. It stipulates that such law clerk is to be in the State Merit System unclassified service, and a member of the State Bar or eligible to sit for the State Bar examination. It provides for such clerk to be covered by state health insurance, to receive annual salary increases voted other state employees, and to be eligible for local

H.B. 274 will provide a law clerk to each of the 42 judicial circuits in Georgia. This should result in a decrease of the present workload in each circuit, thus contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of judicial circuit operation. This bill provides the first assumption of costs for the law clerk program by the State, the initial cost being approximately \$690,000.

H.B. 274 responds to the recognition of the need for, and contribution of, law clerks to lighten the workload of trial judges by providing legal research, and performing other administrative duties. Previous efforts have been made to establish a law clerk for each superior court judge, rather than one for each circuit, and this appears to be a compromise because of the increased costs

H.B. 275 - SUPERIOR COURT SENIOR JUDGES: MAY BE NON-RESIDENT - ACT 900

H.B. 275 amends Ga. Laws 1945, p. 362 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 24-26A) by adding thereto a new Section 5C. It authorizes senior judges to become non-residents of this State and retain office as a senior judge despite non-residence, and to continue to receive retirement benefits as a senior judge. It further provides that no senior judge who is a non-resident shall preside in any court of the State while a nonresident. Its provisions apply only to senior judges who are 65 years of age or older, or who become disabled subsequent to their appointment as a senior judge.

H.B. 275 essentially provides the legal basis for certain senior judges to move out of the State, not forfeit their retirement benefits due to non-residence, and to continue the title of senior judge.

H.B. 275 responds to the needs of senior judges by allowing them mobility without fear of penalty for moving out of State. This bill addresses the continuation of title and retirement benefits upon which current law is silent.

H.B. 407 - DECEPTIVE PRACTICES: SALE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES -ACT 1291

H.B. 407 creates a new law. It is designed to prevent and prohibit fraudulent and deceptive practices in the sale of business opportunities (products, equipment, supplies, or services for the purpose of enabling the purchaser to start a business). It provides for disclosure statements containing specific information concerning the seller and the proper form and execution of those statements. It requires that a copy of the disclosure statement be provided to the prospective purchaser and the Administrator of the Fair Business Practices Act. It provides for written contracts and procedures by which the purchaser may void the contract and receive all sums paid to the seller from that seller or from the bond trust account, or escrow account required to be deposited as assurance that complete compliance with contract terms is achieved. It prohibits a business opportunity seller from: (1) making representations concerning the opportunity without documented data to substantiate the claims and without disclosing this data to the prospective purchaser; (2) using any commercial symbol of a business which does not accept responsibility for representations made by the seller regarding the opportunity unless it is clear that the owner of the symbol is not involved with such sale; and

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(3) making reference to compliance with this Act. It also provides that the Attorney General or appropriate District Attorney, having reason to believe that provisions of the Act are being violated by a seller, may obtain a restraining order or injunction to prohibit a seller from offering business opportunities for sale. It finally provides that failure to comply with the provisions of the Act will be a felony, punishable by imprisonment of not more than 5 years or a fine of up to \$50,000 or both.

H.B. 407 should result in a distinct reduction of the fraudulent sale of business opportunities and a consequent increase in the conviction of the parties associated with such fraud or at least their migration to a less restrictive state. It should also result in more assurance to consumers of their rights.

H.B. 407 apparently stems from an increasing incidence of seller schemes in which promises were made that a profit would accrue from the purchase of the business opportunity, with no subsequent profit accruing and the frequent disappearance of the seller. This legislation is an apparent effort to assure that such fraudulent practices are prosecuted. Prior law defined "consumer" as one purchasing for personal or household purposes and thus often left a business opportunity purchase outside of the reach of prosecution. This bill attempts to put some controls on those businesses which contact the consumer directly and try to sell that consumer a money-making scheme. Similar bills have been enacted in other states with great success and this one is modeled after those and a national model. This bill also seems to respond to the fact that each individual case usually involves a substantial investment and thus the subsequent loss is correspondingly higher than in other types of consumer fraud. This legislation was sponsored by the Georgia Office of Consumer Affairs.

ACT 905

H.B. 488 amends Ga. Laws 1956, p. 161, as amended (Ga. Code Ann. 77-312). It provides that counties which receive State funds for the maintenance of State prisoners assigned to County Correctional Institutions and, therefore, for the operation and maintenance of such institutions, may use such funds to supplant county funds or previous levels of county funding for county correctional institutions. This amendment does not alter the fact that county correctional institutions must meet and comply with all rules, regulations and requirements of the Board of Offender Rehabilitation as long as they confine prisoners sentenced to the custody of the State. It does not apply to county jails.

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H.B. 488 - STATE FUNDS TO COUNTIES: PRISONERS ASSIGNED TO COUNTIES -

H.B. 488 will essentially allow counties greater flexibility in the expenditure of State funds received for the incarceration of State prisoners in County Correctional Institutions. As a consequence of this flexibility, the operating budgets for county correctional institutions will probably be comprised of an increasing percentage of State funds and a decreasing percentage of county funds.

H.B. 488 responds to what the legislature perceived as an overly restrictive interpretation of prior law on the part of the Board of Offender Rehabilitation. The Board interpreted the prior code section to mean that counties could only supplement their funds with State funds received for State prisoners assigned to County Correctional Institutions. The new provision, which states that the county may supplant funds as well, specifically reflects the flexibility intended by the General Assembly.

H.B. 523 - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: ADD NEW CODE ON RESTITUTION - ACT 1332

H.B. 523 enacts Chapter 27-30. It essentially declares "restitution by those found guilty of crimes to their victims" to be the policy of the State and a primary concern of the criminal justice system, and authorizes restitution as an additional remedy in criminal and juvenile cases. More specifically, it authorizes courts of competent jurisdiction, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Department of Offender Rehabilitation (DOR) to order restitution as a condition of any relief* ordered by these entities. Further, it requires these entities, before granting any relief, to make written findings basically explaining why restitution was ordered or why it was not ordered. Finally, it specifies certain factors to be considered in determining the nature and amount of restitution to be ordered, clarifies the enforcement of restitution orders as civil judgements by execution, provides for payments to the clerk of court and declares that offenders shall not suffer from its provisions due to financial inability.

H.B. 523 should result in a significant increase in restitution orders issued to offenders. Since its provisions are permissive the frequency of use of restitution orders is unpredictable. The use of restitution orders may initially impose administrative difficulties and additional budget needs upon entities authorized to issue them. Nonetheless, the ultimate impact of H.B. 523 should be very positive. It should: (1) set a strong precedent for and result in more frequent compensation of victims by those (offenders) directly responsible for the losses of victims; and (2) encourage offenders to volunteer to pay restitution since the restitution orders are to correspond to any grant of relief the offender may receive "before, during or after" the serving of his sentence.

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H.B. 523 apparently responded to the increased general public acceptance of restitution as a policy which should be stressed more heavily within the criminal justice system. It has been successfully used in Georgia and other jurisdictions and provides a sentencing condition which can be beneficial to victims in recovering losses suffered as a result of criminal acts.

* Relief means any suspended or probated sentence including probation imposed under the First Offender Act, any parole or other conditional release from incarceration, the awarding of earned time, the reduction in security status or the placement in prison rehabilitation programs, included, but not limited to, those in which the offender receives monetary compensation.

H.B. 655 - SHERIFFS AND JAILERS: MISCONDUCT - LIABILITY - ACT 914

H.B. 655 amends Code Section 24-2812. It provides that sheriffs shall not be liable for the misconduct of county jailers unless: (1) the sheriff personally benefits financially from the act complained of; (2) the sheriff was personally aware of and had actual knowledge that the act was illegal, contrary to law or the breach of a duty imposed by law, and either acted to cause or failed to prevent the act complained of; or (3) the sheriff failed to exercise ordinary care and diligence to prevent the condition or act which proximately caused the injury complained of. Current law simply declares the sheriff liable for the misconduct of jailers regardless of mitigating or aggravating circumstances. H.B. 655 is a companion to H.B. 656.

H.B. 655 should result in less litigation because it narrows the scope of liability for sheriffs in the area of jailers' misconduct. It could also deter abuses in jails by making sheriffs more aware of the potential conditions which contribute to misconduct of jailers.

H.B 655 is an apparent response to the relatively large amount of litigation regarding county jail operations and the need to statutorily clarify the sheriffs' realistic legal responsibilities in the conduct of jail operations.

H.B. 656 - SHERIFF'S BOND: CONDITIONS OF LIABILITY - ACT 915

H.B. 656 amends Code Section 24-2805. It provides that no claim or cause of action shall exist against the bond, the security or the principal, of sheriffs, and no claim or cause of action for any indemnification by the security or the principal shall exist, unless: (1) the principal personally benefits financially from the act complained of; (2) the principal was personally aware of and had actual knowledge of the act, had actual knowledge that the act was illegal, contrary to law or the breach of a duty imposed by law, and either acted to cause or failed to prevent the act complained of; or (3) the principal failed to exercise ordinary care and diligence to prevent the condition or act which proximately caused the injury complained of. H.B. 656 is a companion to H.B. 655.

H.B. 656 should result in less litigation in the area of sheriff's liability for jailers' misconduct, since it expands the law to prevent an injured party from making a claim or cause of action on a sheriff's bond unless several conditions are met. It could also deter any existing abuses in jails by making sheriffs more aware of the potential conditions which contribute to misconduct of jailers.

H.B. 656 is an apparent response to the relatively large amount of litigations regarding county jail operations and the need to statutorily clarify the sheriffs' realistic legal responsibility in the conduct of jail operations.

H.B. 672 - CRIMINAL CASES: DEFENDANTS' DISCOVERY STATEMENTS -ACT 1333

H.B. 672 enacts Code Sections 27-1302 and 1303. It provides that the defendant, upon written request, is entitled to a copy of any statement given by him while in police custody, either orally or in writing, at least 10 days prior to trial. It states that failure of the prosecution to provide such statements will result in their exclusion and suppression from prosecutorial use. It also provides that the defendant, upon written request, is entitled to have a complete copy of any written scientific reports in the possession of the prosecution which will be introduced in the trial against the defendant. The same exclusion and suppression from evidentiary use by the prosecution will result from a failure to honor such request. It does not apply to newly discovered evidence.

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H.B. 672 should result in more equitable trials on the actual merits of the case and fewer trials utilizing a surprise element. It should result in increased availability of prior statements and scientific reports. It may cause an increase in trial preparation by the District Attorney, but should ultimately reduce the length of criminal trials.

H.B. 672 addresses the continuing issue of discovery in criminal cases, i.e., what evidence must be made available to the defendant prior to the trial. It is part of a continuing effort on the part of the District Attorneys' Association to clarify discovery issues in this State.

H.B. 688 - CHANGE NAME OF STATE CRIME LABORATORY TO THE DIVISION OF FORENSIC SCIENCES - ACT 916

H.B. 688 amends Georgia Laws 1972, p. 1015 (Ga. Code Ann. 40-35217). It changes the name of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's State Crime Laboratory to the Division of Forensic Sciences.

H.B. 688 should, by its name change provision, denote the full range of forensic services delivered by the State Crime Laboratory and thus draw fuller attention to its role and capabilities.

H.B. 688 is an apparent response to the need for further clarification of the function of the State Crime Laboratory. "Division of Forensic Sciences" more accurately corresponds to the services performed by the Laboratory and its branches.

ACT 1141

H.B. 711 amends Ga. Laws 1956, p. 27 (Ga. Code Ann. 27-2709). It provides that a sentence for child abandonment may be suspended more than once, that the court has the power to review and modify the amount of support paid, in not less than 2-year intervals, and that the terms and conditions of a suspended sentence for child abandonment may be changed until the child reaches majority. It also repeals certain provisions relating to bastardy, a crime no longer extant in Georgia.

H.B. 711 - PROBATION ACT: PROBATION AND SUSPENDED SENTENCES -

H.B. 711 should expand the discretionary power of the judge, and subsequently increase his control over the defendant at the time of sentencing and at the awarding of child support. Such control will continue until the child reaches the age of majority, as opposed to fourteen years of age which was previously the law. H.B. 711 should provide judges with more flexibility in handling child support cases and assure that the provisions of support are commensurate with the defendants ability to pay and the needs of the child(ren). It may require some additional work by the probation staff to further investigate the circumstances of the case.

H.B. 711 is apparently a response to a problem created by recent court cases which limited a judge's control over defendants required to make child support payments.

H.B. 748 - PORTS AUTHORITY: ARREST POWERS FOR INVESTIGATORS -ACT 919

H.B. 748 amends Georgia Laws 1945, p. 464 (Ga. Code Ann. 98-205.1). It provides that, while in the performance of their duties, those regular employees of the Georgia Ports Authority who are designated as investigators shall have the same powers of arrest and to enforce law and order as the sheriff of the county, or the chief of police of the county or municipality, in which the investigator is performing his duty. Those powers shall be the same as for the Uniformed Division of the Department of Public Safety. Further, it states that such investigators will be required to complete the training mandated for peace officers as outlined in the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act.

H.B. 748 bestows upon the designated investigators of the Georgia Ports Authority powers of arrest and law enforcement identical to local law enforcement officials in the locale in which they are posted to duty, namely on property and docks owned and operated by the Georgia Ports Authority.

H.B. 748 corrects the situation wherein the Ports Authority Police Force, which secures terminals and large property holdings of the Ports Authority, had to contact a local law enforcement official to effect arrest or other detention. While this legislation limits the law enforcement authority to designated investigators, it does provide the Georgia Ports Authority with the capability to enforce laws and make arrests.

