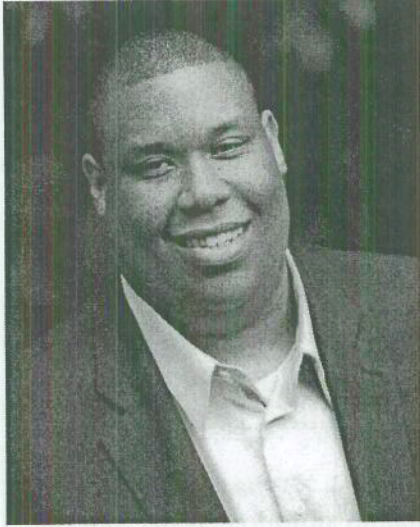




REP. RASHAD TAYLOR

2012 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Dear Neighbor,

The Georgia General Assembly has recently completed its 40 day legislative session for 2012. I have outlined a brief summary of the major good, bad, and ugly bills that passed this year.

As Vice Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, a lot of the work I do during the session is leading the opposition against many of the harmful policies Republicans have tried to pass. Sometimes we as Democrats win. Sometimes we lose. But you can always count on me to stand up for your values.

This year, Republicans tried to strip the Fulton County Commission of its MARTA Board appointments and give those appointments to a group of mayors in North Fulton County. And the bill stripped the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County of one MARTA Board appointment and replaced them with a REPUBLICAN appointed state official. **I led the opposition that killed this divisive bill.** I was joined in my opposition by the Atlanta City Council, Fulton and DeKalb Commissions, and the Sierra Club of Georgia. I led the opposition because MARTA deserves better and our tax dollars deserve respect.

Because of Republican reapportionment, you have been placed into a new legislative House district. **As your new state representative in the newly drawn House District 57, you can count on me to fight for you.** Over the coming weeks I will be knocking on doors to get to know you. In the meantime, feel free to call me. My mobile number is 404-604-8183 or you can reach me via email at rashad@rashadtaylor.com.

Sincerely,

Rashad Taylor
State Representative

RASHAD TAYLOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
55TH DISTRICT

MINORITY VICE CHAIRMAN

STANDING COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION
REGULATED INDUSTRIES
WAYS AND MEANS

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

ATLANTA-FULTON DELEGATION
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE:

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Atlanta, Georgia 30310
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House of Representatives

PAT GARDNER
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 57
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30324
(404) 656-0271(O)
(404) 873-6208(H)
EMAIL: pat@patgardner.org

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 604
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0271
(404) 463-2634 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly 2012 Session of Georgia General Assembly

Good

HB 386 (Tax Reform): Revises tax policy for the state of Georgia in the following ways:

- Eliminates the ad valorem tax and sales tax on vehicles, which will be replaced by a 6.5% to 7% title tax. This tax will be paid at the time of purchase and will apply to casual sales, except those between immediate family members.
- Eliminates the state sales tax on energy used in manufacturing. Local governments may continue to impose the tax.
- Increases the personal tax exemption for married couples in order to eliminate the "marriage penalty" in income taxes.
- Exempts 1% of jet fuel purchases from the state's 4% sales tax.
- Requires internet sales with a nexus in Georgia to collect state sales taxes (E-Fairness).
- Extends the sales tax holiday on school supplies and energy products for two years.

STATUS: PASSED (Passed the House and Senate)

HB 1166 (Child-only Health Insurance Plans): Mandates the offering of child-only health insurance policies. This bill is supported by Georgians for a Healthy Future and Voices for Georgia's Children.

STATUS: PASSED (Passed the House and Senate)

HB 1176 (Criminal Justice Reform): Substantively reforms Georgia's criminal justice laws in the following ways:

- Creates a state system of drug courts and mental health courts, and allows for the expansion of other accountability courts.
- Reduces the threshold for theft and burglary and expands judicial discretion in sentencing.
- Allows for records restrictions for persons arrested but not convicted of crimes after a certain period and for persons acquitted.
- Records will be available to law enforcement but not to potential employers.

