

**FULTON COUNTY PRIORITY LEGISLATION**  
**April 27, 2010 Update**  
**Report # 2**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<p>HR 1 – Property Assessment Freeze (CA)  By Representative Edward Lindsey (Atlanta)</p> <p><b>BOC Position - OPPOSE</b></p>	<p>Legislative Team monitoring for attachment to relevant legislation.</p>
<p>HR 21 – Re-creation of Existing County (CA)  By Representative Jan Jones (Alpharetta)</p> <p><b>BOC Position – OPPOSE</b></p>	<p>The Legislative Team monitoring for any potential resurrection efforts.</p>
<p>HB 1055 – Fee Enhancement Bill  By Kevin Levitas (Atlanta)</p> <p>HB 1055 increases the number of state user fees for the purpose of filling state budget gaps.</p> <p>The major provisions of the bill are as follows:</p> <p>Adds HB 307 (“Bed Tax”) into the bill, as passed by the Senate, but removes the insurance premium tax exemption; provides for a five-year phase out of the state quarter mill state property tax beginning in 2012; provides for a gradual increase in the amount of retirement income excludable from state income tax for tax payers 65 and older beginning in 2012; and creates a \$50 add-on fee to civil filings in state courts, to be retained by counties to offset the cost of county court operations.</p> <p>This legislation will raise an approximate \$95 million in new fees, and over \$216 million from the “Bed Tax,” which would leverage over \$600 million in Medicaid funding.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>This legislation was adopted by the Senate and the House on April 14, 2010.</p> <p>The “As Passed” version by the House and Senate will provide an additional \$4 - \$5 million annually to Grady Hospital.</p> <p><b>Legislation is awaiting Governor’s signature.</b></p>

<p>SB 346 - Property Tax Reform By Senator Chip Rogers (Woodstock)</p> <p>This legislation would assure that all property owners receive a valuation from their county annually. They would also get information on when to file an appeal. Under the substitute bill, each county would send an assessment notice, which will include an estimate of property taxes to each property owner. The bill would use the property owner's millage from the past year, multiplied by the current year's tax assessment, but would not include any exemptions.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – OPPOSE</b></p>	<p><u><b>Note: Changes Today</b></u></p> <p>The Fulton County Board of Commissioners voted 5 – 0 to oppose this bill based upon the increased costs of implementing the legislation. These costs include:</p> <p>Postage Costs – It is anticipated that this legislation will cost the County an additional \$100,000 annually to mail annual assessments.</p> <p>Special Master Costs – This legislation requires that the County assume the cost of hiring special masters to review properties above \$1 million. Based upon our best estimates, there are more than 10,000 parcels, which qualify for this consideration. For a county the size of Fulton, it is estimated that the special master fee could be approximately \$200/ hour, plus the County must provide space for housing the special masters.</p> <p><u><b>Passed House 137-7 on 4/21/2010</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Legislation awaiting House agreement / disagreement on Senate amendments</b></u></p>
<p>HB 1465 – College Park Water and Sewer Authority By Representative Virgil Fludd (Tyrone)</p> <p>This local bill would allow the City of College Park to establish a water and sewer authority to sell revenue bonds, buy water assets; and operate a water and sewer system outside the municipal boundaries of the City of College Park.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – OPPOSE</b></p>	<p>The legislation passed the House on 4/14/2010.</p>
<p>HB 648 – Fulton Governance By Representative Kathy Ashe (Atlanta)</p> <p>This local legislation would expand the powers of the Fulton County Chairman and provide additional authority to set the Board Agenda and to appoint and remove the County Manager and department heads, subject to a confirmation vote by majority of the Board of Commissioners.</p> <p><b>BOC Position - OPPOSE</b></p>	<p>This legislation is in the purview of the Fulton County House Delegation, Subcommittee on Fulton County, chaired by Representative Tyrone Brooks.</p>
<p>HB 1487 – Fulton County Local Small Business Enterprise Program By Representative Roger Bruce (Atlanta)</p> <p>This local legislation will allow the County to establish a local small business enterprise program for the purpose of expanding opportunities for local businesses to compete for contracts with the Fulton County Governor.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>This legislation is in the purview of the Fulton County House Delegation.</p>