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H.B. 803 enacts Code Chapter 26-34. It makes it unlawful to use a pattern of violations of certain laws of the State, or the proceeds from a pattern of violations, to acquire, maintain an interest in, establish, or conduct any enterprise or real or personal property. It is an anti-racketeering statute directed toward an interrelated pattern of criminal activity, the motive or effect of which is to derive monetary gain. It defines Racketeering Activity as committing, or attempting to commit, or to solicit, coerce, or intimidate another person to commit any crime which is chargeable by indictment under twenty separate Georgia Codes. A pattern of racketeering activity means engaging in at least two incidents of racketeering activity which have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims, or methods of commission which are interrelated and not isolated incidents. It sets forth that violation of the provisions of this Act is a felony, and establishes punishment of not 1 as than five years nor more than twenty years imprisonment, or a fine not greater than \$25,000 or three times the amount of any monetary value gained through the violation of the statute. It also provides for civil remedies for those victimized by violations of the Act, forfeitures, and subsequent dispositions of confiscated property.

H.B. 803 should result in the tying together of criminal acts for prosecution, similar to conspiracy cases, and includes both criminal and civil remedies. Its main thrust seems to be against organized criminal elements which conspire to violate certain laws which have the effect of infiltrating or taking over legitimate business or professional operations and thereafter using the profits in an unlawful or illegitimate manner. It should also be helpful in prosecuting governmental corrpution cases.

H.B. 803 is apparently in response to the need to codify, for the State of Georgia, those criminal acts carried out by organized crime operatives which have also been codified by the Federal Government and by other states. The use of RICO-type statutes has been successful in the prosecution of racketeers, and has a proven value in combatting organized criminal activities. This bill apparently responds to the increasing organization among certain criminal elements and the increasing extent to which criminal activities and funds acquired from such activity are being directed to and against the legitimate economy of the State. This legislation was sponsored by the Organized Crime Prevention Council.

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H.B. 803 - GEORGIA RICO (RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANI-ZATIONS) ACT - ACT 880

H.B. 842 - BAD CHECKS - CRIMINAL ISSUANCE: PUNISHMENT - ACT 1144

H.B. 842 amends Code Section 26-1704. It specifies progressively harsher penalties for persons who are repeatedly convicted of the crime of criminal issuance of a bad check. Such penalties range from a fine of at least \$50.00 for the second offense to a term of imprisonment of at least thirty days for a fourth or subsequent conviction. In addition to this punishment, it requires offenders to make restitution to their victims for the amount of the check plus all costs the victim incurred in bringing the complaint. Under H.B. 842, the term conviction includes the entering of a guilty plea, the entering of a plea of nolo contendere, or the forfeiting of bail.

H.B. 842 is designed to discourage violations of the bad check law by mandating relatively stiff punishment for offenders, particularly habitual ones. It also provides an incentive in the form of compulsory restitution for victims who report the issuance of bad checks to law enforcement agencies.

H.B. 842 apparently emanates from the findings and recommendations of the Fraudulent Check Study Committee, which was created in the 1979 session of the General Assembly to develop legislation addressing the problem of the issuance of bad checks. It also reflects the growing belief that certain criminal acts can best be controlled by the threat or use of mandatory punishment.

H.B. 845 - DRUGS - RELATED OBJECTS: DEFINITIONS - ACT 1307

H.B. 845 amends Ga. Laws 1978, p. 2237 (Code Section 79A-811.1). It broadens the scope of hardware and paraphenalia prohibited by law as "drug related objects" and prohibits their sale or advertisement for sale. It provides for confiscation and destruction, as contraband, of such hardware and sets forth penalties upon conviction ranging from a misdemeanor for the first offense to a felony for the third offense.

H.B. 845 is directed toward so-called "head shops" which merchandise devices for the use of marijuana and other controlled substances. It may result in the closing of some such shops. Its main thrust is to reduce the availability and ease with which such devices could be purchased, and thus reduce the enticement generated by the sale of such drug related objects upon potential drug users, particularly the youthful clientele. Further, the provisions for increasing the penalties for violation of the act should provide a deterrent effect against their sale, particularly against repeat offenders.

H.B. 845 is an apparent response to community (local) and State interests in ridding the market of drug related objects and thus removing the easy accessability presently available. It ostensibly responds to the recent influx of such paraphenalia into the State's school system and the subsequent dangerous and negative impact on the system, the community, and the youth of Georgia.

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H.B. 957 amends Code Section 89-308. It provides that a deputy sheriff may take his oaths before the sheriff, and that the oaths may be filed in and entered in the records of the sheriff's office. It serves to specifically codify before whom deputy sheriffs may take oaths. This provision was previously not contained in Georgia law.

H.B. 957 permits under-cover agents (deputy sheriffs) to receive their oaths from the sheriff and file them in the records of the sheriff's office. It provides an opportunity for sheriffs to conduct their own swearing-in ceremonies and allows for presence of family members at this ceremonial occasion. In addition it serves to minimize the potential for compromising the identity of law enforcement officials, and promot greater efficiency where these officials need to operate in a covert manner.

H.B. 957 responds to an apparent need on the part of law enforcement officials for greater flexibility in the area of under-cover operations. This provision should allow such operations to run more smoothly and discreetly. It also highlights the importance of the sheriff's oath.

H.B. 1020 - COURT REPORTING ACT: TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT - ACT 931

H.B. 1020 amends Ga. Laws 1974, p. 345 (Ga. Code Ann. 24-31156). It authorizes the Board of Court Reporting, or a judge in the circuit in which a case is pending, to issue a temporary Court Reporters permit based upon the need of such temporary employment. It authorizes the Board to limit the extent of any temporary permit which it issues, but it may not limit the extent of a permit issued by a judge without the concurrence of the issuing judge.

H.B. 957 - DEPUTY SHERIFF'S OATH OF OFFICE: TAKE BEFORE SHERIFF -

H.B. 1020 provides for meeting temporary needs for court reporters where a shortage exists in a circuit, or when extraordinary needs of the court require a part-time or temporary reporter. It should result in more verbatim trial transcripts and therefore more permanent records of trial proceedings. It may also reduce transcript preparation time.

H.B. 1020 responds to the increased requirement for trial transcripts, and the need for verbatim trial records in cases where this would otherwise be difficult or impossible.

H.B. 1077 - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM: PROVIDE - ACT 710

H.B. 1077 amends Code Title 84 by adding a new code chapter 84-9A. It provides for the establishment of a state-sponsored marijuana research program which allows individual physicians and their patients to participate in a program permitting the legal use of marijuana and its derivatives for certain cancer and glaucoma patients, and provides for clinical research into the medicinal applications of these drugs. The program is to be administered by the composite State Board of Medical Examiners.

H.B. 1077 will enable individual physicians and their patients to participate in a state-sponsored program for the investigational use of marijuana and its derivatives. Qualified physicians and surgeons throughout the State will be able to study the benefits of the drug in a controlled clinical setting and gain knowledge with respect to dosage and effects. The Act allows qualified physicians approved by a Patient Review Committee appointed by the composite State Board of Medical Examiners to provide the drug on a compassionate basis to seriously ill patients suffering from the severe side effects of chemotherapy or radiation treatment, and to persons suffering from glaucoma who are not responding to conventional treatment. These patients would otherwise have no legal access to the drug. The Act is limited to clinical trials and research into therapeutic applications of marijuana. H.B. 1077 sets forth the responsibilities of the composite State Board of Medical Examiners, the Patient Review Committee, and physicians and pharmacists in regard to safeguarding the controlled substance, and the records required concerning the pharmaceutical dispensing of it. H.B. 1077 stems from a growing, yet still highly experimental, awareness that controlled use of marijuana will or can have significant medical beneficial results for those patients for whom its use is authorized. Private interest groups provided considerable impetus to the passage of this legislation, which sets up the controlled experimental program designed to provide empirical evidence to prove or disprove the claims of its beneficial effects, and will contribute to the development of a scientific body of knowledge concerning marijuana. While originally it was believed that there would be only a minimum number of patients requesting this type of medical use of marijuana, recent indications are that the number may well total over 1,000 in the State during the first year of the program.

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H.B. 1090 - SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES EDUCATION PROGRAM: ATTENDANCE EXPENSES - ACT 959

H.B. 1090 amends Code Section 24-2606.3. It authorizes Superior Court Judges to be reimbursed for costs of attending judicial education programs, both in-state and out-of-state, provided that such judges shall not be reimbursed for expenses exceeding \$3,500 every four years.

H.B. 1090 removes a previous five day annual limit to attend judicial education programs, and provides for attendance at education programs anywhere in the United States, merely placing a final dollar limitation reimbursement which shall be in the same manner as for members of the General Assembly. Requests for attendance at education seminars must be submitted to the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for prior approval.

H.B. 1090 responds to the needs for continuing judicial education of Superior Court Judges, a stated objective of the Judicial Council of Georgia. It is an apparent response to the realization of the benefits which accompany a more enlightened judiciary.

H.B. 1100 - STATE COURT JUDGES: SERVE OTHER COURTS - ACT 961

H.B. 1100 amends Ga. Laws 1970, p. 679 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 24-21A). It authorizes a State Court Judge, a retired judge, or judge emeritus of a state court, upon the call of the judge of another state court, to sit as judge in the state court to which called.

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H.B. 1100's result could be a more equitable balance of cases heard by a state court judge in that an over-burdened judge may call upon a less burdened judge to hear cases, thus reducing the time from indictment to trial. It may have the result of balancing the number of cases judges hear over a period of time.

H.B. 1100 responds to the need to improve the quality of justice in some areas, to reduce time from indictment to trial, and to achieve a greater balance in numbers of cases a judge hears over a period of time.

H.B. 1113 - JUSTICES OF THE PEACE REDEFINED: INCLUDE SMALL CLAIMS COURT JUDGES - ACT 970

H.B. 1113 amends Ga. Laws 1978, p. 894 (Ga. Code Ann. 24-16020). It adds to the definition of Justice of the Peace, as defined in the Georgia Justice Courts Training Council Act of 1978, any Small Claims Court Judge who is not a practicing attorney.

H.B. 1113 places non-practicing attorney Small Claims Court Judges under the auspices of the Georgia Justice Courts Training Council Act which prescribes minimum training requirements for Justices of the Peace. This will increase the number of judges who will require training under the Act and thus increase the number of courses presented by the Justice Courts Training Council. It may also have a monetary or budgetary impact if these additional judges are to be compensated for training. It should also increase the judicial knowledge of Small Claims Court Judges and thus result in an improvement in the administration of justice in those courts.

H.B. 1113 responds to the increased recognition of the Judicial Council, and other judicial personnel, that some judges have little or no legal training and thus would benefit from the training presently furnished to Justices of the Peace.

H.B. 1137 - TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 978

H.B. 1137 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of judgeship to the Tifton Judicial Circuit increasing the number of judges in that circuit to two.

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H.B. 1138 enacts Code Section 24-2905.2. It authorizes counties to supplement, from county funds, the salary of the District Attorney for services performed under provisions of the Child Support Recovery Act of 1973. It does not set forth standards for reimbursement, nor how much service is or should be provided to DHR by the District Attorneys. County governments are left with determining if, and how much, compensation should be paid.

H.B. 1138 will authorize those District Attorneys who provide prosecutorial functions in response to requests made by the Department of Human Resources for proceedings to be brought against non-payers of child support, to receive a county supplement to their state-paid salaries for providing such service. This compensation would be determined by the counties of the Circuit and paid for from funds appropriated by the county(ies).

H.B. 1138 is an apparent attempt by the legislature to more equitably compensate District Attorneys for their contributions of service to DHR under the Child Support Recovery Act of 1973.

ACT 881

H.B. 1146 amends Code Section 27-407. It prohibits a court of inquiry, other than a superior or state court, from dismissing a charge of carrying a concealed weapon or carrying a pistol without a license,

H.B. 1137 should result in reducing the caseload of the Tifton Circuit's current judge. Additionally, it should reduce case backlogs and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs of implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in State funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the counties in the Circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, office space and sup-

H.B. 1137 is the result of a recommendation of the Judicial Council of Georgia's <u>Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional</u> Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia. This report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Tifton Circuit's needs were ranked second. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits.

H.B. 1138 - DISTRICT ATTORNEYS: COUNTY/SALARY SUPPLEMENT - ACT 1061

H.B. 1146 - COURT OF INQUIRY: DUTY; CHARGES DISMISSED/EVIDENCE -

and replacing the charge with a lesser offense based upon the same evidence. It provides that the duty of such court is to determine whether there is sufficient reason to suspect the guilt of the accused. 12

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H.B. 1146 will prohibit courts of inquiries/committal courts from dismissing charges involving certain handgun violations and then convicting the accused of an offense otherwise within the jurisdiction of the committal court when the evidence upon which the conviction is based constituted the same circumstances for which the perpetrator was charged with a handgun violation. More specifically, it will reduce the liklihood that individuals repeatedly guilty of handgun violations will escape the more severe punishment prescribed for repeat offenders and suffer only relatively minor monetary fines imposed by committal courts for revenue rather than public safety purposes. It may also result in more hearings and trials before superior and state courts for handgun violations.

H.B. 1146 is an <u>Administration Bill</u>. It is a response to evidence of committing magistrates reducing certain handgun violation charges to local ordinance violations instead of acting as courts of inquiry for determination of violation of the law and binding such cases over to a court with jurisdiction over violations of the State's criminal code.

H.B. 1147 - JUVENILE TAKEN IN CUSTODY: DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOTIFIED -ACT 882

H.B. 1147 amends Code Section 24A-1301 and 1801. It provides that the District Attorney or his designee prepare all juvenile delinquency cases in which the alleged delinquent act would constitute a felony if committed by an adult. It further provides that upon the request of the Juvenile Court Judge, the District Attorney or his designee will conduct the proceedings in those cases. The bill also provides that upon a motion from the District Attorney setting forth that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further proceedings, the petition may be dismissed by the court.