STATUS: PASSED (Passed the House and Senate)

HB 641 (Child Protections and Public Safety Act) or Juvenile Justice Reform: The Child Protection and Public Safety Act is a comprehensive revision of the Georgia Code's juvenile court protections.

STATUS: (FAILED in Senate)

HB 872 (Metal Theft) Metal Theft Enforcement: Strengthens the penalties on those convicted of stealing various types of scrap metal for sale to recyclers and requires payment be made by check.

STATUS: (Passed).



HOMESAFE GEORGIA PROGRAM

The United States Department of Treasury (Treasury) established the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) program in February 2010 and approved the HHF plans for Georgia on September 23, 2010. The purpose of the program is to help Georgia homeowners who have experienced a substantial decrease in income due to job loss or underemployment by providing a mortgage payment bridge while they seek new or better employment. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), under contract with Georgia Housing and Finance Authority's GHFA Affordable Housing, Inc. will administer Georgia's HHF program, as HomeSafe Georgia.

For more information about Treasury's HHF, visit
<http://www.financialstability.gov/roadtostability/hardesthitfund.html>.

DCA's HomeSafe Georgia pilot program ran from December 15, 2010 to March 31, 2011 and allowed DCA to review HHF procedures to ensure completeness, accuracy, and compliance with Treasury's requirements. The HomeSafe Georgia Program launched on April 1, 2011 and will continue until December 2017 or until the allocated funds are exhausted.

HomeSafe Georgia's goal is to provide assistance to over 18,000 homeowners to prevent foreclosures. The Program is designed help homeowners who are unemployed, significantly underemployed, or self employed with a significant loss of income, by providing Mortgage Payment or Reinstatement Assistance. Eligible homeowners approved for the Program will close on a subordinate loan similar to a home equity line of credit. The loan will be at 0% interest. Following the assistance period, the loan will be forgiven at a rate of 20% per year for five years.

Under **Mortgage Payment Assistance**, the homeowner's monthly mortgage payments are paid monthly to the lender for up to 18 months. The homeowner's household income will be reviewed for qualifying assistance and a partial amount of the mortgage payment may be required from the homeowner, which may increase during the 18 months. The **Reinstatement Assistance** is a one-time payment to the lender comprised of up to 6 months of mortgage payments and lender fees in arrears.

Homeowners who are interested in applying for a HomeSafe Georgia loan should review eligibility requirements ("Eligibility Requirements" tab) and check if their lender is participating ("Lender Participation" tab) in the Program.

Applicants will fill out their loan applications on HomeSafe Georgia's website. Applicants who do not have a computer at home may have access to a computer at their local library, community center, or unemployment office. On the Homepage, click the "Start Now!" button to begin the application process. There is **no cost** to apply, but an email is required for correspondence. The application process consists of an easy to use fill-in format. Once the application process has been completed, the applicant will be asked to print the forms, complete and sign where indicated, collect any supporting documents, and fax the package to HomeSafe Georgia. A checklist is included in the application package to help the homeowner ensure the package is complete.

In order to efficiently serve the most homeowners, the HomeSafe Georgia Program may require that the application process be unavailable on certain dates; this will be noted on the Homepage.

Additional information regarding the HomeSafe Georgia Program may be found under Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ"). Have other questions regarding the program? Contact Customer Service at 1-877-519-4443 or via email at hhf@dca.ga.gov.

Senator Vincent Fort
and
Representative Rashad Taylor
invite you to a Town Hall Meeting to see if you
qualify for money to stop a foreclosure.



