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Legislative Update for Week Ending 2-8-08

The General Assembly reconvened Tuesday, February 5, and worked four legislative days. Attention this week focused on Super Tuesday voting and results in the presidential primaries. The House and Senate will reconvene Monday, February 11, and be in session through Thursday, February 14. We have now completed 14 legislative days.

The House passed the amended FY '08 \$20.5 billion budget, and legislation calling for Feb. 12 each year to be observed as "Georgia Day" as that was the date in 1733 when James Oglethorpe landed in Savannah. Legislation was introduced in the House this week regulating the state's purchasing card program, which has been in the news recently because of massive fraud associated with the program.

The Senate passed HR 1022, ratifying the state's water plan, which the Governor then signed. The Senate also passed the Water Conservation and Drought Relief Act that would speed the permitting process for reservoirs and provide state funding, an extension of the sunset date to 2013 for collecting supplementary traffic offense fines for the Georgia Driver's Education Commission, and "good funds" legislation that would protect home buyers and closing attorneys in the home purchase process. The Senate Banking & Finance Committee passed SB 361, the senate version of the credit report freeze legislation that contains a \$3 cap per freeze request. Included in bills introduced in the Senate this week were Senator Tommie Williams' "Georgia Health Marketplace Act," Senator David Shafer's telephone competition legislation, a bipartisan bill and resolution calling for a change in terminology from seatbelts and air bags to life belts and life bags, and several bills dealing with development on Jekyll Island. Lt. Governor Cagle and Senate leadership introduced a constitutional amendment that would allow counties to call for a vote on a 1% sales tax to fund road/transportation projects.