H.B. 1147 will require the District Attorney's Office to prosecute an estimated 5,000 additional cases per year that involve serious juvenile offenders. This should insure that those cases are well prepared and properly prosecuted and should, therefore, result in a reduction in the number of reversals on appeals and an increase

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in the number of dangerous juvenile offenders who are incarcerated. Additionally, it will allow the judge and the probation officer, who prior to this bill have shared the additional duties of case preparation and prosecution, to devote more time to their own designated functions.

H.B. 1147 is an <u>Administration Bill</u> in response to the staff of the Administrative Office of the Court's recommendation for an amendment to the Juvenile Court Code that would aid in unifying Georgia's juvenile system by insuring that all serious juvenile delinquency cases are properly prepared and prosecuted. It further responds to the need to assure incarceration of dangerous offenders, regardless of their age.

H.B. 1148 - GBI: ENFORCEMENT POWERS; DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE - ACT 883

H.B. 1148 amends Ga. Laws 1937, p. 322 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 92A-3). It provides that agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall have enforcement powers of all criminal statutes pertaining to the manufacture, transportation, distribution, sale of beverage alcohol and tobacco. It provides that agents of the GBI shall exercise such powers concurrent with agents and enforcement officers appointed by the State Revenue Commissioner. Specifically, these powers include the power to: (1) obtain and execute warrants for arrest of persons charged with violations of such laws; (2) obtain and execute search warrants in the enforcement of such laws; (3) arrest without warrant any person found in violation of such laws, or endeavoring to escape, or for other cause if there is likely to be a failure of enforcement of such laws for want of an officer to issue a warrant; (4) make investigations in the enforcement of such laws and in connection therewith to go upon any property outside of buildings, posted or otherwise, in the performance of such duties; (5) seize and take possession of all property which is declared contraband under such laws; and (6) carry firearms while performing their duties.

H.B. 1148 should result in the GBI conducting the majority of investigative/enforcement activity pertaining to State laws regulating distribution, et.al., of beverage alcohol and tobacco. It should also enhance the quality of investigations, and increase the amount of regulation and enforcement of the laws.

H.B. 1148 is an Administration Bill introduced attendant to the Governor's decision to transfer a large number of revenue agents and a major portion of the responsibility for the enforcement of State alcohol and tobacco regulation laws to the GBI. This is in

keeping with the policy that law enforcement oriented agencies will assume first line reponsibility for enforcing laws which heretofore have been the primary responsibility of the Department of Revenue.

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H.B. 1149 - BINGO GAMES: PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATION BY THE GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION - ACT 884

H.B. 1149 amends Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1164. (Ga. Code Ann. 92-621 et. seq.). It provides for the transfer of authority for the regulation and licensing of the operation of non-profit bingo games from the Department of Revenue to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. It also provides that (1) the Director of the GBI shall decide what activity constitutes bingo; (2) applications for bingo licenses shall be made to the Director of the GBI; (3) licenses may be suspended or revoked for violation of its provisions; and (4) agents of the GBI may enter the premises of a licensee to determine if violations of provisions of the Act have occurred.

H.B. 1149 should promote more effective enforcement of Georgia's bingo laws by applying the specialized criminal investigative skills of the GBI to cases of suspected violations. It should result in more effective regulation of these non-profit games and thus curb illegal activity in the area.

H.B. 1149 is an <u>Administration Bill</u> which is a response to past experience demonstrating that some operators of bingo games conduct the games for profit in conjunction with a variety of illegal activities and utilize profits gained to finance other organized criminal activities and a corresponding need to focus specialized investigative skills, available only within the GBI, on these activities.

H.B. 1150 - CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS: DEPOSITIONS - TAKING OF -ACT 885

H.B. 1150 enacts Code Chapter 38-13A. It authorizes the preservation of testimony through the taking of depositions of a prospective witness, upon the motion of a party and notice to the parties, if it appears to the satisfaction of the court that the witness is in imminent danger of death, or that the witness has

been threatened with death or great bodily harm because of the witness's status as a potential witness in any criminal matter or proceeding. It outlines the procedures for taking such depositions, for the costs of such, and for their admission in court under the rules of evidence. It bestows upon any party the right to require that the deposition be recorded and preserved by the use of audiovisual equipment. It allows the use of the deposition at trial or upon any hearing only if it appears that the witness is dead or for contradicting or impeaching the testimony of the deponent as a witness, and only then if in compliance with the rules of evidence. It authorizes preservation of testimony in only the limited number of cases in which imminent danger of death or threat of death or great bodily harm may cause the testimony to be lost. The determination of this criteria rests with the trial court, which may order the taking of depositions upon the request of either party.

H.B. 1150 should secure a method of preserving valuable testimony in danger of possible loss. It may allow prosecutors to rely on the availability of certain testimony in preparing their cases. It should also assure that justice is achieved by guaranteeing that all relevant testimony will be available for consideration by the trier of fact provided it complies with admissibility rules of evidence and it should deter the bodily harm to and/or threatening of material witnesses in criminal proceedings.

H.B. 1150 is an Administration Bill. It responds to the very real potential of death or threat or great bodily harm to key witnesses in criminal cases, particularly those cases involving organized crime operations. This has the effect of ensuring testimonial evidence will be available to the court in trial proceedings if the witness should subquently be killed or die. This can be related to the recent loss of the testimony of Roger Dean Underhill, a potential witness in the Mike Thevis case, who was murdered prior to the trial.

H.B. 1151 - GEORGIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER ACT - ACT 886

H.B. 1151 authorizes and empowers the Board of Public Safety to establish, operate and maintain the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to provide facilities and programs for the training of state and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, correctional personnel and others. It authorizes and directs the

Board to select a site for the center, establish compensation for its administrator and makes the administrator responsible directly to the Board. Further, it assigns the center to the Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only and authorizes the Board to prescribe and collect such fees as are necessary to defray all or a portion of the costs of furnishing training at the center and the use of facilities at the center.

H.B. 1151 should serve to expedite the development and construction of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, which is intended to provide highly specialized and advanced law enforcement training and to coordinate all types of training for other public safety professions.

H.B. 1151 is an Administration Bill. It is a response to the need to continue and complete the preliminary legal steps attendent to the establishment of a centrally located Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

H.B. 1152 - GEORGIA FIRE ACADEMY: PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY - ACT 887

H.B. 1152 amends Ga. Laws 1976, p. 1725 (Ga. Code Ann. 92A-3203 and 3204). It provides that the Board of Public Safety shall have authority over the Georgia Fire Academy. It abolishes the Georgia Fire Academy Board. It provides that the Superintendent of the Georgia Fire Academy shall be selected by the Board of Public Safety. It also provides that the Academy shall be attached to the Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only.

H.B. 1152 facilitates implementation of the concept of coordinated public safety services by reducing administrative fragmentation. It establishes that the Board of Public Safety is to begin supervising fire protection training. This should reduce administrative costs by placing the supervision of both fire protection and law enforcement training under the same administrative body.

H.B. 1152 is an Administration Bill. It supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1151 which sets forth the legislative foundation for the establishment of a Georgia Public Safety Training Center. It is a response to the need for the consolidation of state-level public safety functions to assure cohesiveness, unity and uniformity.

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H.B. 1155 amends Ga. Code Section 79A-811. It provides mandatory minimum penalties (concurrent imprisonment and monetary fines) for persons who engage in trafficking relatively large amounts of marijuana, cocaine or mixtures containing cocaine, or morphine/ morphine derivatives. Imprisonment terms and fines are graduated so that the larger the quantities involved, the greater the sentence. Imposition of the sentence may not be suspended, probated, deferred or withheld prior to serving the minimum mandatory term

H.B. 1155 should have a reductive impact on large scale organized drug trafficking due to the substantially lengthy terms of imprisonment (5 to 25 years) and concurrent monetary sanctions (\$25,000 to \$500,000) it prescribes. The anticipated reductive impact would be attributed to the stiff monetary penalties which were drawn to make the risk of illegal drug trafficking more commensurate with the high profit margin attendant to illegal drug trafficking.

H.B. 1155 is an Administration Bill. It is part of a multi-pronged effort to control large scale drug trafficking in Georgia. It closely tracks a similar statute signed into law in Florida in April 1979, which has been partially credited with pushing major drug traffickers from Florida into Georgia. It does not contain leniency provisions for informants, nor does it remove the possibility of parole or the award of earned time to offenders sentenced under its provisions.

H.B. 1156 amends Code Section 26-3004. It permits the authorization of surveillance devices by an investigation warrant when there is probable cause to believe that a person is importing or selling marijuana, or has imported or sold marijuana, or there is probable cause to believe that a private place is being utilized or has been utilized for the importation, or sale of marijuana. It merely adds importation, or sale of marijuana to a long list of crimes which authorize issuance of an investigation warrant permitting the use of eavesdropping devices.

H.B. 1156 should increase the capability of law enforcement personnel to detect and apprehend importers and sellers of marijuana and to provide more evidence for the prosecution of marijuana trafficking cases.

H.B. 1155 - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT: MANDATORY MINIMUM TERMS -

H.B. 1156 - CRIME/MARIJUANA: INVESTIGATION WARRANT - ACT 732

H.B. 1156 is an Administration Bill. It was prompted by a request from the GBI. It responds to the need to clarify the legality of the use of eavesdropping devices in the investigation of marijuana trafficking cases which are often perpetrated in a clandestine manner. Under previous law, such devices could be used in the investigation of crimes involving narcotics and dangerous drugs, but crimes involving marijuana were not specified as permitting use of such devices.

H.B. 1180 - WITNESSES: TRAVELING EXPENSES ALLOTTED - ACT 706

H.B. 1180 amends Ga. Laws 1966, p. 502 (Ga. Code Ann. 38-801). It increases the payment of mileage expenses for subpoenaed witnesses from eight to twenty cents a mile, and witness fees from four to ten dollars per day; it authorizes subpoenas requiring attendance of witnesses to be served anywhere within the State, and makes the provisions of the bill applicable to subpoenas issued prior to the effective date of the act.

H.B. 1180 expands the 150 mile subpoena service area of the previous law, making it statewide. In doing so, it will have the beneficial effect of allowing service on more witnesses. This, combined with the increased level of reimbursement, could make a positive contribution to the "quality of justice" by insuring that more necessary witnesses will appear for court hearings.

H.B. 1180 responds to the problem of increasingly high costs incurred by individuals who serve as witnesses in trials. It also reflects a realization of the importance of wide process service to the efficient working of the trial system.

H.B. 1190 - INDEMNIFICATION: DISABLED LAW OFFICER, FIREMAN, ETC. ACT 986

H.B. 1190 amends Ga. Laws 1978, p. 1914 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 89-18). It extends indemnification benefits for policemen, firemen, and prison guards to cases of permanent disability, as well as to death where indemnification had previously been authorized. Further, it provides specific definitions for the term "permanent disability" and stipulates that one will not be considered permanently disabled if disability occurred

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from natural causes, which would not be strenuous or dangerous if performed by citizens who are not law enforcement officers, firemen or prison guards or if the disability was intentionally selfinflicted. It provides that the disabled officer would be the beneficiary of the permanent disability benefits, which amount to \$50,000 and provides for the procedure for applying for such indemnification. It is effective January 1, 1981, retroactive to January 1, 1979, only if a constitutional amendment authorizing disability payments is ratified during the 1980 General Election. H.R. 459-1190 provides for placing this amendment on the ballot during that election.

H.B. 1190 provides similar benefits, which are now payable upon the death of law enforcement officers, firemen, or prison guards killed in the line of duty, to those who suffer permanently disabling injuries during the performance of their duties, improving the benefits such that they are made commensurate with the hazards of the duties performed. This should enhance recruitment for the affected positions, as well as the retention of personnel now occupying those positions.

H.B. 1190 responds to the need to provide adequate compensation for the specified officials who are permanently disabled in the performance of their duties. By providing a specific definition of permanent disability, this legislation seeks to avoid abuse of disability provisions which have been experienced in other jurisdictions, while at the same time allowing recovery where there is a recognized need for such. It is an apparent response to the House Public Safety Committee's efforts to upgrade the benefits provided for Georgia law enforcement personnel, firemen, and prison guards, putting the state-provided benefits more in line with benefits provided by other jurisdictions.

H.B. 1225 - PHARMACY BOARD MEMBERS: MEETINGS/EXPENSES - ACT 1406

H.B. 1225 amends Code Sections 79A-203, 206, 207, 406, 702, 802, 806, 807, 808, 809 and 810. It changes the definitions of "dangerous drugs" and updates the dangerous drug list to 1980. It also clarifies the qualification and certification requirements of members of the Board of Pharmacy by, among other things, allowing members of the Board to succeed themselves. H.B. 1225 amends and clarifies the dangerous drug list, thus bringing the list up to date with current knowledge on the subject. It should allow more efficient control of these substances. It could also deter abuse of these "dangerous drugs" by imposing stricter sanctions and by alerting the public to the dangers involved in the use of these drugs.

H.B. 1225 is ostensibly a response to the increased abuse of certain drugs. It also reflects increased medical knowledge with regard to the harmful effects of these drugs.

H.B. 1256 - BOARD OF OFFENDER REHABILITATION - CORRECTIONAL INDUS-TRIES ADMINISTRATION - ACT 996

H.B. 1256 amends Ga. Laws 1960, p. 880 (Ga. Code Ann. 77-903). It provides that the State Board of Offender Rehabilitation shall constitute, ex officio, the Georgia Correctional Industries Administration. It also authorizes the Commissioner of Offender Rehabilitation to serve as the executive officer of the Georgia Correctional Industries Administration in carrying out related duties.

H.B. 1256 places the Board of Offender Rehabilitation, particularly the Commissioner of Offender Rehabilitation, in control of correctional industry operations. This, in turn, should provide for greater continuity and coordination between the Department of Offender Rehabilitation and correctional industries in developing vocational training programs and work experiences for State inmates more capable of preparing them for release.

