



# CAPITAL RETAIL REPORT



For more information:

(877) 427-3824 \* e-mail [johnh@georgiaretail.org](mailto:johnh@georgiaretail.org) \* [www.georgiaretail.org](http://www.georgiaretail.org)

February 1, 2008

**GRA has not yet taken a position on any legislation. Please provide us with your input on the following bills.**

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**SENATE APPROVES FIRST VETO OVERRIDE IN 34 YEARS  
RETAIL DAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008  
HOUSE PASSES MODIFIED CREDIT FILE FREEZE BILL  
SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES BILL COMING BACK  
NEW HOUSE BILLS  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BILLS**

"It's about food. It's about your home. It's about your life. The government is worried about all of the above. All I'm saying is you should be worried they're worried. Here's why: They're telling you that you can't take care of yourself. You can't be trusted with what you put in your mouth or what you sign on the mortgage dotted line. So they'll tell you what to put in your mouth and they'll save you from what you signed on that dotted line. Does anyone see a trend here? Personal responsibility has now become government responsibility." **Neil Cavuto**, FOX News

## Senate Approves First Veto Override In 34 Years

The state Senate voted on Monday by a 47 to 7 margin to approve the override of one of 12 that the House passed on the opening day of the session. The bill is a relatively minor piece of legislation that would officially create separate House and Senate budget offices in the Legislature.

Far more important was the signal it sent.

"It's historic," said Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson, a Savannah Republican. "Once the barn door is open it's hard to shut it again."

Rules Committee Chairman Don Balfour, a Snellville Republican, said the chamber could still take up additional overrides, but provided no timetable.

Sen. Steve Thompson voted for the override but said he was worried about the "gamesmanship" at work.

"We should not ever try to micromanage the state," said Thompson, D-Marietta.

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle issued a statement immediately after the vote in which he stressed that the Senate had given the measure "thoughtful and appropriate consideration."

"While we respect the office of the governor, the Senate agreed it was important that the language in this bill reflect the role the Senate budget office plays in providing valuable assistance to the Senate throughout the budget process," Cagle said.

Perdue said the disagreement was over what he described as a technical flaw in the original bill.

"It was not a huge policy issue," Perdue said. "I'm fine with that from a policy perspective."

He praised the Senate for handling the matter in "a very respectful way."

### **Retail Day at the Capitol**

Please plan to attend Retail Day at the Capitol which will be held on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Come visit and eat lunch with your legislators; meet other retailers; and learn of the issues that may affect your bottom line!

It is time for the retail community to stand and be counted!

Thank you.

### **House Passes Modified Credit File Freeze Bill**

The Georgia House of Representatives vigorously debated amendments to **HB 130**, the Credit File Freeze Bill, this week. In the end, the fees charged by the credit reporting agencies to place a lift of a credit freeze was limited to \$3 (compared to \$10 in the un-amended bill). Other provisions including the need for a certified letter for the initial freeze request and a 10-business-day period for receipt of a pin from the credit reporting agency were kept in place. The act would be effective August 1, 2008, if passed by the Senate.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb130.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb130.htm)

### **Sunday Alcohol Sales Bill Coming Back For 2008 Session**

The push to allow a community by community referendum on the Sunday sales of alcohol in will be back for the 2008 legislative session. A recent Mason Dixon poll asked 625 registered voters, "Do you support a proposal to permit counties to hold referendums to decide whether or not they will allow the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores on Sundays?" 65% of respondents supported Sunday Sales with only 33% opposing. Most notably 41% said they strongly support the proposal, signaling tremendous intensity behind the proposal.

### **State House Leaders Push New Tax Break**

Georgia state House members are doing their part to make any economic stimulus package adopted by the Congress stretch a little further. Representative Chuck Martin (R) is pushing legislation co-sponsored by leaders of both parties to make sure Georgians don't have to pay state income taxes on the stimulus checks they might be receiving from the federal government. And, unlike the stimulus plan, Martin said his bill doesn't have any income caps. As a result, more affluent Georgians who don't receive a check would also get a tax break if the measure is approved.

