

Need more information on these or other bills passed by the Georgia General Assembly?

Go to www.Legis.ga.gov and enter the bill number in question or click on "Advanced Search" and use the keyword finder to search for the bill you're interested in.

HB 872 Metals Theft Act

The Metals Theft Act places additional purchasing requirements on secondary metals recyclers in order to limit the individuals who may sell copper coil or wire. There will be a records requirement for each transaction. This bill provides for forfeiture proceedings when copper has been taken illegally. HB 872 will further require registration of secondary metal recyclers with the Sheriff of each county and makes metal buyers liable to a civil case.



HB 1176

Criminal Justice Reform Bill

The Criminal Justice Reform Bill encourages the use of drug courts with emphasis on rehabilitation rather than confinement for low risk offenders. It provides community-based sentencing options to reduce recidivism, such as accountability courts that include substance abuse and mental health programs. This bill will require agencies to be accountable for better results by implementing systematic data collection and performance measurement systems. HB 1176 strengthens Georgia's probations and parole systems by increasing supervision and accountability.

QUESTIONS?

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To determine which district you are in go to:
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/mvp/>

District 173 Grady/ Thomas/ Decatur

In 2011, the Georgia General Assembly redistricted the state to reflect the most current 2010 census. The District will now include parts of Thomas County and Decatur County and all of Grady County.

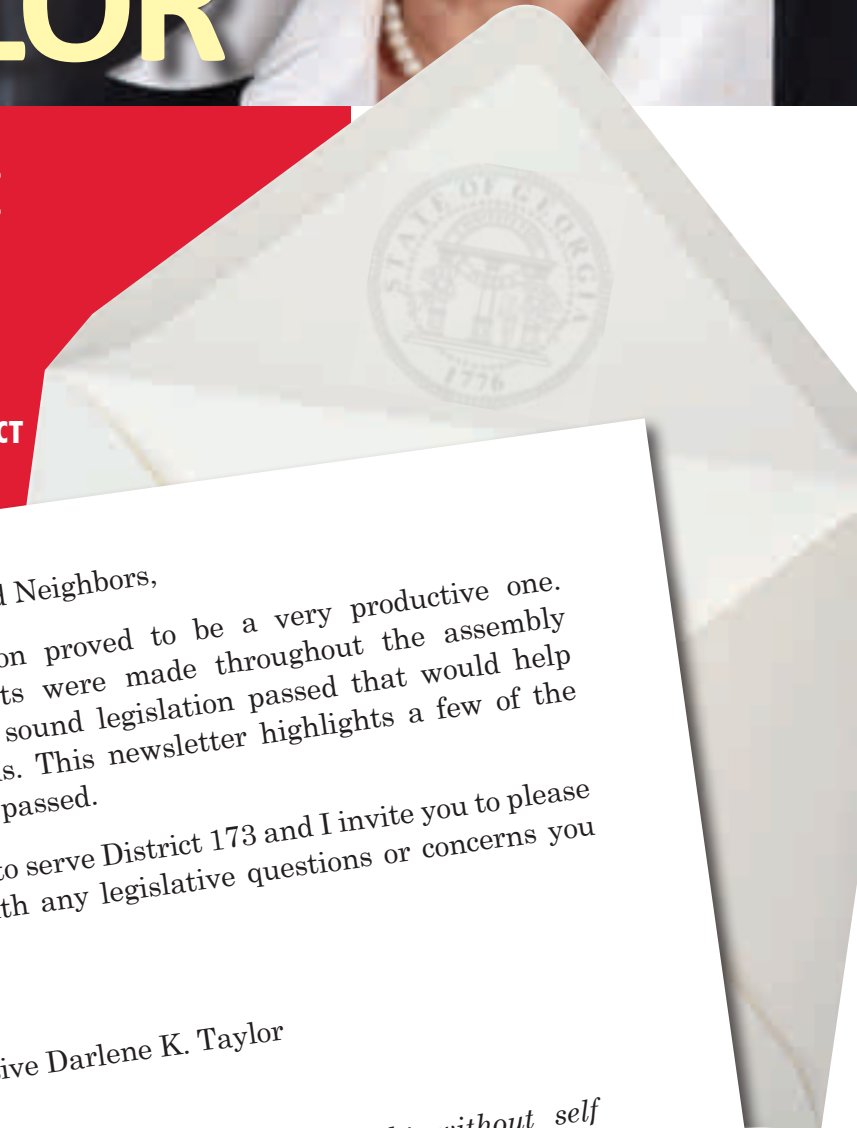
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2012

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE TAYLOR



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METAL THEFT ACT
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REFORM BILL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2012 session proved to be a very productive one. Concerted efforts were made throughout the assembly to ensure that sound legislation passed that would help Georgia citizens. This newsletter highlights a few of the bills that were passed.

It is an honor to serve District 173 and I invite you to please call on me with any legislative questions or concerns you may have.