H.B. 1256 is the result of the perceived need to improve the administrative efficiency of the correctional industries program by placing its operations under centralized control.

H.B. 1370 - BURGLARY: DEFINE AND PENALTY PROVISIONS - ACT 1012

H.B. 1370 amends Code Section 26-1601. It defines that act of entering or remaining within a railroad car or aircraft with the intent to commit a felony or theft within as burglary. Additionally, it provides that individuals convicted for a first offense burglary shall be mandatorily imprisoned for a minimum of one year. craft.

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H.B. 1370 is an apparent response to the need to clarify and expand Georgia's definition of burglary to include the entering of railroad cars and aircraft not designed for use as dwellings. Further, it appears to reflect a growing belief that burglars are "dangerous" offenders and that all burglars including first offenders should be imprisoned for minimum terms.

فالدارية الطار المراجع والمصادة وممرج موجورة الحاريجا المماج ومرامع التمويد الالمأر التساره ريمر موسد

H.B. 1430 - ROME JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 1016

H.B. 1430 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of judgeship to the Rome Judicial Circuit increasing the number of judges in that circuit to three.

H.B. 1430 should result in reducing the caseload of the Rome Circuit's current judges. Additionally, it should reduce case backlogs and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs for implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in State funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, office space and supplies, etc.

H.B. 1430 is the result of recommendations of the Judicial Council of Georgia's Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia. This report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Rome Circuit's need was ranked number three. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits.

H.B. 1473 - SHERIFFS: MINIMUM SALARIES - ACT 938

H.B. 1473 amends Ga. Laws 1971, p. 380 (Ga. Code Ann. 24-2831). It provides that, in the event the population of a county according to the United States Census of 1980 or any future census is less than its population according to the United States Census of 1970, the population bracket under which any such county falls for the purposes of sheriff's minimum salaries shall be determined according to the United States Census of 1970.

H.B. 1370 will prohibit judges from suspending, probating, deferring or withholding a sentence of imprisonment for anyone convicted of any action defined as burglary by Georgia law. Additionally, it should reduce the incidence of burglaries in railroad cars and air-

H.B. 1473 would avoid a reduction in salary to a sheriff of a county which has experienced a decrease in population from 1970 to 1980. It will continue to provide equitable compensation to sheriffs for their duties in the event of a possible decrease in population.

H.B. 1473 is an apparent response to prevent salary cuts to sheriffs, who may reside in counties which experience decreases in population, for whatever reason, which are beyond their control.

H.B. 1481 - DUBLIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 725

H.B. 1481 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of judgeship to the Dublin Judicial Circuit increasing the number of judges in that circuit to two. It is a companion to H.B. 1482 which abolishes the State Court of Laurens County.

H.B. 1481 should result in reducing the caseload of the Dublin Circuit's current judge. Additionally, it should reduce case backlogs and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs for implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in State funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, office space and supplies, etc.

H.B. 1481 is the result of recommendations of the Judicial Council of Georiga's Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia. This report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Dublin Circuit's need was ranked seventh. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits. The recommendation to increase the number of judges in the Dublin Circuit was based on abolishing the State Court of Laurens County. The State Court of Laurens County was abolished by the 1980 General Assembly by H.B. 1482.

H.B. 1482 - LAURENS COUNTY STATE COURT: REPEAL ACT ESTABLISHING

H.B. 1482 repeals Ga. Laws 1900, p. 117. It abolishes the State Court of Laurens County effective January 1, 1981, but only if, prior to that date a second judge of the superior courts for the Dublin Judicial Circuit is authorized by law. It is a companion to H.B. 1481, which legally authorizes an additional superior court judge for the Dublin Judicial Circuit.

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H.B. 1482 will result in the abolition of the State Court of Laurens County, reduce the proliferation of courts in Georgia and shift the caseload of the State Court to the Superior Court within the Dublin Judicial Circuit.

H.B. 1482 is an apparent response to the need to contribute toward the elimination of some of the vast number of courts in Georgia and their attendant costs and jurisdictional problems.

H.B. 1494 - MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE: EXPUNGE CRIMINAL RECORDS -ACT 1396

H.B. 1494 creates a new law which gives municipal court judges the authority to seal to all persons, except criminal justice officials, all locally held criminal records, including those of arrests and investigations, if criminal charges against a defendant are either dismissed upon motion of the arresting officer, dismissed because of the lack of prosecution, or are the subject of a pre-trial disposition. It further provides that the sealing of such records in no way constitutes an adjudication of any illegal or wrongful action on the part of the arresting officer or the municipality.

H.B. 1494 would allow criminal justice officals, with a need and right to know about locally held arrest and investigation records, access to them while prohibiting dissemination of such information to unauthorized persons. This protection is already provided by existing security and privacy regulations and is primarily the responsibility of the agencies originating the records. It supplements the present enforcement mechanism by authorizing municipal court judges to also limit access to certain criminal records.

H.B. 1494 addresses a general concern over the potential misuse of arrest and investigation records of defendants who were not adjudicated guilty for certain reasons. Arrest and investigation records are important tools for criminal justice officials, and therefore should be kept available; at the same time, arrest and investigation records, without accompanying final dispositions, are not public documents.

H.B. 1506 - DOUGLAS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: CREATE - ACT 944

H.B. 1506 creates a new judicial circuit (the 43rd such circuit in the State) to be known as the Douglas Judicial Circuit, composed of only Douglas County. It provides for the removal of Douglas County from the Tallapoosa Circuit; eliminates one of the judges in the Tallapoosa Circuit; reducing the number to two, provides for transfer of records and cases to the new circuit. It further provides for the election of a judge and district attorney in the general election of 1982, for the new circuit and their assumption of office on January 1, 1983.

H.B. 1506 in effect removes Douglas County from the current Tallapoosa Circuit now composed of Douglas, Haralson, Polk, and Paulding Counties. It creates one additional judicial circuit which is to be comprised of only one county, Douglas County. It provides for the administrative and support operations of the new judicial circuit, provides for the reduction of one judge in the Tallapoosa Circuit and provides for one judge and district attorney in the new Douglas Circuit. The State fixed and variable costs for creation of an additional judgeship range from \$81,000 to \$88,000. In addition, there will be local county costs to provide for county supplements and fringe benefits for the judge and district attorney, as well as for office space, equipment, furniture, and operating costs.

H.B. 1506 responds to perceived need for redistribution of caseload among the judicial circuits, and for increased efficiency and timeliness in the judicial process.

H.B. 1508 - ALCOHOLISM AND INTOXICATION: TREATMENT - EFFECTIVE DATE - ACT 945

H.B. 1508 amends Ga. Laws 1974, p. 200 (Ga. Code Ann. 99-39). It provides that the date on which the Uniform Alcoholism Act shall become effective shall be extended to July 1, 1981.

H.B. 1508 will delay the date for the implementation of comprehensive treatment of alcoholism and intoxication in Georgia.

H.B. 1508 is the sixth annual extension of the effective date of the Uniform Alcoholism Act. It is a response to the current lack of sufficient funds, facilities, programs and other resources in Georgia which would be necessary to fully implement the act and decriminalize alcoholism or "crimes" associated with the disease of alcoholism.

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ACT 1344

H.B. 1592 amends Code Section 88-2710 relating to illegal removal of dead bodies from graves and enacts Code Section 88-2710.1 so as to distinguish "wanton or malicious removal" from removal to sell or dissect. It provides that: (1) removal for the purpose of selling or dissecting shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years; (2) wanton or malicious removal of dead bodies is a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than five years, or by such imprisonment and fine.

H.B. 1592 is an attempt to separate "wanton or malicious removal" from selling and dissecting, treating these two crimes differently selling and dissecting having a stricter penalty than wanton or malicious removal. It should result in some deterrent effect on individuals who rob graves for pecuniary gain.

H.B. 1592 is ostensibly a response to a perceived increase of grave robbing motivated by monetary interests. It is an attempt on the part of the Legislature to deter such activity by imposing strong sanctions.

H.B. 1676 - ABUSED CHILD: PHOTOGRAPH WITHOUT PARENTS PERMISSION -ACT 1068

H.B. 1676 amends Code Section 74-111. It provides that any agency personnel or physician making a report alleging child abuse may photograph the child's injuries for use as documentation in support of the allegation without obtaining parental permission. It also provides, however, that such photographs must not reveal the identity of the child.

H.B. 1676 will enable agency personnel and physicians to graphically illustrate the basis for their reports of child abuse. It should assure continuing proof of evidence of injuries. Additionally, by providing that the photographs shall not reveal the identity of the child, it will enable the media to more graphically illustrate the magnitude of child abuse to the public.

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H.B. 1592 - PUBLIC HEALTH: GRAVES/TOMBS; ILLEGAL TO DISTURB -

H.B. 1676 is a response to complaints from hospital staffs and others charged with the responsibility for reporting incidents of child abuse that frequently, by the time consent can be obtained, the bruises and other marks are no longer clearly visible. It was a companion bill to H.B. 1675, a much more comprehensive bill which did not pass Committee, but did result in the establishment of a Joint Study Committee on child abuse.

H.B. 1701 - DOT PROPERTY: PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL PRO-CEEDINGS - ACT 955

H.B. 1701 authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide to the Attorney General of the State of Georgia, or any District Attorney or Solicitor in the State, information concerning attempts to commit, or the commitment of, any criminal act against the property of the Department of Transportation.

H.B. 1701 provides legislative authority for the Commission of Transportation to report criminal violations against DOT property directly to the Attorney General for prosecutorial action, while continuing to authorize information concerning criminal activity to be provided a local District Attorney or Solicitor. Thus, either the Attorney General or the local District Attorney or Solicitor could prosecute the case. This should facilitate prosecution.

H.B. 1701 responds to certain crime problems which are peculiar to the DOT, such as illegal removal or cutting of trees adjacent to a highway. Since the Department of Law serves as the attorney for DOT, this codifies the alternative to report criminal activity or attempted criminal activity directly to the Department's "attorney".

H.B. 1751 - COWETA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 1350

H.B. 1751 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of judgeship to the Coweta Judicial Circuit increasing the number of judges in that circuit to three.

H.B. 1751 should result in reducing the caseload of the Coweta Circuit's current two judges. Additionally, it should reduce case backlogs and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs for implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in State funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the counties in the circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, office space and supplies, etc.

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H.B. 1751 is the result of recommendations of the Judicial Council of Georgia's <u>Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for</u> <u>Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia</u>. This report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Coweta Circuit's need was ranked fifth. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits.

H.B. 1807 - CHATHAM COUNTY STATE COURT: PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM

H.B. 1807 amends Ga. Laws 1819, p. 16. It makes it a policy of the State Court of Chatham County to use pre-trial diversion procedures in all first offender misdemeanor cases, except those in which the offender has been known to be unresponsive to a previous, similar program, or those in which the offender is considered to be dangerous. It sets forth procedures for pre-trial diversion conferences, protection of records and other matters. It specifically prohibits participation in a pre-trial diversion program from being considered as an admission of guilt.

H.B. 1807 should result in releasing more non-dangerous first offender misdemeanants from the prosecutorial process. Of equal importance, it sets a significant precedent for the entire State, in that it is the first legislative recognition of pretrial diversion in Georgia.

H.B. 1807 is an apparent response to the desire of Chatham County to statutorily support pre-trial diversion in the hope that its use will increase the diversion of non-dangerous offenders from the criminal justice process in the County.

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H.B. 1874 - ATLANTA, CITY OF: PURCHASE OF EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION

H.B. 1874 amends Ga. Laws 1973, p. 2188. It provides that the corporate powers of the City of Atlanta shall be extended to include the power to appropriate general funds for the purchase of evidence and information for use by law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.

H.B. 1874 may not result in a substantive change in the procedure utilized by law enforcement officials, but may merely serve to assure the legality, by express provision, of the expenditure of city money for the purchase of evidence and information for the undercover work done by such officials. Consequently, it should serve to expedite the availability of "evidence purchase" funds for the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services and thereby assist their drug enforcement capabilities.

H.B. 1874 is an apparent response to the belief that the purchase of information and evidence, using city money, by law enforcement officers in connection with their undercover operations was unconstitutional absent an express provision in the City Charter permitting such expenditures.

H.B. 1897 - GLYNN COUNTY: JAIL FACILITIES AND PAYMENT

H.B. 1897 amends Ga. Laws 1960, p. 2806, and Ga. Laws 1979, p. 4116. It authorizes the sheriff of Glynn County to provide for such additional facilities and personnel needed to implement any statutory or court ordered requirement relating to prisoners in Glynn County Jail. It authorizes the sheriff to provide facilities and personnel for, but not limited to, programs concerning recreation, fresh air or proper food for such prisoners, and provides that such additional facilities and personnel shall be paid for out of County funds.

H.B. 1897 will result in an increase in spending of County funds for jails. It will also set a precedent for other counties to mandate county expenditures for county jails by enactment or amendment of State law.

H.B. 1897 is a response to the need for the Glynn County Jail to acquire funds necessary to comply with court-ordered improvements.

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SENATE BILLS

S.B. 296 - CARRYING FIREARMS: CONVICTED FELONS PROHIBITED - ACT 1380

S.B. 296 enacts Code Section 26-2914. It essentially makes it a felony crime for convicted felons to receive, possess or transport any firearm. It sets the penalty for violation of this prohibition at not less than one nor more than five years imprisonment. It exempts convicted felons from this prohibition, if they have been pardoned and the terms of their pardon provide express authorization to receive, possess or transport a firearm. It further provides that convicted felons who have been granted relief from the disabilities imposed by United States laws regarding possession of firearms by the Secretary of Treasury pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 925 shall be granted relief from this bill's prohibitions if they present proof of relief from the federal law to the Board of Public Safety.