### **New House Bills**

**HB 1028, A 2% Fee on Money Orders and Money Transmission**, sponsored by representatives Tom Rice (R), 51<sup>st</sup> District, Barry Fleming (R), 117<sup>th</sup> District, Jerry Keen (R), 179<sup>th</sup> District, James Mills, (R), 25<sup>th</sup> District, and Calvin Hill (R), 21<sup>st</sup> District, would to apply a 2% fee to the money transmission business for all money transmitted. It would provide for a 20% deduction by the agent selling of the transmission. A bona fide taxpayer would be able to collect a credit against his/her taxes for the wire transmission fees. Therefore, it is primarily aimed at illegals and non-taxpayers. The monies raised through this bill would be applied to trauma care.



# CAPITAL RETAIL REPORT



[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb1028.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb1028.htm)

**HB 1029, Economic Stimulus Tax Break**, sponsored by representatives Chuck Martin (R), 47<sup>th</sup> District, Mark Burkhalter (R), 50<sup>th</sup> District, Jerry Keen (R), 179<sup>th</sup> District, Ben Harbin (R), 118<sup>th</sup> District, and DuBose Porter (D), 143<sup>rd</sup> District, would provide a one-time relief for Georgians from any tax liability related to the checks received as part of the Federal Economic Stimulus measure.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb1029.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb1029.htm)

**HR 1037, Ad Valorem Inventory Tax Relief**, sponsored by Representative Ron Stephens (R), 164<sup>th</sup> District proposes an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the governing authority of any county or municipality, subject to referendum approval, to exempt from ad valorem taxation, in whole or in part, inventories of retail businesses.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hr1037.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hr1037.htm)

**HR 1028, Ad Valorem Inventory Tax Relief for Furniture**, sponsored by Representative Ron Stephens (R), 164<sup>th</sup> District proposes an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the governing authority of any county or municipality, subject to referendum approval, to exempt from ad valorem taxation, in whole or in part, inventories of retail furniture businesses.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hr1038.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hr1038.htm)

## Previously Reported House Bills

**HB 89, Firearm; carrying and possession, change provisions**, sponsored by representatives Timothy Bearden (R), 68<sup>th</sup> District, Billy Horne (R), 71<sup>st</sup> District, Mark Hatfield (R), 177<sup>th</sup> District, Gene Maddox (R), 172<sup>nd</sup> District and Tommy Smith (R), 168<sup>th</sup>, would:

- Allow those with a concealed carrying permit to carry a gun onto private property, including a work place, unless the owner of that property has a policy against guns on the property.
- Preclude an employer from having as a condition of employment a prohibition against those with a licensed, concealed carry permit onto the company's parking lot, unless the owner of the property has such a policy.
- Would exempt employers from allowing licensed, concealed carry permit holders if the parking lot is secured by means of a gate, security station, or security officer.
- Section 3 (e) of the bill provides blanket immunity for an employer, property owner, or property owner's agent from civil or criminal actions resulting from damages arising out of an occurrence involving the transportation, storage, possession, or use of a firearm, unless the employer knew that the person using the firearm would commit such criminal activity on the employer's premises.
- Protect the employment of will provision whereby an employee may be fired for carrying a gun against policy.
- Give Georgia motorists who carry firearms in their vehicles the ability to carry the firearms anywhere they wish, rather than being limited to a glove box or console or somewhere in plain set.
- Require any legal complaints to be handled by the Attorney General.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb89.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb89.htm)

**HB 130, File Freeze Bill**, sponsored by representatives Calvin Hill (R), 21<sup>st</sup> District, James Mills (R), 25<sup>th</sup> District, John Meadows (R), 5<sup>th</sup> District, Terry England (R), 108<sup>th</sup> District and Tommy Benton (R) 31<sup>st</sup> District would allow a consumer to freeze his or her credit file for a \$10 maximum fee per credit bureau.

The bill would require a fifteen minute file thaw (a provision worked on by GRA) with the cost, again, being limited to a maximum of \$10. The bill, if approved by the Senate, will be effective on August 1, 2008.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb130.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb130.htm)

**HB 895, Expansion of the Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday**, sponsored by Representative Kevin Levitas, (D), 82<sup>nd</sup> District, would provide for an expansion of the Energy Star sales tax holiday to include the purchase of energy efficient products or water efficient products with a sales price of \$1,500.00 or less per product purchased for noncommercial home or personal use. The sales tax period would be the same as Jill Chambers bill - 12:01 A.M. on October 2, 2008, and concluding at 12:00 Midnight October 5, 2008.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb895.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb895.htm)