<p>HB 277 – Conference Committee Report  “Transportation Investment Act of 2010”</p> <p>The Conference Committee on Transportation Funding utilized HB 277 from the 2009 Session as the major vehicle for transportation funding, as well as support for MARTA.</p> <p>Passed House by vote of 141-29  Passed Senate by vote of 43-8</p> <p>Adopted 4/21/2010</p>	<p>The Conference Committee, which had support from the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker, agreed to a statewide transportation bill. The major provisions of the bill are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creates 12 districts (RDC Boundaries)</li> <li>- Local Roundtable sets projects and priorities</li> <li>- Provides for a 10- year levy</li> <li>- An entire region can opt out</li> <li>- 15% revenue will come directly to region (replaces LARP) in metro area</li> <li>- 25% revenue to other regions</li> <li>- Coordination of Rural and Human Transportation Services included in bill</li> <li>- Clayton County MARTA participation included in bill</li> <li>- Creates Citizen Review Panels to check progress on project lists, appointed by the Speaker of the House and Lt. Governor</li> <li>- Creates Transit Governance Study Committee</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Major provisions relating to MARTA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removes the 50/50 restriction on MARTA use of proceeds for 3 years</li> <li>- Prohibits use of new funds on current operations</li> <li>- Reduces MARTA Board from 18 to 11 members: Fulton County, 3 members – 2 North and 1 South; City of Atlanta, 3 members; DeKalb County, 4 members.</li> </ul>
<p>SB 58 – County Assets to Newly Created Municipalities  By Senator Dan Weber (Dunwoody)</p> <p>This bill creates procedures for newly formed qualified municipalities to purchase county properties used as police stations, fire stations, cultural property, or vacant properties within the boundaries of the municipality. It further allows newly formed municipalities that are a part of special county districts to elect to continue receiving water and sewer, sanitation, and fire service from the county at the fee level charged to residents of unincorporated parts of the county. It provides new procedures for the allocation of bond proceeds for county properties now located within the boundaries of the newly created municipality.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – OPPOSE</b></p>	<p><u>The amended bill applies only to DeKalb County.</u></p> <p>SB 58 passed the House Judiciary Committee on April 19, 2010.</p>

<p>SR 1083 – Property Conveyance Legislation By Senator Johnny Grant (Milledgeville)</p> <p>This legislation conveys certain state owned properties to local governments.</p> <p><b>County Manager’s Recommendation – SUPPORT</b></p>	<p>The General Assembly has passed this legislation, which transfers the Larmore property and facilities to Fulton County for a fee of \$1.00.</p>
<p>SB 308 – Firearms Carrying and Possession</p> <p>This bill relates to crime and offenses so as to change provisions relating to the carrying and possession of concealed firearms in public places. The present bill permits carrying of concealed firearms into houses of worship, bars; removes the 1000ft school safety zone prohibition, and allows carrying weapons in locations on college and university campuses.</p> <p><b>BOC Position – Opposed similar legislation, HB 615</b></p>	<p>Legislation is in the House Judiciary Non-Civil Subcommittee.</p>
<p>SB 520 – MARTA Board Composition By Senator Jeff Mullis ( Chickamauga)</p> <p>This legislation was sponsored by Senator Mullis to create an Intermodal Division in the Department of Transportation. Representative Jan Jones and others offered an amendment to Senate Bill 520 at the House Rules Committee meeting today, relating to changing the membership of the MARTA Board.</p> <p>Under this amendment, the membership of the MARTA Board would be thirteen (13); three (3) from the City of Atlanta; four (4) from DeKalb County; one member each appointed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House. Three members (two in north Fulton, one in south Fulton) would be appointed by the mayors of Fulton County from their respective areas. <b><u>There would be no appointments to this board from the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Note: New Today</u></b></p> <p>The legislation failed to receive the required votes to move out of the Rules Committee today.</p> <p>The County Manager directed the State Lobbying Team to oppose the amendment.</p> <p>The Lobbying Team continues to advocate against the proposed Jones amendment.</p>

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Meeting Schedule Update**

**HR 1995 –ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION**

**LD 39, Tuesday, April 27  
LD 40, Thursday, April 29 (SINE DIE)**