S.B. 296 would provide the criminal courts with an effective tool to incarcerate potential recidivists, i.e., property and violent crime repeaters for longer terms. More realistically, it could yield swifter prosecution and conviction of ex-felons who use firearms while committing new crimes. It may result in an increase in Georgia's prison population. Its crime prevention and deterrence value are questionable because of the population (convicted felons) it seeks to control.

S.B. 296 is an "after the fact" gun control measure aimed at keeping firearms out of the possession of ex-felons. It is an ostensible response to: (1) the increased usage of firearms in the commission of crimes; (2) isolated and sensationalized incidents of violent crimes committed with handguns by ex-felons; (3) corresponding exposure of the former two activities by local and national media; and (4) local, State and national elected officials and practitioners requests for the enactment of gun control measures aimed at keeping guns out of the possession of criminals.

S.B. 326 - BRUNSWICK JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 1078

S.B. 326 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of one judgeship to the Brunswick Judicial Circuit increasing the number of judges in that circuit to three.

S.B. 326 should result in reducing the caseload of the Brunswick Circuit's current judges. Additionally, it should reduce case backlogs and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs for implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in State funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the counties in the circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, etc.

S.B. 326 is the result of a recommendation of the Judicial Council of Georgia's Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships for Georgia. This report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Brunswick Circuit's need was ranked number six. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits.

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S.B. 386 amends Code Section 26-1705 et. seq. It is basically an exhaustive revision of Georgia's current criminal laws regarding illegal use of credit cards (Titles 26-1705 through 26-1705.10 of the Georgia Code, Annotated). It essentially defines the crimes of financial transaction card fraud, forgery, theft, etc. The major changes it contains are: (1) substitution of the term "credit card" with the term "financial transaction card"; (2) prohibitions of a whole new area of potential abuses of "financial transaction cards" and "automatic banking devices"; and (3) a reduction in the maximum penalty for violation of Title 26-1705 from five-years imprisonment to three-years imprisonment (maximum fine level and possibility of concurrent monetary and imprisonment penalties are maintained.) It also provides that the preceding change be accompanied by a change reducing the dollar value of illegal transactions which qualify the perpetrator for the maximum penalty, i.e., more perpetrators will be eligible for the maximum penalty.

S.B. 386 would allow prosecution of crimes involving the illegal use of financial transaction cards, as well as the illegal use of credit cards and thereby result in an expected deterrence of such crimes. It essentially will provide Georgia's criminal justice system with the authority necessary to control the abuses that have accompanied new advances and developments in consumer credit transactions throughout the country.

S.B. 386 - DECEPTIVE PRACTICES: ILLEGAL CREDIT CARD USE - ACT 1123

S.B. 386 is an apparent response to the advent, rapidly increasing availability, dissemination and use, and attendant abuse of financial transaction cards and automatic banking devices, i.e., Honest Face Cards, T-24 Cards, etc.

S.B. 391 - RADAR DETECTION: OPERATORS; CERTIFICATION - ACT 1086

S.B. 391 amends Ga. Laws 1970, p. 208 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 92A-21). It essentially requires that all persons employed by law enforcement agencies in Georgia who are authorized to use speed detection devices (radar) be certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council as qualified speed detection device operators. More specifically, effective December 31, 1980, it requires each radar operator to complete a training program in the theory and application of speed detection device operation in order to be certified. It grants the POST Council authority to establish and modify the necessary curriculum; to certify speed detection device operator instructors; and to recognize equivalent instruction as partial satisfaction of the minimum hours of training required by the Council. Finally, it requires, after December 31, 1980, that certified operators complete refresher training courses prescribed by the Council in order to maintain certification, and it grants the Council authority to withdraw or suspend certification to operate radar.

S.B. 391 should ultimately result in a considerable reduction in operator errors committed by law enforcement officers who operate speed detection devices pursuant to the enforcement of speed limit laws on Georgia roads. Consequently, the dismissal of charges and reversal of convictions in speed violation cases in which speed detection devices are employed should be minimized. It could necessitate an increase in funding and personnel for the staff of the POST Council to assure full implementation and reimbursement of tuition costs incurred by law enforcement agencies employing radar operators.

S.B. 391 is a response to widespread publicity alleging the inaccuracy of speed detection devices. That is, the widely celebrated dismissal of speeding violation cases in a Florida court because of the inaccuracy of radar "readings" of speeds, and investigative media reports alleging that radar "clocked" immovable objects at high speeds. More specifically, it adopts a remedy for operator error since scientists maintain that speed detection devices provide accurate measurements of the speed of moving motor vehicles when they are operated by qualified, trained personnel.

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ACT 1125

S.B. 401 amends Ga. Laws 1956, p. 161 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 77-3). It provides that any form of currency, securities, etc., possessed by a State prisoner shall constitute contraband and be subject to forfeiture unless such possession is specifically authorized by the individual institution at which the prisoner is incarcerated. It provides that when such contraband is seized in a State institution, it shall be paid into the State treasury, while such contraband seized in a county institution shall be paid into the county treasury.

S.B. 401 should reduce some of the current confusion regarding the appropriate legal disposition of contraband monies found in the possession of incarcerated offenders and may provide an insignificant increase in State and county revenues. Currently, disposition of such monies is governed primarily by administrative rules and regulations which usually allow the monies to be used for the benefit of institution programs, unless the monies are related to commission of a crime. Notably, S.B. 401 does not specifically address monies related to commission of a crime or attempted crime.

S.B. 401 is a general response to the aforementioned lack of statutory guidance regarding contraband monies found in the possession of State prisoners. It is a more specific response to an incident at Georgia State Prison, in which \$2,000 was found in the possession of an inmate. In this incident the funds were assigned by the Department of Offender Rehabilitation to the Athletic Fund. Subsequent to his release, the inmate sought recovery of these funds through litigation. Currently, his legal action is awaiting hearing by the Supreme Court of Georgia. S.B. 401 will have no impact on this specific incident.

S.B. 404 - LOITERING/PROWLING: CRIME OF - ACT 871

S.B. 404 amends Code Section 26-2616. It creates by State law the crime of loitering or prowling and provides for punishment as a misdemeanor upon conviction. It provides specific definition for the offense of loitering or prowling and specifies circumstances surrounding the offense to guide the discretion of law enforcement officers in enforcing its provisions. Additionally, it specifies certain procedures for the officer to follow in making an arrest pursuant to enforcement and states that its provisions shall not supersede local ordinances prohibiting loitering or prowling.

S.B. 401 - CONVICTS: POSSESSION OF CURRENCY - FORFEITURE -

S.B. 404 should deter the congregation of idle loiterers which often provokes or leads to more serious crimes against persons and property. It will authorize law enforcement officers, who observe circumstances which give rise to an eminent concern for the safety of persons and property, to afford the suspect an opportunity to explain his presence and conduct and dispel the officer's alarm. If the officer's alarm is not dispelled, he will have authorization to arrest persons who present an eminent danger in the officer's judgment.

S.B. 404 is an Administration Bill. It is similar to the loitering/ prowling statute recommended in the American Law Institute's Model Penal Code. It is a response to the increased presence of idle loiterers and prowlers in Georgia's large metropolitan areas, the association of this presence with increased street crimes, the consequent threat to law-abiding citizens, and the current absence of Statewide statutory authority with the potential to alleviate these problems.

S.B. 405 - BAIL JUMPING: CRIME; FAILURE TO APPEAR - ACT 870

S.B. 405 enacts Code Section 26-2511. It creates the crimes of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor bail jumping. It specifies that the crime of misdemeanor bail jumping shall occur only when an individual "jumps bail" on a forcible misdemeanor or a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. It sets the punishment for felony bail jumping at not less than one nor more than five years imprisonment or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both, while misdemeanor bail jumping "shall be punished as for a misdemeanor".

S.B. 405 is expected to provide defendants with a considerable incentive to appear at hearings and trials. Perhaps more significantly, bail jumping will be an offense for which prosecution and conviction can be extremely swift and certain once the defendant is in custody. Consequently, it will assist criminal justice practitioners in disposing of other felony and misdemeanor charges.

S.B. 405 is an Administration Bill. It is patterned after a similar statute recommended in the American Law Institute's Model Penal Code. It is a response to the current absence of specific criminal code prohibitions in Georgia's law regarding bail jumping and is intended to inject greater swiftness and certainty into the criminal process.

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S.B. 406 enacts Code Section 27-2538. It authorizes the Supreme Court of Georgia to establish, by Rules, a unified motion for review for presentment to the sentencing court and the Supreme Court of all possible challenges to the conviction, sentence, and detention of persons found guilty and sentenced to death by the trial court. The Supreme Court is to establish a series of checklists to be used by the trial court, prosecuting attorney, and defense prior to, during, and after a trial to ensure all matters which could be raised by the defense have been raised and considered. It retains for the accused rights and remedies available through the procedures governing the writ of habeas corpus.

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S.B. 406 provides for a single unified appeal in death penalty cases in Georgia courts. It should reduce the wide variety and types of appeals available to those convicted and sentenced to death in Georgia courts. It will shorten the time from conviction to final appellate review by requiring check-list verification throughout the trial court proceedings to assure that all matters in defense have been raised and considered on a timely basis. It will allow only `one appeal in Georgia courts in which all issues must be raised; however, it will not bar extensive and lengthy reviews by the federal appellate courts.

S.B. 406 is an Administration Bill which responds to the problem of the absence of swiftness and finality in the appellate process in regard to capital cases which was addressed by the Governor's Conference on Criminal Justice, 1979. It should reduce unnecessary delay in death sentence reviews, provide for speedier final determination of cases, and save considerable resources in terms of judicial time and costs expended for the multiple appeals previously available in Georgia courts. While its ultimate impact may be debatable, it is representative of the desire of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the state government to regain control of what has become an excessive, ineffective process for judicial review of capital cases.

ACT 873

S.B. 407 creates a new law which essentially provides that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) Georgia Criminal Activity Bulletin, which is disseminated to all district attorneys and

S.B. 406 - DEATH PENALTY: ADD NEW CODE SECTION - ACT 872

S.B. 407 - INMATES ESCAPE: NOTIFY LOCAL AUTHORITIES - REQUIRE

local law enforcement agencies, will report the projected release of any State prisoners 15 days prior to that release. It provides that, in addition to the current "all-points" bulletin issued by DOR, whenever an escape of a State prisoner occurs, the Department of Offender Rehabilitation(DOR) must, within 72 hours, notify all parties who have a legitimate need to know and who have requested in writing that DOR notify them of a prisoner's release from custody. It requires the Chairman of the Parole Board to notify, within 72 hours of the Board's reaching a final decision to parole a prisoner, the district attorney, the presiding judge, and the sheriff of each county in which the prisoner was tried, convicted and sentenced, and the local law enforcement authorities of the county of the last residence of the prisoner prior to incarceration.

S.B. 407 will ensure that local law enforcement and prosecuting officials systematically receive prior or timely notification of inmate releases and escapes that may occur in their jurisdiction. This notification, in turn, should have a reductive impact on crime and will provide law enforcement agencies with an effective crime prevention and investigation tool.

S.B. 407 is an Administration Bill. It is a response to a recommendation made by the law enforcement conferees at the Governor's 1979 Conference on Criminal Justice, regarding a need to change the current practice of notifying local law enforcement agencies of inmate releases "after the fact". Further, it is intended to ensure the coordination of crime control efforts among State and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and corrections authorities within Georgia's criminal justice system.

S.B. 408 - CRIME INFORMATION COUNTS; AUDITING OF INFORMATION -ACT 874

S.B. 408 amends Ga. Laws 1973, p. 1301 (Ga. Code Ann. 92A-3003 and 3004). It authorizes the Georgia Crime Information Center to audit the crime reporting practices of local law enforcement agencies. It also establishes the procedure for such an audit by authorizing the Georgia Crime Information Center to request for review a sample of crime incident reports from local law enforcement agencies.

S.B. 408 should help the Georgia Crime Information Center insure that the crime reporting practices of local law enforcement agencies, particularly those agencies which do their own

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classification of crimes, conform with state and national requirements. By authorizing the Georgia Crime Information Center to examine a sample of crime reports for possible classification errors, systematic downgrading or misapplication of offense definitions by law enforcement agencies can be identified and controlled.

S.B. 408 is an Administration Bill. Because crime reporting practices are subject to manipulation, it was proposed to insure that crime data submitted to the Georgia Crime Information Center are a reasonably accurate reflection of the nature and dimension of the crime problem in Georgia and that crime data can be meaningful compared with data for other states over time.

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S.B. 409 creates the Organized Crime Prevention Council as a statutory State agency assigned to the Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only. It is effective on July 1, 1981.

S.B. 409 will ensure a permanent State commitment to a Statewide effort to coordinate enforcement efforts and resources aimed exclusively at controlling and reducing the illegal activity of organized crime operatives within the boundaries of Georgia. Additionally, it should enhance working relationships and organized crime control efforts between State and local law enforcement agencies.

S.B. 409 is an Administration Bill. It is a response to the successful operation and achievements of an agency authorized to function under Executive Order and funded primarily by Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grants since 1969, and the need to continue that agency's functions on a permanent basis.

ACT 876

S.B. 411 amends Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1051 (Ga. Code Ann. 89-973 et. seq.). It provides that law enforcement personnel participating in a program administered by the Georgia Organized Crime Prevention Council providing for temporary assignment or loan of local law enforcement personnel to other local law enforcement agencies (Locals Help Locals) would, for the purposes of liability insurance,

S.B. 409 - ORGANIZED CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL: CREATE - ACT 875

S.B. 411 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS: LIABILITY INSURANCE/INDEMNITY -

be considered a temporary employee of the Organized Crime Prevention Council and under State coverage. It further extends these benefits to persons employed by District Attorneys of the State of Georgia.