**HB 896, Income tax credit; qualified ad valorem tax expenses**, sponsored by Representative Kevin Levitas, (D), 82<sup>nd</sup> District, would provide for an income tax credit with respect to qualified ad valorem tax expenses.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb896.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb896.htm)

**HB 897, Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Appliances**, sponsored by representatives Karla Drenner (D), 86<sup>th</sup> District, Tom McCall, (R), 30<sup>th</sup> District, John Lunsford (R), 110<sup>th</sup> District, Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D), 85<sup>th</sup> District, and Michele Henson (D), 97<sup>th</sup> District, would provide an individual tax credit for the purchase price of certain energy efficient appliances:

Those appliances are:

- Clothes washers determined by the United States Department of Energy Appendix JI with a tub volume greater than 2.0 cubic feet shall have a minimum Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.40 and a maximum Water Factor (WF) of 9.50 gallons/cubic foot/cycle;
- Clothes washers with a tub of 2.0 cubic feet or less shall have a minimum Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.40 and a maximum Water Factor (WF) of 10.25 gallons/cubic foot/cycle;
- Refrigerator/freezers having at least 15 percent lower energy consumption than that allowed by the July 1, 2001, United States Department of Energy standard for refrigerator/freezers;
- Freezers having at least 15 percent lower energy consumption than that allowed by the July 1, 2001, United States Department of Energy standard for freezers;
- Dishwashers having an Energy Factor of 0.58 cycles/kWh or better; and
- Water heaters meeting the efficiency requirements as determined by the Energy Factor established by the United States Department of Energy

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb897.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb897.htm)

**HB 901, Parent Protection Act**, sponsored by representatives Roger Bruce (D), 64<sup>th</sup> District, Margaret Kaiser (D), 59<sup>th</sup> District, John Lunsford (R), 110<sup>th</sup> District, Bill Hembree, (R), 67<sup>th</sup> District, and Howard Mosby (D), 90<sup>th</sup> District, would require employers to allow parents to use annual leave, personal leave, sick leave, compensatory leave, or other similar leave to attend school conferences, medical appointments of the employee or the employee's family members, or similar activities. This bill would require a 48 hour written notice from the employee to the employer to utilize such leave.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb901.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb901.htm)

**HB 912, Limiting the Sale of Alcohol**, sponsored by representatives Mary Margaret Oliver (D), 83<sup>rd</sup> District, Kevin Levitas (D), 82<sup>nd</sup> District, Ed Lindsey (R), 54<sup>th</sup> District, Fran Millar (R), 79<sup>th</sup> District, and Don Wix (D), 33<sup>rd</sup> District, would regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises in any county or municipality to make it unlawful to sell alcohol for consumption of the premises from 2:30 A.M. until 9:00 AM each day of the week and weekend.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb912.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb912.htm)

**HB 915, "Second Amendment Protection Act of 2008"**, sponsored by Representative Tim Bearden, (R), 68<sup>th</sup> District, would make wide changes to the state's gun laws.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb915.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb915.htm)

**HB 923, Providing for Two Insurance Choices**, sponsored by representatives Carl Rogers (R) 26<sup>th</sup> District, Ben Harbin (R) 118<sup>th</sup> District, Mark Burkhalter (R) 50<sup>th</sup> District, and Jay Shaw (D), 176<sup>th</sup> District would



# CAPITAL RETAIL REPORT



require insurers offering insurance to small businesses (defined by the bill as from 1 to 99 employees) to offer at least two choices of approved accident and sickness insurance products to health insurance consumers. It would allow insurers to impose up to 18 months' preexisting condition limitations upon any sole proprietor small group if such sole proprietor cannot furnish evidence of prior creditable coverage from prior group or individual health insurance coverage or prior employer group self-funded coverage.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb923.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb923.htm)

**HB 926**, Defining the Internal Revenue Code, sponsored by Representative Larry O'Neal (R) 146<sup>th</sup> District, would incorporate certain provisions of the federal law into Georgia law.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/sum/hb926.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/sum/hb926.htm)

**HB 940**, Prohibiting Microchip Implantation, sponsored by representatives Ed Setzler (R), 35<sup>th</sup> District, Barry Loudermilk (R), 14<sup>th</sup> District and Tyrone Brooks (D), 63<sup>rd</sup> District would make it a civil crime with a penalty of up to a \$10,000 fine to require a person to have a microchip implanted, other than on a voluntary basis.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb940.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb940.htm)

