



## The Capitol Report January 29, 2010

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*The General Assembly is in recess today and will return on Monday for a full five-day work schedule. After next week, the legislature is expected to meet Tuesday through Thursday of each week to conserve legislative days for work on the budget. The pace for non-budget items has been exceedingly slow thus far, with relatively few bills introduced in the first eight legislative days.*

### **Water and transportation bills not yet introduced.**

The Administration has yet to introduce its bills on water and transportation, two of the most important issues this General Assembly must address.

Two water bills are expected. One will implement recommendations from the Comprehensive Statewide Water Plan, and will likely include a major focus on conservation. There have been some reports that most of the conservation measures will be directed at residential and commercial water use. Another bill is expected to codify an anticipated compact with Florida and Alabama over water in Lake Lanier.

The anticipated transportation bill will reportedly provide for a one cent sales tax when approved by voters in a designated region. Reports also indicate that Governor Sonny Perdue wants "no exemptions" from the one cent sales tax. It is expected that the legislation will be introduced late next week.

**Bills of Interest:** (click on the bill number to see the bill in it's entirety)

[HB 204](#) Sims 169<sup>th</sup> amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 relating to general provisions regarding sales and use taxation, so as to change certain provisions regarding applicability of sales and use tax to motor fuel sales; to **provide for an exemption from state sales and use tax on the sale or use of diesel fuel used to propel locomotives.**

[HB 887](#) Levitas 82<sup>nd</sup> to amend Chapter 1 of Title 34 , relating to general provisions relating to labor, so as to change provisions relating to an employer's immunity for disclosing job performance information; to provide for civil immunity under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters. *House Industrial Relations*

[SB 305](#) Mullis 53<sup>rd</sup> an Act to amend Code Section 32-2-81 relating to use of the design-build method of implementation of transportation projects, so as to increase the percentage of projects that may be contracted for using the design-build method. *Senate Transportation*

[SB 323](#) Pearson 51<sup>st</sup> an Act relating to the evaluation of private participation in the financing of transportation projects, so as to require local and small business participation in such projects *Senate Transportation*

[SR 821](#) Shafer 48<sup>th</sup> A RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to allow the Georgia Department of Transportation to enter into multiyear construction agreements without obligating present funds for the full obligation to the state under the full term of such agreements; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes. *Senate Transportation*