S.B. 411 should result in protection of local law enforcement officers against personal liability for damages sustained by third parties arising out of the performance of law enforcement duties while serving on temporary loan. Additionally, it should offer protection for employees of District Attorneys who are not presently covered or considered State employees as are the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney.

S.B. 411 is an Administration Bill. It stems from concern of law enforcement personnel concerning liability coverage when working in under-cover assignments under the "Locals Help Locals" project of the Organized Crime Prevention Council. This bill provides the same coverage as is provided other State employees under State programs of liability insurance. Employees of District Attorneys were added to this bill because of concern expressed by the District Attorneys' Association that only DA's and Assistant DA's were covered, based upon an opinion of the Attorney General. Employees of DA's participating in the Child Support Recovery Program were not considered to be covered. This provision corrects this omission.

S.B. 489 - JUVENILE COURT CODE: DESIGNATED FELONY ACTS - ACT 1094

S.B. 489 enacts Code Chapter 24-23A and redesignates Code Chapter 24A-34, relating to protective orders, as Code Chapter 24A-34A. It defines certain delinquent acts which, if committed by an adult, would be felony crimes involving violence or potential violence to the victim, as "designated felony acts." It provides that in cases where the juvenile is found to have committed a designated felony act, and if the court, based on prescribed criteria, also finds that the juvenile is in need of restrictive custody, that the order will provide for the following: (1) a five-year commitment to the Division of Youth Services; (2) an initial confinement in a Youth Development Center for not less than 12 nor more than 18 months; (3) a period of at least 12 months of intensive supervision following the period of confinement; (4) a requirement for regular reporting from Division of Youth Services to the committing court on the status, adjustment. and progress of the juvenile; and (5) a requirement that under no circumstances can the juvenile be discharged from the custody of the Division in less than 3 years and only upon a motion

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granted by the court can the juvenile be discharged from the custody of the Division prior to the expiration of the original order. It further provides that within the five-year committment term, the Division of Youth Services can extend the period of confinement and intensive supervision, with the limitation that such will not extend past the juvenile's twenty-first birthday. It provides that where a juvenile is found to have committed a designated felony against a person 62 years of age or older, that juvenile must be dealt with according to the terms of the act.

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S.B. 489 will give the committing court more discretionary authority in the sentencing of serious juvenile offenders. Additionally, it provides for judicial monitoring and modification of orders in cases which involve serious juvenile offenders. It will require some policy adjustments within the Division of Youth Services as field staff will be more directly accountable to the committing court for specific case management, and because the Division will be more accountable to the courts in general. It will conceivably affect the population flow in the Youth Development Centers and unless community-based alternatives can be more extensively utilized for the less serious juvenile offenders, it is likely that S.B. 489 will create an overcrowding situation which will affect the Regional Youth Development Center (detention facilities) as well as the large institutions.

S.B. 489 is a response to the significant number of serious juvenile offenders who are currently being bound over to the adult system and incarcerated with adult offenders. It is a modified version of the New York State Designated Felony Act for Serious Juvenile Offenders. While S.B. 489 does not prohibit the Superior Courts from continuing to deal with serious juvenile offenders who come to their attention, either by indictment or waiver from the juvenile court, it is hoped that by strengthening the juvenile system's ability to appropriately and more restrictively handle these offenders, the courts will no longer see a need for processing juveniles through the adult system.

S.B. 494 - POLICE CHAPLAINS: TRAINING PROGRAM AND STANDARDS -ACT 1137

S.B. 494 amends Ga. Laws 1970, p. 208 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 92A-21). It authorizes the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council to develop a training program and standards for the certification of police chaplains who choose to be certified. Additionally, it authorizes the POST Council to suspend or revoke police chaplain certifications under certain conditions.

S.B. 494 should result in police chaplains becoming more familiar with their duties and roles as they relate to specific assignments within law enforcement agencies. Additionally, in a more general sense, it should ultimately professionalize the role of police chaplains and give this role greater visibility and significance.

S.B. 494 is the result of efforts on the part of leaders of the Association of Police Chaplains to upgrade and professionalize police chaplains in Georgia.

S.B. 519 - ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PROBATION: CREATE - ACT 877

S.B. 519 creates a 10-member advisory council, composed of one superior court judge from each of the State's Judicial Administrative Districts selected by the various district councils, to advise the Board and the Department of Offender Rehabilitation regarding the adult probation services which are administered by the Department. It sets the powers of the Council as advisory only and extends these advisory powers to policy, personnel and budget matters. It authorizes the Council to employ a staff director and declares that expenses of the Council are to be met from funds appropriated for the operation of the Superior Courts.

S.B. 519 will provide a formal mechanism for superior court judges to furnish input into Executive Branch decisions and actions that have an impact on adult probation operations which are, as a practical matter, a joint responsibility of the Executive and Judicial Branches of State Government. It should ultimately result in greater mutual cooperation in the implementation of probation policies and programs among the courts and corrections components of the Georgia criminal justice system.

S.B. 519 is an Administration Bill. It responds generally to a longstanding issue regarding the proper organizational placement for adult probation services, i.e., Judicial Branch or Department of Offender Rehabilitation. More specifically, it is the result of the recommendation of a management study of this issue performed by the Office of Planning and Budget, which grew out of a recommendation of the conferees at the 1979 Governor's Conference on Criminal Justice.

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S.B. 520 amends Ga. Laws 1943, p. 185 (Ga. Code Ann. 77-520). It authorizes the Board of Pardons and Paroles to adopt rules and regulations, policies and procedures, for granting withholding or forfeiting "earned time" to parolees or other conditional released prisoners in the same manner as is now provided to inmates while in confinement.

S.B. 520 extends the earned time system now operating for inmates in prison to parolees while under the supervision of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. This extended system will require closer cooperation and coordination between the Department of Offender Rehabilitation and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. As a result of S.B. 520, the earned time system's application to offenders from incarceration to total release from parole supervision will be assured. Previous law provides for application of statutory good time during parole supervision; consequently, S.B. 520 may be viewed as an appropriate update law consistent with current practice and procedure.

S.B. 520 is an Administration Bill. It resulted from a mutual agreement between the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Department of Offender Rehabilitation which recognized the need to clarify and elaborate on existing laws pertaining to "earned time."

S.B. 521 amends Ga. Laws 1943, p. 185 (Ga. Code Ann. Ch. 77-5). It requires the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to adopt, implement and maintain a parole guidelines system to assist the Board in reaching parole decisions. It declares that the system must consider offense severity, prior criminal history, prison conduct and various other factors found to be of value in predicting probability of further criminal behavior and success on parole. It provides that such a system will not be employed in reaching parole decisions regarding inmates serving life sentences, whose parole eligibility is set by statute.

S.B. 521 will provide the Parole Board with an objective, empiricallybased system to guide parole decision-making. Consequently, it should: (1) eliminate any arbitrary parole decisions and ensure the integrity of the parole decision-making process; (2) assure that parole decisions are consistent with the goal of protecting society; and (3) ensure more equitable treatment of inmates under consideration for parole.

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S.B. 520 - PAROLEE: RULE, ETC., GRANTING OF EARNED TIME - ACT 878

S.B. 521 - PARDON AND PAROLES BOARD: ADOPT GUIDELINES SYSTEM - ACT 879

S.B. 521 is an Administration Bill. It is the result of a two-year research effort to design a more scientific and less subjective parole decision-making process in Georgia. The system is modeled after a similar system used by the U.S. Parole Commission. The guide-lines required will be adopted as Rules and Regulations of the Board under the Administrative Procedure Act. S.B. 521 was introduced subsequent to a mutual agreement between the Board and the Department of Offender Rehabilitation which was directed by the Governor to insure the operational compatibility of DOR's earned time system and the Board's Parole guidelines system.

S.B. 574 - CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: ADDITIONAL JUDGE - ACT 1209

S.B. 574 adds one superior court judge and the amenities of judgeship to the Cordele Judicial Circuit, increasing the number of judges in that circuit to two.

S.B. 574 should result in reducing the caseload of the Cordele Circuit's current judge. Additionally, it should reduce case backlog and expedite the disposition of cases there. Costs for implementation will be approximately \$80,000 in state funds. It may also result in some additional cost to the counties in the circuit in terms of salary supplements, fringe benefits, etc.

S.B. 574 is the result of recommendations of the Judicial Council of Georgia's Seventh Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia. The report recommended additional judgeships be created in seven circuits. The Cordele Circuit was ranked number four. These recommendations are based on empirical analyses of caseload statistics in all judicial circuits.

S.B. 580 - DHR AUTHORITY: COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS - ACT 1101

S.B. 508 amends Ga. Laws 1963, p. 81 (Ga. Code Ann. 99-213) and Code Section 24A-603. It provides that the three remaining county-operated juvenile detention facilities (Chatham, DeKalb, and Fulton) be transferred to the control and jurisdiction of the Department of Human Resources, Division of Youth Services, effective July 1, 1981. It stipulates that the transfer provided for in Section I will only become effective if all county-operated detention facilities transfer and deed to the State of Georgia the property, facilities, and equipment comprising the detention facility unless the State does not desire said property. It further provides that the General Assembly may appropriate reimbursement or partial reimbursement to counties for the operational costs incurred pending the actual transfer of the facility. It removes, under Section II, detention home employees from the list of personnel that the judge of a juvenile court may appoint.

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S.B. 580 could bring the State one step closer to a unified juvenile justice system in that it provides for a completely State-operated detention system. However, it might cause some problems if Fulton County holds to its current decision not to transfer and deed its property to the State. The problems will be two-fold: (1) it will effectively prevent both Chatham and DeKalb from receiving reimbursement from the State, and (2) because Section 2 of the Act will remain in effect regardless of whether or not Section 1 takes effect, after July 1, 1981, the juvenile court judges involved will not have the authority to appoint detention home personnel, even though it is quite possible that they will continue to be responsible for the operation of the facilities.

S.B. 580 is an apparent response to complaints from urban areas (specifically, Fulton Chatham, and DeKalb) that they are paying for Statewide services from which they do not benefit. While the Fulton County delegation was originally among the prime sponsors of the Bill, concern about the monetary worth of the property to be deeded to the State has caused local officials to reconsider their original position of seeking transfer to the State.

S.B. 582 - HABITUAL OFFENDERS: AWARDING EARNED TIME - ACT 1422

S.B. 582 amends Ga. Laws 1956, p. 161 (Ga. Code Ann. 77-320.1). It essentially requires the Department of Offender Rehabilitation (DOR) to develop and adopt rules and regulations for the awarding of earned time to prisoners which differentiate between habitual offenders and other offenders. It defines a habitual offender as any felony offender sentenced to, or serving in the custody of DOR, a third or subsequent felony incarceration in the Georgia Prison System since January 1, 1970. It applies only to felony offenders whose third or subsequent felony offense was committed after it becomes law, and it does not consider incarcerations outside of Georgia.

S.B. 582 should result in habitual offenders being awarded less earned time (off of their sentence) than other offenders. Consequently, habitual offenders should be serving longer sentences than they now serve. Therefore, its ultimate impact should be one of greater protection for society and corresponding increases in prison population and funding necessary for such an increase. Notably, provisions similar to those in this Bill were included in the original 1976 Earned Time Law, but were repealed in a 1978 amendment due to difficulties in identifying habitual offenders. ļ,

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S.B. 582 is an Administration Bill. It responds generally to an attempt to ensure that more dangerous, habitual offenders receive differential treatment under the earned time law, i.e., that habitual offenders' potential benefits from reduction of sentence not be as great as those of other offenders since society's interests may be best served by "habituals" being incarcerated for longer periods. More specifically, it resulted from a mutual agreement between the Department of Offender Rehabilitation and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, which was directed by the Governor to insure the operational compatibility of DOR's earned time system and the Board's parole guidelines system.

S.B. 588 - APPEALS BONDS: PETITION FILED, BONDS EFFECTIVE - ACT 1327

S.B. 588 amends Code Section 27-901. It provides that appeal bonds terminate when the right of appeal terminates and that an appeal bond will not be effective concerning a petition or application for writ of certiorari unless that court receiving the petition or application specifies that the bond will remain in effect.

S.B. 588, in effect, requires the return to custody of one out on appeal bond once the appeal procedure has been completed, unless the petitioned court allows the bond to remain in effect. This implies that unless the appellate court agrees to continue the bond, an individual must be returned to custody during further legal action.

S.B. 588 appears to respond to criticism that individuals who have been convicted and have appealed, could remain free of custody during extensive legal maneuvering. It places the responsibility on the appellate judge(s) to determine whether or not the individual should be returned to custody or remain free on bond during further determination of the case by the courts.

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HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

H.R. 459-1190 - INDEMNIFICATION: DISABLED: LAW OFFICER, FIREMEN, ETC.

H.R. 459-1190 proposes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution so as to authorize the payment of an indemnification of up to \$50,000 to certain law enforcement officers, firemen, and prison guards permanently disabled in the line of duty. It provides for submission of the amendment for ratification or rejection in the 1980 General Election, ratification being necessary for H.B. 1190 to become law.

H.R. 459-1190 essentially places before the electorate the provisions of H.B. 1190 which authorizes payment of indemnification to law enforcement officers, firemen, and prison guards who receive a permanently disabling injury while in the performance of their duties, making the benefits of such occupations commensurate with the hazards of the duties performed. This should enhance recruitment for the affected positions, as well as the retention of personnel presently occupying those positions.

H.R. 459-1190 responds to the need to provide adequate compensation for the specified officials who are permanently disabled in the performance of their duties. It is an apparent response to the House Public Safety Committee's efforts to upgrade the benefits provided for Georgia law enforcement personnel, firemen, and prison guards, putting the State-provided benefits more in line with benefits provided by other jurisdictions.