**HB 946**, Require High Efficient Plumbing Fixtures, sponsored by representatives Karla Drenner (D), 86<sup>th</sup> District, Tom McCall, (R), 30<sup>th</sup> District, John Lunsford (R), 110<sup>th</sup> District, Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D), 85<sup>th</sup> District, and Michele Henson (D), 97<sup>th</sup> District, would preclude the construction or sale of private and/or commercial properties unless high efficient faucets, toilets, urinals and shower heads were installed and would require replacing old fixtures with high efficiency models.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb946.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb946.htm)

**HB 947**, Income Tax Credit for Replacing Plumbing Fixtures, sponsored by representatives Karla Drenner (D), 86<sup>th</sup> District, Tom McCall, (R), 30<sup>th</sup> District, John Lunsford (R), 110<sup>th</sup> District, Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D), 85<sup>th</sup> District, and Michele Henson (D), 97<sup>th</sup> District, would make it a misdemeanor to install non-complying fixtures and would require each manufacturer selling products in Georgia to offer high-efficiency water closets and urinals in the following amount:  
Fifty percent in 2010  
Sixty-seven percent in 2011  
Seventy-five percent on 2012  
Eighty-five percent in 2013  
One hundred percent in 2014  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb947.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb947.htm)

**HB 948**, Sales Tax Holidays, sponsored by representatives Lynn Smith (R), 70<sup>th</sup> District, Jan Jones (R) 46<sup>th</sup> District, Penny Houston, (R), 170<sup>th</sup> District, Thunder Tumblin (R), 38<sup>th</sup> District and Gloria Ramsey, (D) 72<sup>nd</sup> District, and Brooks Coleman (R), 97<sup>th</sup> District, is the 2008 sales tax holidays bills. The back-to-school sales tax holiday would be July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 3, 2008 and the Energy STAR sales tax holiday would be October 2, 2008 to October 5, 2008.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb948.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb948.htm)

**HB 952**, Storage of Scrap Tires, sponsored by Representative Virgil Fludd (D), 66<sup>th</sup> District, would institute tighter controls of the storage of scrap automobile tires.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb952.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb952.htm)

**HB 956, Appeal of Zoning Judgments and Rulings**, sponsored by representatives Doug Holt (R), 112<sup>th</sup> District, Wendell Willard (R), 49<sup>th</sup> District, Jay Roberts (R), 154<sup>th</sup> District, and Terry England, (R), 108<sup>th</sup> District, would provide for direct appeal of zoning decisions.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb956.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb956.htm)

**HB 973, Georgia Trauma Hospital Support Act of 2008**, sponsored by representatives Harry Geisinger (R), 48<sup>th</sup> District, Sharon Cooper (R) 41<sup>st</sup> District, Wendell Willard (R), 49<sup>th</sup> District, Austin Scott (R), 153<sup>rd</sup> District and DuBose Porter (D), 143 District, would add \$1.00 per month for wireless subscriber to fund trauma care.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hb973.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb973.htm)

**HB 976, Premium Tax Exemption for High Deductible Health Plan Premiums**, sponsored by Representative Tom Knox (R), 24<sup>th</sup> District, would allow a premium tax exemption for certain high deductible health plans sold or maintained in connection with a health savings account.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/sum/hb976.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/sum/hb976.htm)

**HB 977, Tax Exemption for High Deductible Health Plan Premiums**, sponsored by Representative Tom Knox (R), 24<sup>th</sup> District, would allow an income tax exemption for certain high deductible health plans sold or maintained in connection with a health savings account.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/sum/hb977.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/sum/hb977.htm)

**HR 900, The Great Tax Plan For Georgia**, sponsored by representatives Glenn Richardson (R), 19<sup>th</sup> District, Jerry Keen (R), 179<sup>th</sup> District, Mark Burkhalter (R), 50<sup>th</sup> District, Larry O'Neal (R), 146<sup>th</sup> District, Barry Fleming (R), 117<sup>th</sup> District and Jay Roberts (R) 154<sup>th</sup> District, provides a credit to each taxpayer with a homestead exemption for their homestead's education tax liability, provides each school district with a payment from the state equal to the lost revenue from homesteads, abolishes Ad valorem taxes on personal automobiles, and provides that every local government will receive payment from the state for the dollars lost from the ad Valorem automobile tax.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/sum/hr900.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/sum/hr900.htm)