Saturday, May 5, 2012
Providence Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Learn about the Homesafe Program that has funds to help
stop foreclosure

For more information, contact Senator Vincent Fort at 404-656-5091

Impact Church Sponsors:



HAITI WALK-A-THON

Impact HAITI 5K, Scheduled: May 19, 2012 @ 9AM
ATLANTA BELTLINE @ PEEPLES STREET & BEECHER

Race Description:

Impact Church is hosting it's first 5K Walk-A-Thon to raise funds to support ongoing relief efforts in Haiti. Help send Impact's Mission team to Haiti in September 2012.

Race Registration:

- Registration Fee: \$30
- To Register go to: www.impactdcd.org

Race Day Schedule:

- Race Day: Saturday, May 19, 2012*
- Registration and Race Start: Atlanta Beltline @ Peeples Street:
765 Peeples Street (Peeples @ Beecher) Atlanta, GA

8:00am -9:00am- On-site Registration and Race Number pick-up
8:45am Aerobic Warm-Up
9:00 am 5K Run begin
9:10am 5K Walkers begin

Additional Information:

- All ages are welcomed. Participants 13+ must Register. *Registration fee may vary
- For more information, go to www.impactdcd.org and click on the Haiti link

www.impactdcd.org

haiti@impactdcd.org



Impact Church, 765 Peeples St, Atlanta, GA 30310 (Located in Brown Middle School) • Phone: 404-577-2826 • Email: info@impactdcd.org
Worship Experiences: 8am, 10am and Noon • Live Streaming Available



REP. RASHAD TAYLOR

2012 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

THE GOOD

HB 872 (Metal Theft): Requires metals recyclers to take a picture of the metal; forward info to Sherriff for database; no more cash transactions; and hold payment for 15 days

*Rep. Taylor voted **YES***

HB 685 (Dangerous Dogs): Provides that any person who is the owner or custodian of an animal, that while off their private property, causes harm directly or indirectly to other animals shall be civilly liable.

*Rep. Taylor voted **YES***

HB 1176 (Criminal Justice Reform): Diverts some low level offenders away from prison and into diversion programs; increases threshold for shoplifting and other theft crimes; and gives more judicial discretion.

*Rep. Taylor voted **YES***

HB 692 (Falsified Test Scores): Requires any school personnel who profited from false test scores to pay back money received.

*Rep. Taylor voted **YES***

HB 386 (Tax Reform): Eliminates ad valorem (birthday tax) and replaces with 6.5% title fee paid at time of purchase and will include casual sales; extends the sales tax holiday on school supplies; eliminates the marriage penalty

*Rep. Taylor voted **YES***

THE BAD

HB 742 (2013 Budget): \$19.2 billion state budget that cuts TANF funding by 34% and diverts \$104 million in mortgage fraud settlement funds from defrauded homeowners and into rural economic development.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ***

HB 1052 (MARTA Bill): Strips Fulton, DeKalb, and Atlanta of MARTA Board appointments.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ** and led the opposition*

HR 1162 (Charter School Amendment): Amends the Georgia Constitution to allow the state to override local control and create charter schools.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ** and led the opposition*

THE UGLY

HB 347 (Unemployment Benefits): Cuts length of unemployment payments from 26 weeks to a scale of 14 to 20 weeks.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ***

HB 861 (Drug Testing TANF Apps): Requires all applicants for TANF to submit to a drug test and to pay for the test from the welfare benefits.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ** and led the opposition*

HR 954 (Anti-Abortion): Prohibits abortions after 20 weeks with limited exceptions; the immediate threat or death to the mother or irreversible physical impairment.

*Rep. Taylor voted **NQ***

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY REP. RASHAD TAYLOR

HB 807 – “Dropout Deterrent Act” that raises the dropout age from 16 to 17

HB 915 – Closes loopholes that lead to illegal tire dumping

HB 1308 – Repeals Georgia’s “Stand Your Ground” Law

HB 1310 – Limits hand gun purchases to one per month and requires background checks

HB 1311 – Legislation to provide for enhanced penalties for hate crimes

HR 2187 – Constitutional Amendment for a minimum wage that increase with inflation



Rep. Taylor speaking in the House against HB 816, a bill to drug test