

## VOUCHERS

**SB 386** - Expands a program that spends taxpayer dollars to subsidize private school tuition for the wealthy by siphoning money away from public schools. Even as the bill was being debated by the Senate, an amendment was adopted to grow the program further. **PASSED SENATE. Has not been assigned to a House committee.**

As a matter of principle, **GAE opposes the use of taxpayer and state dollars to pay for private school tuition.** The bill expands, *potentially 7-fold*, the number of students in the program by admitting students with 504 plans.

## TKES

**SB 466** - Eliminates the "needs improvement" rating from teacher evaluations and would establish a pilot program in ten systems for an alternate evaluation program. **PASSED SENATE. Has not been assigned to a House committee.**

**HB 86** - Attempts to clarify the rights of school teachers to appeal an unfavorable TKES review by utilizing a third-party chosen by the district or by another administrator. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLE HOUSE VOTE.**

**HB 1095** - would allow a teacher who has received an unfavorable review to request an alternate evaluator for next school year. *GAE would prefer that the language in the bill - "shall be afforded the opportunity to have an alternative evaluation" - be amended to "shall be afforded an alternative evaluation."* **HAS NOT PASSED COMMITTEE. UNLIKELY TO MAKE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE.**

**HB 1065** - similar to HB 1095. **HAS NOT PASSED COMMITTEE. UNLIKELY TO MAKE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE.**

Bill #	Passed?
SB 386	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 466	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 86	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 1095	

## TRS

[HB 336](#) - Allows retired teachers to return to the classroom full-time in schools determined to be in "*highest need*." **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES AND POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

[SB 294](#) - Allows TRS to put a small percentage of its portfolio into alternative investments, 34-19. **PASSED SENATE. IN HOUSE RETIREMENT.**

[HB 336](#) - Allows retired teachers to return to the classroom *full-time* in schools described as in "*highest need*" as determined by the Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Education and the Professional Standards Commission. Retired teachers wouldn't be eligible for the program until one year after retirement. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES.**

## HIGH STAKES TESTING

[SB 367](#) to reduce the number of "*high-stakes, high-stress*" tests that students must take. **PASSED SENATE. IN HOUSE EDUCATION.**

## TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHERS WHO TEACH IN RURAL OR "TURNAROUND" SCHOOLS

[HB 736](#) would provide for a refundable tax credit of up to \$3,000 a year for up to five years to any teacher who teaches in an in-need "rural territory" of this state or in a "turnaround school." Bill would only apply to a maximum of 100 schools as determined by the state Department of Education, and no more than 1,000 teachers. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES.**

## STATE-PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR TEACHERS

[HB 1094](#) gives three weeks of *state-paid* parental leave to state employees and K-12 public school teachers. **PASSED HOUSE.**

## MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL RESTROOMS FOR FEMALES

Bill #	Passed?
HB 336	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 294	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 336	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 367	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 736	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 1094	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 349	

[SB 349](#) requires local school boards to provide free menstrual products in middle and high school restrooms. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR SENATE RULES AND POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

## HAZING

[SB 423](#) to expand the definition and penalties for high school and college hazing. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR SENATE RULES AND POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

## FOSTER CARE AND HOMELESSNESS

[HB 16](#) - to provide for in-state tuition at University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia institutions for youth who are from foster care or homeless situations. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES AND THEN POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

[HB 855](#) provides for the immediate assessment of students who enter foster care to determine if they qualify for an individualized education program (IEP.) **PASSED HOUSE. IN SENATE EDUCATION.**

## SCHOOL SAFETY

[HB 784](#) allows school security plans to be discussed in private by school boards - *and to be voted on in private*. Some see the bill as a back-door way to introduced armed teachers in classrooms. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES AND POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

## SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

[HB 829](#) and [HR 962](#), a constitutional amendment to allow the local board to call a referendum to authorize assessment of homestead property of those 65 and older at 20% for school taxes. **PASSED HOUSE AND IN SENATE FINANCE.**

[HB 898](#) - Allows counties and municipalities to consider the effect of a proposed zoning action on local school systems. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES AND A POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

Bill #	Passed?
SB 423	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 16	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 855	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 784	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 829	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 898	

## HOMESCHOOLING

[HB 1055](#) - Allows home-schooled students the right to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics, band, chorus and school clubs and organizations at the public schools to which they are zoned. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR HOUSE RULES AND POSSIBLE FLOOR VOTE.**

[SB 430](#) - Allows home-schooled students and private school students to take courses at college and career academies. **PASSED SENATE UNANIMOUSLY.** NOT YET ASSIGNED TO HOUSE COMMITTEE.

## TEACHER PAY RAISES

The House passed state budget, 134-35. The bill, [HB 793](#), includes a \$1,000-a-year increase to teachers salary schedule, half of what Gov. Kemp proposed. **PASSED HOUSE. IN SENATE.** See also [HB 949](#), which cuts income taxes, at the expense of teacher pay raises. **PASSED HOUSE.**

## WHOLE-CHILD, COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

[SB 102](#) codifies “Whole Child” work underway at the Georgia Department of Education. **PASSED COMMITTEE. ELIGIBLE FOR SENATE FLOOR VOTE THURSDAY.**

[HB 1106](#), another “Community Schools” bill, was passed by the Academic Support subcommittee of the House Education Committee but has not passed full committee.

## DREAMER (DACA) IN-STATE TUITION

A Republican-sponsored bill ([HB 997](#)) to permit in-state tuition for “Dreamer” or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students was killed in committee Wednesday.

Bill #	Passed?
HB 1055	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 430	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 793	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 949	

Bill #	Passed?
SB 102	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 1106	

Bill #	Passed?
HB 997	<b>N</b>