**HR 1012, County ad valorem tax; state-wide base value homestead exemption**, sponsored by Representative Kevin Levitas, (D), 82<sup>nd</sup> District proposes a constitutional amendment that would freeze property tax assessments at their current level, but only for the county portion of the tax bill. (The school portion is often as much, if not more. Municipal levies also would not be affected.)  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hr1012.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hr1012.htm)

**HR 1013, Ad valorem property tax; certain homestead exemptions; General Assembly**, sponsored by Representative Kevin Levitas, (D), 82<sup>nd</sup> District, is an even broader that would allow the Legislature to freeze assessments for "any or all" ad valorem taxes.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/hr1013.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hr1013.htm)

### **Previously Reported Senate Bills**

**SB 338, Prohibiting Prior Authorization for Prescriptions**, sponsored by senators Jack Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup> District, Lee Hawkins (R), 49<sup>th</sup> District, Don Thomas, (R) 54<sup>th</sup> District, Bill Heath (R), 31<sup>st</sup> District, and Tommy Williams (R), 19<sup>th</sup> District, would preclude the practice of prior authorization of prescriptions by insurance carriers. Generally, this is done to require brand name drugs rather than generic equivalents.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/sb338.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/sb338.htm)

**SB 351, State Water Plan**, sponsored by senators Bill Cowser (R), 46<sup>th</sup> District, Ross Tolleson, (R), 20<sup>th</sup> District, John Bulloch (R), 11<sup>th</sup> District, Tommy Williams, (R), 19<sup>th</sup> District, and Vance Smith (R), 52<sup>nd</sup> District, would provide for a joint State-wide Water Planning Oversight Committee.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/sum/sb351.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/sum/sb351.htm)

**SB 357, Direct Shipment of Wine**, sponsored by senators Rene Unterman (R), 45<sup>th</sup> District, Cecil Staton (R), 18<sup>th</sup> District, Bill Cowser, (R), 46<sup>th</sup> District, Seth Harp (R), 29<sup>th</sup> District, and David Shafer (R), 50<sup>th</sup> District, would the direct shipment of wine to Georgia residents as well as the collection and submission of retail sales tax on such purchases.  
[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/sb357.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/sb357.htm)



# CAPITAL RETAIL REPORT

**SB 361, Credit File Freeze** – sponsored by senators Chip Rogers (R), 21<sup>st</sup> District, William Hamrick (R), 30<sup>th</sup> District, David Shafer (R), 48<sup>th</sup> District, Johnny Grant (R), 25<sup>th</sup> District, Greg Goggans (R), 7<sup>th</sup> District, Mitch Seabaugh (R) 28<sup>th</sup> District and Cecil Staton (R), 18<sup>th</sup> District is similar to HB 130 passed by the House Banks and Banking Committee with the exception that it does not address the amount of fees to be collected by the credit bureaus.

The Senate bill provides for "Not more than \$2,500 for a violation or series of violations concerning a specific consumer; and not more than \$100,000 in aggregate for related violations concerning more than one consumer," while the House version has a \$100 penalty.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/sb361.htm](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/sb361.htm)

**SR 686, Ad Valorem Taxation; freezing values of existing residential real property; provide conditions/limitations**, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson (R), 1<sup>st</sup> District, proposes a constitutional amendment to freeze residential at 2008 levels until the property is sold.

[http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007\\_08/fulltext/sr686.htmassessments](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/sr686.htmassessments)

Thank you.

John C. Heavener, MSM, CAE

President

[johnh@georgiaretail.org](mailto:johnh@georgiaretail.org)

Telephone – 770-484-3449, ext. 21

Fax – 770-484-5727

Georgia Retail Association

**About GRA:** The Georgia Retail Association, with membership that comprises all retail formats and channels of distribution including department, specialty, discount, catalog, Internet, independent stores, and grocery stores has been serving the state's business community since 1961. The Georgia Retail Association represents an industry with more than 71,300 retail establishments, and more than 715,000 employees - about one in five of Georgia's workers - and 2004 sales of \$115.2 billion.