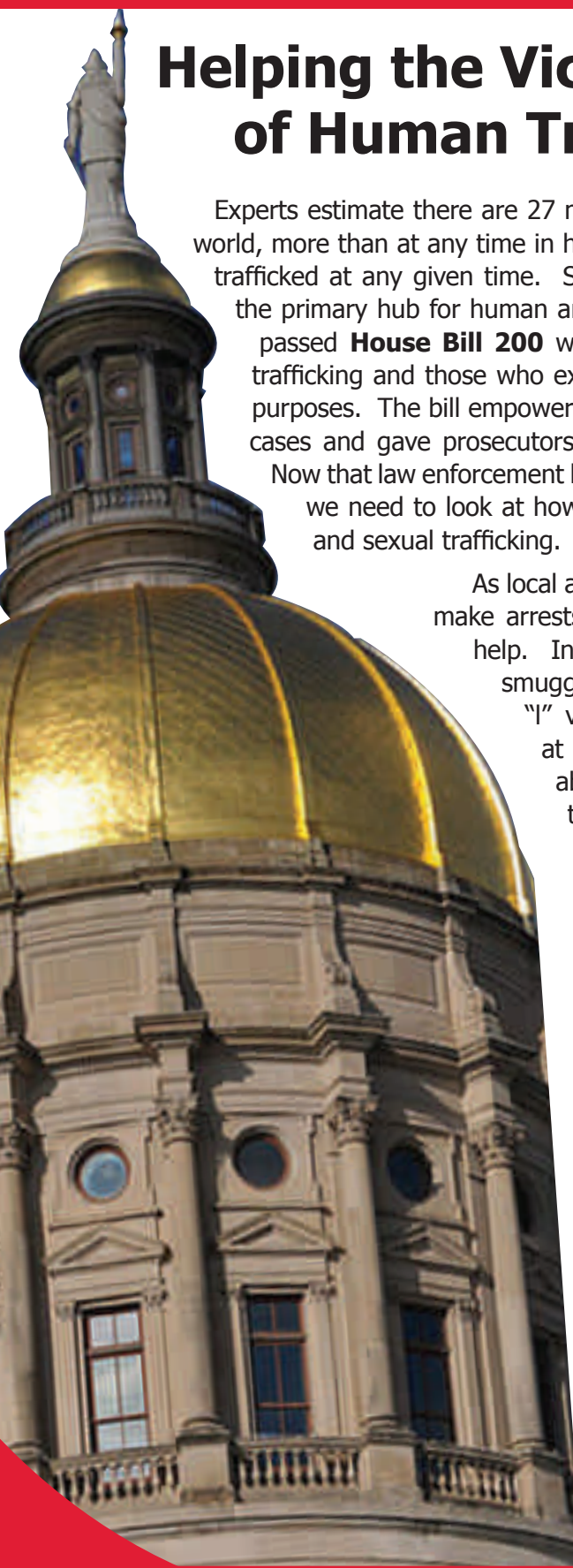
Sincerely,

Representative Darlene K. Taylor

May we pursue that which is right without self righteousness. May we know unity without conformity. May we grow in strength without self pride.

- PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE TAYLOR ON THE ISSUES...



Helping the Victims of Human Trafficking

Experts estimate there are 27 million people in slavery around the world, more than at any time in history, and 2.5 million people being trafficked at any given time. Sadly, the FBI considers Georgia as the primary hub for human and sexual trafficking. Last year we passed **House Bill 200** which stiffened penalties on human trafficking and those who exploit minors for commercial sexual purposes. The bill empowered the GBI to investigate trafficking cases and gave prosecutors more tools to fight the criminals. Now that law enforcement has better tools to fight these crimes we need to look at how we care for the victims of human and sexual trafficking.

As local and federal law enforcement officers make arrests in these cases, the victims need help. International victims who have been smuggled into our country are given an "I" visa and are needed as witnesses at trial. Often they are traumatized, abused, and not sure how to get in touch with their families back home. They need specialized professional counseling and legal help to address their specific situations. In addition, the private sector through churches and many other civic organizations are organized and raising money to fight trafficking.

A study committee comprised of volunteers and at no cost to taxpayers is scheduled to deliver a report to the House and Senate leadership by the end of 2012. The study committee will develop a plan that will make recommendations regarding the State's role as well as encourage the private sector in conjunction with independent organizations to assist with the needs of the trafficking victims.

HB 386 Tax Reform Bill

The tax reform bill will benefit Georgia families, businesses, and agriculture.

Pro-Family

- Eliminates the "birthday tax" & "sales tax" on motor vehicles.
- Reinstates a sales tax holiday for school supplies and energy efficient items.
- Eliminates the "marriage penalty" by increasing the personal exemption for married couples by \$2,000 on joint income tax returns and \$1,000 each on separate returns.

Pro-Business

- E-Fairness eliminates the advantage that out-of-state businesses had and treats them the same as our own Georgia businesses.
- This bill ensures the progressive elimination of state sales tax on the cost of energy used in manufacturing. This policy will level the playing field as other Southeastern states do not have a sales tax on energy. This is key to attracting new businesses such as Caterpillar and Baxter.

Pro-Agriculture

- Broadens the sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs such as farm equipment parts, implements, and farm use equipment.
- Establishes a sales tax exemption on diesel, gasoline and other energy used in agricultural production and processing starting January 1, 2013. This includes facilities not currently covered, such as poultry and livestock processors, dairies, and swine production facilities.



HB 954 Fetal Pain Act

The Fetal Pain Act, also known as the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, recognizes that an unborn child experiences pain at 20 weeks of gestational age and legislates a general ban on abortions performed at 20 or more weeks. HB 954 does create some additional guidelines and requires a determination of gestational age prior to abortion.



SB 33 Zero Based Budget Act

The Zero-Based Budget Act ensures that each year government agencies would be required to build their budgets from a starting point of \$0. Currently agencies begin with the previous year's budget and then justify any additional monies desired. The bulk of the budget remains untouched under the old system since you would only have to justify new money. SB 33 institutes a new method that is intended to uncover waste that becomes exponentially difficult to identify in the previous years.

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