H.R. 483-1270 - JUVENILE COURT: VENUE DETERMINED

H.R. 483-1270 proposes an amendment to Article VI, Section XIV of the Georgia Constitution to provide that venue in Juvenile Court cases be determined by the Juvenile Court Code of Georgia. It further provides that this amendment be placed on the ballot for ratification or rejection in the 1980 General Election.

H.R. 483-1270 will uphold the constitutionality of the Juvenile Court Code which provides that proceedings may commence in the county where a delinquent or unruly act is alleged to have occurred and that

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deprivation proceedings may be commenced in the county in which the child is present. If ratified, H.R. 483-1270 would enable the General Assembly to change the venue in juvenile cases by law, rather than by constitutional amendment.

H.R. 483-1270 is a response to an expressed concern that the code laws regarding venue in juvenile matters are unconstitutional. The question stems from the fact that all juvenile matters are considered to be civil in nature. Therefore, according to the current Constitution, all juvenile cases, regardless of their type, must be tried in the defendant's county of residence. The code allows for the fact that due to the varied types of juvenile matters, it is frequently impractical to commence the proceedings in the defendant's county of residence.

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H.R. 551-1437 proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the initial appointment and subsequent election of the judge of the juvenile court of Floyd County according to local law. It also provides by local law for: the term of the judge, the filling of vacancies, the setting of qualifications and compensation of the judge, and the determination of whether the judge shall be full or part-time. It also provides for the submission of this amendment to the voters for ratification or rejection in the 1980 General Election.

H.R. 551-1437, if ratified, will establish an elected juvenile court judgeship in Floyd County.

H.R. 551-1437 appears to be in response to a local preference for an elected juvenile court judge in Floyd County.

H.R. 569-1529 proposes an amendment to Article VI, Section IX of the Georgia Constitution which authorizes the Recorder's Court of Chatham County to receive pleas of guilty and nolo contendere in misdemeanor cases, and to impose authorized sentences if the defendant waives trial by jury in writing.

H.R. 569-1529 will place before the electorate the proposed constitutional change authorizing receiving pleas of guilty or nolo contendere in misdemeanor cases brought before the court, provided the defendant

H.R. 551-1437 - FLOYD COUNTY: JUVENILE COURT JUDGE

H.R. 569-1529 - CHATHAM COUNTY: RECORDER'S COURT - MISDEMEANOR CASES

waives the right to jury trial in writing. Given ratification of the amendment, if the defendant wishes trial by jury he must notify the court and if reasonable cause for jury trial exists, the defendant shall be bound over to a court having jurisdiction to try the offense by jury.

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H.R. 569-1529 could have the effect of increasing pleas of guilty and nolo contendere before the Recorder's Court, thus reducing the number of cases in which the court would normally bind over to a court of jurisdiction for a jury trial. It is an apparent response to a local desire to expand the jurisdiction of the Chatham County Recorder's Court.

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SENATE RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

S.R. 177 - SENATE FRAUDULENT CHECK STUDY COMMITTEE: CREATE

S.R. 177 creates the Senate Fraudulent Check Study Committee. It provides that the Committee is to be composed of nine Senators from specified Committees, to be appointed by the President of the Senate. It authorizes the Committee to study and make recommendations as to what steps should be taken to abate the proliferation of the issuance of fraudulent checks in Georgia. The Committee is to make its recommendations to the 1981 General Assembly and will stand abolished when the 1981 session convenes. It also provides for expenses and allowances for members of the Committee.

S.R. 177 should yield recommendations for new statutes and/or amendments to existing statutes addressing bad check issuance in this State. It should provide a comprehensive review of one of the major monetary crimes in Georgia, a focal point for later use by all members of the General Assembly

S.R. 177 is a response to the increased issuance of fraudulent checks in Georgia and consequent increases in the cost of operating businesses and thus in the costs paid by consumers for goods and services.

S.R. 249 - JAIL STANDARDS: RELATIVE TO

S.R. 249 essentially encourages local units of government to voluntarily adopt and implement jail standards developed by a 1979 Jail Standards Study conducted by the Georgia Jail Standards Study Commission under the auspices of the Department of Community Affairs and the State Crime Commission. Further, it encourages the Executive Branch of State Government to develop policy and procedure manuals to guide the implementation of these standards. Finally, it expresses the General Assembly's desire that a continuing, on-going effort be developed in State Government to assist in implementing, monitoring and updating these standards.

S.R. 249 should result in the recently developed Georgia jail standards receiving greater visibility and wider dissemination as model standards throughout the State. Simultaneously, it should cause more local jurisdictions to adopt these standards as guides for jail operation, construction and renovation. Consequently, it should ultimately result

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in Statewide improvements in jail conditions and in a reduction in costly judicial intervention into the operations of local jails. It may also contribute significantly toward the establishment of an ongoing State government assistance effort in jail standard implementation

S.R. 249 is an Administration Resolution. It is, like the aforementioned Jail Standards Study, a general response to increasing problems in local jail operations which have been fueled by increasing inmate populations, decreasing resources and an unprecedented increase in judicial intervention into local jail operations in Georgia and other states. It is also a response to the absence of uniform, comprehensive, specific jail standards in Georgia. And, it is directly related to the efforts and recommendations of the study conducted by the Georgia Jail Standards Study Commission and the Governor's intentions to present the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly.

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S.R. 261 creates a Senate Study Committee on Domestic Violence. It provides that the Committee is to be composed of five Senators to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and is authorized to conduct a study of the problems of domestic violence and the sufficiency of Georgia laws related to domestic violence. It authorizes the Committee, at its discretion, to appoint an advisory committee, of not more than three citizens, who are knowledgeable about and interested in its work. It provides for an allowance for the members of the Committee, including the advisory committee. It provides that the Committee is required to issue a report of its findings on or before December 15, 1980, at which time it shall stand abolished.

S.R. 261 should yield recommendations for effective statutory remedies to the problem of domestic violence. It should result in an intensive examination of all facets of domestic violence.

S.R. 261 is an apparent response to a nationwide increase in the incidence of domestic violence and corresponding exposure of cases of domestic violence by local and national media. It is a response to the present lack of data in the depth necessary for an understanding of the true magnitude of the problem, and the lack of a careful review of Georgia's law concerning the problem, particularly as it relates to wife-beating.

S.R. 261 - SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: CREATE

S.R. 280 - MUNICIPAL COURTS: MARIJUANA CASES

S.R. 280 proposes an amendment to Article VI, Section IV of the Georgia Constitution which would grant jurisdiction to the recorder's, mayor's. or police courts of any municipality to try and dispose of cases of possession of marijuana of one ounce or less, and provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the electorate for ratification or rejection during the 1980 General Election.

S.R. 280, if passed as a constitutional amendment, would probably relieve the superior and state courts of a significant case burden involving relatively small amounts of marijuana. It can have the effect of providing significant revenue for larger metropolitan jurisdictions if fines are levied upon conviction, rather than a prison term imposed.

S.R. 280 probably responds to efforts in some quarters to "decriminalize" possession and/or use of small amounts of marijuana. It provides for "selective adjudication" of a state criminal violation in a local court. It could have the effect of reducing the backlog of this type case in the courts of general jurisdiction.

S.R. 349 - STATE PATROL STATION STUDY COMMITTEE: CREATE

S.R. 349 creates the State Patrol Station Study Committee. It provides that the Committee is to be composed of five Senators, to be appointed by the President of the Senate. It ostensibly authorizes the Committee to study the need for the establishment of state patrol stations in major metropolitan areas within the State. It requires the Committee to report its findings and recommendations to the 1981 General Assembly, at which time it shall stand abolished. It also provides for allowances, for up to ten days, for the members of the Committee.

S.R. 349 should result in an examination of the potential feasibility and effectiveness of the permanent location of Georgia State Patrol resources in major metropolitan areas, and the potential impact of these resources on current crime control efforts in these areas. It may also yield legislative recommendations consistent with the findings of these studies.

S.R. 349 is an apparent response to a perceived need for state patrol stations in various major metropolitan areas to assist local law enforcement officers in those areas in their crime control efforts. The recent situation in Atlanta whereby it was necessary to assign members of the State Patrol to duty within that city for several months in order to reinforce the Atlanta Police in crime fighting efforts emphasized the need for this study.

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S.R. 353 creates an interim study committee in the Senate to study and make recommendations regarding the entire juvenile justice system of the State. The committee will consist of five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate.

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S.R. 353 will enable the Juvenile Justice Study Committee that was created during the 1979 session and functioned until December 31, 1979. to be reconstituted and continue investigating juvenile justice matters until December 31, 1980.

S.R. 353 is an interim committee that is designed to bridge the gap between the 1980 and 1981 sessions of the General Assembly when it is anticipated that a standing committee or sub-committee on juvenile justice will be established in both houses.

S.R. 358 - JOINT CHILD ABUSE STUDY COMMITTEE: CREATE

S.R. 358 creates a joint Senate-House Child Abuse Study Committee. It provides that the Committee is to be comprised of four members from each house to be appointed by the leader of each house, and four citizens at-large (two to be appointed by the leader of each house). It authorizes the Committee to study the problem of child abuse and report its findings and recommendations to the 1981 session of the General Assembly, at which time it will stand abolished. It also provides for allowances, not to exceed ten days, for members of the Committee.

S.R. 358 will focus the attention of both houses of the General Assembly on the increasing incidence of child abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuses, throughout the State as well as nationally. This Committee should be able to sponsor legislation and appropriation requests that will effectively aid in combatting the problem.

S.R. 358 in general, appears to be a response to recently published trends regarding increases in the reported incidents of child abuse resulting in a heightened awareness that the problem occurs on all economic levels and is a matter of community concern. More specifically, it is the result of H.B. 1675 which failed to be reported out of Committee due to the many questions it raised which required further study. Among other objectives, H.B. 1675 was seeking to legislate the release of certain records which would enable researchers to study and compile

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S.R. 353 - JUVENILE JUSTICE STUDY COMMITTEE: CREATE

information regarding the correlation between early child abuse and later social and emotional maladjustments in children and adolescents. This raised many questions centering around the issuance of confidentiality and resulted in S.R. 358 as a means of resolving the issues and developing sound legislation.

S.R. 381 - PROBATION OFFICER AND DETENTION CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE

S.R. 381 creates a Probation Officer and Detention Facility Study Committee to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The Committee is to be composed of five Senators and is authorized to study all aspects of bringing all probation officers and detention centers under the supervision and control of the State agency responsible for State probation officers and detention facilities. It is further authorized to seek the advice and counsel of all persons knowledgeable in this area. The Committee is required to report its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 1980, at which time it shall stand abolished.

S.R. 381 has the potential to yield recommendations regarding the statewide unified juvenile probation system, administered by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Notably, legislation (S.B. 580) with the intent of placing all juvenile detention facilities under the direction of DHR was passed during the 1980 General Assembly. Consequently, the Committee created by S.R. 381 may choose not to further consider the issue of State-administered juvenile detention facilities. The impact of the resolution on adult probation is unclear. It does mention adult probation and therefore could conceivably result in recommendations regarding State administration of independent adult probation departments currently administered by local governments. However, it is doubtful that S.R. 381 intended to address adult detention facilities, which are the 294 local jails operated by county sheriffs' departments and municipal police departments.

S.R. 381 is an apparent response to the current fragmentation of juvenile probation and detention services and a perceived need to unify these services under State administration.

S.R. 392 - ALCOHOL ABUSE STUDY COMMITTEE: CREATE

S.R. 392 creates the Alcohol Abuse Study Committee, composed of three Senate members to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. It provides that the Committee is to study the magnitude of the problems

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S.R. 392 will create a forum for testimony and information-gathering about the correlation between alcohol abuse and such other areas of concern as crime and delinquency, child and spouse abuse, suicide, traffic fatalities, the economics of business and industry, and unemployment rates. It should result in recommendations for appropriate legislation to address the issues.

S.R. 392 appears to be a response to the public concern aroused by the recent widespread publicity and alarming statistics concerning alcohol abuse and alcoholism. It may also be in partial response to current research which merits a reevaluation of, or further inquiry into, the problem and its status within the criminal justice system.

created by alcohol abuse and alcoholism, and to make recommendations based on the Committee's findings by December 15, 1980, when the Committee will stand abolished. It also provides for allowances, for not more than fifteen days, for members of the Committee.



LOCAL LEGISLATION HOUSE BILLS

LOCAL LEGISLATION

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HOUSE BILLS

H.B. 104 - SUPERIOR COURT RETIREMENT FUND: ADD BOARD MEMBER
H.B. 279 - JUDGES AND SOLICITORS RETIREMENT: BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS
H.B. 327 - SHERIFFS' RETIREMENT FUND: SERVICE IN MILITARY AND AS LAW OFFICERS
H.B. 696 - ALCOVY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: JUDGES SALARY SUPPLEMENT
H.B. 1012 - DADE COUNTY: SHERIFF'S OFFICE - BUDGET
H.B. 1062 - CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS: INVESTIGATIONS/REPORTS
H.B. 1103 - FIREFIGHTERS STANDARDS: QUALIFICATIONS
H.B. 1109 - PUBLIC NUISANCES: ABATEMENT; RESTRAINT AND MANNER
H.B. 1127 - MURRAY COUNTY: CORONER; SALARY AND OFFICE EXPENSES
H.B. 1128 - CHATSWORTH, CITY OF: MAYOR'S COURT-FINES
H.B. 1131 - PUBLIC HEALTH; PETITIONS FOR RELEASE OF DRUG ADDICTS
H.B. 1145 - SUPERIOR COURT TERMS; BEN HILL, CRISP, DOOLY, AND WILCOX COUNTIES
H.B. 1174 - WESTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: SUPERIOR COURT TERMS
H.B. 1177 - DRIVERS/HABITUAL OFFENDERS: POINTS ASSESSED
H.B. 1187 - CUMMINGS, CITY OF: POLICE COURT; PUNISHMENT
H.B. 1189 - EMERGENCY PHONE 911: EMBLEMS ON VEHICLES
H.B. 1200 - LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: SECRETARY - SALARY
H.B. 1210 - SUPERIOR COURT RETIREMENT FUND: RETIRED CLERKS - BENEFITS
H.B. 1229 - VERDICT/JUDGEMENTS: DAMAGES DETERMINED

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H.B. 1239 - ALCOV
H.B. 1248 - DECATI
H.B. 1285 - BROOKS
H.B. 1323 - ATLAN
H.B. 1326 - ATLANI
H.B. 1352 - NORTHE
H.B. 1364 - SHERIF
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H.B. 1402 - FLOYD
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H.B. 1453 - DEKALB
H.B. 1457 - MCDUFF
H.B. 1463 - DEPARTN
H.B. 1470 - DEPUTY
H.B. 1474 - PROBATE
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H.B. 1501 - FULTON
H.B. 1503 - FULTON GENERAL
H.B. 1511 - LAURENS
H.B. 1515 - RABUN C
H.B. 1517 - ATLANTA
H.B. 1518 - TROUP CO
H.B. 1519 - TROUP CO

VY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: TERMS OF COURT TUR COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT: JURISDICTION, ETC. KS COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT NTA, CITY OF: POLICE DEPARTMENT PENSIONS VTA, CITY OF: POLICE DEPARIMENT PENSIONS TERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: TERMS OF COURT IFFS' RETIREMENT FUND: SURVIVING SPOUSE - BENEFITS GEE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK - SALARY COUNTY: PROBATE COURT; CLERK'S SALARY, DUTIES, ETC. IELD COUNTY: PROBATE JUDGE AND CLERK IELD COUNTY: CORONER AND DEPUTY COUNTY STATE COURT: SERVICES/REQUEST JUDGE FIE COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY MENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY: ACCIDENTS/ABSTRACT CORONERS: APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION IE COURT JUDGES: MINIMUM SALARIES OR COURT CLERKS: MINIMUM SALARIES STATE COURT: COST DEPOSIT, ETC. COUNTY: STATE COURT; JUDGE AND SOLICITOR OFFICES COUNTY: JUDGE AND SOLICITOR - SALARIES COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK - SALARY MUNICIPAL COURT: FULTON SECTION COUNTY: CORONER - SALARY COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT: JUDGE - SALARY

H.B.	1521 -	TROUP COUNTY STATE COURT: JUDGE AND SOLICITOR - SALARIES
H.B.	1524 -	SUMTER COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - SERVICE OF PROCESS
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H.B.	1546 -	BULLOCH COUNTY: SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND OFFICE CLERK
H.B.	1548 -	BULLOCH COUNTY PROBATE COURT CLERICAL EMPLOYEES
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H.B.	1573 -	TALBOT COUNTY: FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME DEPUTIES/SALARY
H.B.	1608 -	JEFFERSON COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT; JURISDICTION/FEES
H.B.	1609 -	BURKE COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY
H.B.	1613 -	NEWTON COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT POWERS
H.B.	1615 -	SPALDING COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT-FEES/COSTS
H.B.	1616 -	SPALDING COUNTY STATE COURT: COURT TERMS AND SIX MAN JURIES
H.B.	1617 -	NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: COURT REPORTERS - SALARY
H.B.	1624 -	ROCKDALE COUNTY PROBATE COURT: JUDGE'S SALARY
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H.B.	1626 -	ROCKDALE COUNTY: MAGISTRATE COURT - TERMS, ETC.
H.B.	1627 -	ROCKDALE COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY
H.B.	1629 -	ROCKDALE COUNTY: SHERIFF - SALARY RETIREMENT, ETC.
H.B.	1633 -	OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: SUPERIOR COURT TERMS
H.B.	1636 -	STEPHENS COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - CREATE
H.B.	1646 -	DEKALB COUNTY PROBATE COURT JUDGE - SALARY

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H.B. 1651 - WASHINGTON COUNTY: SHERIFF'S SECRETARIES H.B. 1652 - CLAYTON COUNTY: PROVIDE FOR A DEPUTY CORONER H.B. 1653 - CLAYTON COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY H.B. 1655 - CLAYTON COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE - SALARY H.B. 1657 - CLAYTON COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK AND SHERIFF -SALARIES H.B. 1658 - CLAYTON COUNTY STATE COURT: JUDGE AND SOLICITOR -SALARIES H.B. 1659 - CLAYTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: JUDGES SALARY SUPPLEMENT H.B. 1660 - CLAYTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' SALARY SUPPLEMENT H.B. 1661 - EFFINGHAM COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY H.B. 1663 - EFFINGHAM COUNTY: STATE COURT JUDGE AND SOLICITOR H.B. 1678 - COBB COUNTY STATE COURT: MAGISTRATE PRO HAC VICE H.B. 1682 - GWINNETT RECORDER'S COURT: JUDGE'S COMPENSATION H.B. 1690 - CLAY COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT: CREATE H.B. 1691 - CATOOSA COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY H.B. 1692 - CLAYTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: COURT REPORTER'S SALARY H.B. 1698 - MADISON COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY H.B. 1699 - COWETA COUNTY: CREATE A SMALL CLAIMS COURT H.B. 1703 - FAYETTE COUNTY: CREATE A SMALL CLAIMS COURT H.B. 1706 - MACON, CITY OF: JUDGE OF CITY COURT - SALARY H.B. 1709 - LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S TYPIST'S - SALARY H.B. 1711 - WALKER COUNTY STATE COURT: TRIAL JURIES - SIX JURORS H.B. 1712 - WALKER COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S PERSONNEL -SALARY

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H.B. 1714 - TRENTON, CITY OF: CHANGE NAME OF THE RECORDER'S COURT H.B. 1721 - CATOOSA COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S - SALARY H.B. 1733 - MITCHELL COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S - SALARY H.B. 1735 - MITCHELL COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE'S - SALARY H.B. 1738 - LONG COUNTY: CREATE A SMALL CLAIMS COURT H.B. 1743 - HARRISON, TOWN OF: RECORDER'S COURT H.B. 1746 - GORDON COUNTY PROBATE COURT JUDGE AND SUPERIOR COURT CLERK H.B. 1757 - UPSON COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE'S - SALARY H.B. 1759 - LAMAR COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGES' COMPENSATION H.B. 1761 - LAMAR COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY H.B. 1767 - ECHOLS COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S SUPPLEMENT H.B. 1772 - ATLANTIC JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: JUDGES' SUPPLEMENT H.B. 1773 - COBB COUNTY JUVENILE COURT JUDGE - SALARY H.B. 1782 - COLUMBUS, CITY OF: SHERIFF, ORDINARY, ETC. H.B. 1786 - COLUMBUS, CITY OF: JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT H.B. 1797 - PULASKI COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT H.B. 1802 - CATOOSA COUNTY: SHERIFF'S BUDGET H.B. 1805 - WALKER COUNTY: PROBATE JUDGE'S PERSONNEL H.B. 1808 - COFFEE COUNTY: FEES OF SMALL CLAIMS COURT H.B. 1809 - FRANKLIN COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK - SALARY H.B. 1810 - FRANKLIN COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE'S - SALARY H.B. 1813 - CHATTOOGA COUNTY: SHERIFF - SALARY H.B. 1820 - WARNER ROBINS, CITY OF: MUNICIPAL COURT FINES H.B. 1822 - DODGE COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT: CREATE

H.B. 1823 - HENRY COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT; JURISDICTION H.B. 1825 - ELBERT COUNTY STATE COURT: TERMS OF THE COURT H.B. 1826 - ELBERT COUNTY: JUDGE - PROBATE COURT AND SUPERIOR COURT CLERK H.B. 1827 - CARROLL COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK - COMPENSATION H.B. 1828 - RANDOLPH COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - JURISDICTION H.B. 1831 - HARALSON COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE - SALARY H.B. 1849 - TURNER COUNTY: TAX COMMISSIONER, PROBATE COURT JUDGE AND SUPERIOR COURT CLERK H.B. 1850 - COLUMBUS, CITY OF: CITY COURT JUDGE AND CLERK -SALARY H.B. 1851 - PLAINS, CITY OF: COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS H.B. 1852 - LESLIE, CITY OF: APPEALS, TO SUPERIOR COURT FROM MUNICIPAL COURT H.B. 1853 - SUMTER COUNTY STATE COURT: JUDGE AND SOLICITOR -SALARY H.B. 1857 - DOUGHERTY COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT JURISDICTION H.B. 1858 - DOUGHERTY COUNTY: STATE COURT JUDGE'S COMPENSATION H.B. 1860 - LAURENS COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT JUDGE'S POWERS H.B. 1861 - GLYNN COUNTY STATE COURT: OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL H.B. 1865 - EMANUEL COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - FEES H.B. 1866 - LAURENS COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE - SALARY H.B. 1867 - THOMAS COUNTY: STATE COURT JUDGE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL - SALARIES H.B. 1870 - SNELLVILLE, TOWN OF: RECORDER'S COURT - FINES, ETC. H.B. 1871 - COLQUITT COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT: CHANGE POPULATION FIGURES H.B. 1875 - MITCHELL COUNTY: CORONER'S - SALARY H.B. 1876 - CHATOOGA COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - FEES

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H.B. 1880 - MADISON, CITY OF: MAYOR'S COURT PENALTIES
H.B. 1887 - PIKE COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT: COSTS AND FEES
H.B. 1894 - FANNIN COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S SALARY AND PERSONNEL
H.B. 1895 - TAYLOR COUNTY: CORONER'S COMPENSATION
H.B. 1898 - PAULDING COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S COMPENSATION
H.B. 1899 - COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: FULL-TIME COURT REPORTERS
H.B. 1902 - MUSCOGEE COUNTY STATE COURT: OFFICIAL'S SALARIES
H.B. 1903 - POLK COUNTY STATE COURT: JUDGES' COMPENSATION
H.B. 1904 - POLK COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY
H.B. 1906 - POLK COUNTY: SMALL CLAIMS COURT - CREATE
H.B. 1908 - PAULDING COUNTY: CORONER'S SALARY

LOCAL LEGISLATION SENATE BILLS

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SB 6 - PROBATE COURT JUDGES RETIREMENT: INTEREST ON DUES REFUNDED
SB 43 - CHILDREN/DIVORCE: GRANDPARENTS RIGHTS
SB 68 - ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PURCHASES: RAISE AGE LIMIT TO 19 YEARS
SB 106 - DISTRICT ATTORNEY EMERITUS RETIREMENT: SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS
SB 218 - HALL COUNTY STATE COURT: JUDGE'S SALARY
SB 333 - BALDWIN COUNTY: CORONERS INQUEST FEES
SB 367 - BOARD OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS: ADDITIONAL MEMBER
SB 438 - STATE COURT COBB COUNTY: SOLICITOR'S OFFICE ARREST POWERS
SB 440 - COBB COUNTY STATE COURT JUDGE PRO HAC VICE
SB 442 - PROBATE COURT JUDGES: RETIREMENT BENEFITS
SB 460 - PEACE OFFICERS ANNUITY AND BENEFIT: MEMBERSHIP
SB 464 - JONES COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS SALARY
SB 466 - JONES COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGES PERSONNEL
SB 476 - LUMPKIN COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT: CREATE
SB 511 - TELFAIR COUNTY: SUPERIOR COURT CLERK - SALARY
SB 513 - TELFAIR COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE - SALARY
SB 525 - FULTON COUNTY STATE COURT: MAGISTRATE - CREATE OFFICE
SB 537 - RABUN COUNTY: CREATE SMALL CLAIMS COURT
SB 547 - BALDWIN COUNTY: POWERS OF MAGISTRATE AND DEPUTY
SB 553 - WORLD CONGRESS CENTER: EMPLOY SECURITY GUARDS
SB 559 - JASPER COUNTY: PROBATE COURT JUDGE - COMPENSATION
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LOCAL RESOLUTIONS HOUSE AND SENATE

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HOUSE AND SENATE

HR 473-1238	-	DEKALB COUNTY: CREATE OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER
HR 609	-	REGRETS: PASSING OF HONORABLE EUGENE MURPHEY KERR; SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
HR 649	-	REGRETS: PASSING OF HONORABLE JUDGE ALEXANDER ATKINSON LAWRENCE
HR 800	-	COMMEND: OFFICER DALE HARRISON
HR 801	-	COMMEND: WARDEN BILL JONES
<u>HR 813</u>	-	COMMEND: OFFICER DOYLE MCCOLLUM
HR 814	-	COMMEND: OFFICER PAUL WEBBER
HR 818	-	COMMEND: CHIEF HUSTON FREMON
HR 819	-	COMMEND: SHERIFF BILL HART
<u>HR 820</u>	-	COMMEND: TROOPER DONALD F. LANGSTON
HR 824	-	COMMEND: SHERIFF WILLIAM EARL HAMRICK
HR 935	-	REGRETS: PASSING OF SHERIFF THOMAS HARDWICK 'TOM' POPPELL
<u>SR 247</u>	-	GWINNETT JUDICIAL BUILDING AUTHORITY: CREATE
<u>SR 319</u>	-	DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED "AN ALTERNATIVE FOR SOME"
<u>SR 390</u>	-	COMMEND: TWIGGS COUNTY SHERIFF HONORABLE EARL HAMRICK
<u>SR 420</u>	' -	COMMEND: MR. CHARLES R. BALKCOM
<u>SR 428</u>	-	COMMEND: STEVE L. DORAN, CHAPLAIN - GEORGIA INDUSTRIAL

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