



2024 Senate Scorecard Bills

SFCN Positions

SB 147	
Sponsor:	Shawn Still (R-48)
Summary:	This bill makes it easier for students to attend public schools in systems they do not reside in by requiring rather than allowing the state BOE to create a procedure for this, removing the need for a compelling reason, and then the bill prevents the state BOE from blocking the funds from following the students. This is a good bill for keeping parents rather than government in control of their child's education and, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 180	
Sponsor:	Ed Setzler (R-37)
Summary:	This is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. It would bar the government from burdening the practice of a person's religion. The SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 189	
Sponsor:	Max Burns (R-23)
Summary:	This bill makes it unlawful for the QR codes on ballots to be used for tabulation and instead requires the text portion to be counted. The SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 293	
Sponsor:	Ben Watson (R-1)
Summary:	This bill removes the authority of the county board of health to appoint its own director, giving that authority to the commissioner of public health. This takes away local control and gives it to a statewide bureaucrat which is exceptionally bad when you remember the medical tyranny we have faced since 2020. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO



SB 349	
Sponsor:	Chuck Hufstetler (R-52)
Summary:	This bill creates a statewide homestead exemption set at 3% for ad valorem taxes. There are also some minor administrative changes, and the length of the bill is largely due to the requirement to change the language of notices due to changing to manner by which we approach these taxes. This is a good bill, preventing local governments from using inflation as an excuse to massively increase property taxes like we have seen in recent years. The SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 354	
Sponsor:	Larry Walker, III (R-20)
Summary:	This bill exempts the services of shampooing and blow drying from occupational licensure requirements. The SFCN opposes all occupational licenses. Especially in the age of yelp and similar services, the people are the best judge of someone's qualifications. This bill weakens licensing, should go further, but it moves Georgia in the right direction. Therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 355	
Sponsor:	Randy Robertson (R-29)
Summary:	This bill makes all forms of ranked choice voting illegal in Georgia. Ranked choice voting leads to the will of voters being incorrectly decided and damages the integrity of our elections. Therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 373	
Sponsor:	Larry Walker, III (R-20)
Summary:	This bill allows for the expedition of occupational licenses for those practicing marriage or family therapy if they are licensed in another state. One should not need a license at all but this does lighten requirements so, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill



SFCN Position:	YES
SB 374	
Sponsor:	Larry Walker, III (R-20)
Summary:	This bill makes it easier to become licensed as a professional land surveyor. The big government folks have come to see consequences for their prior actions, with the current difficult licensure requirements leading to a severe dip in the amount of people providing these services. It should not be required to have a license for this profession but making it easier is a step in the right direction and, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 390	
Sponsor:	Larry Walker, III (R-20)
Summary:	This bill would remove all affiliation with the American Library Association from Georgia. This is a Marxist organization, and this is a good move. The SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 398	
Sponsor:	Kay Kirkpatrick (R-32)
Summary:	This bill removes the Governor's Defense Initiative Director from the Georgia Joint Defense Commission and adds the commissioner of economic development, the University System Chancellor, a defense industry contractor representative appointed by the Lt. Governor, and a representative of a public or private defense entity appointed by the Governor. It changes the chair from the Defense Initiative Director to the economic development commissioner. It adds growing the defense industry to the mission statement thereof. This is seemingly an attempt to make our military crony and more concerned about profits for the defense industry than our country's safety. It is an absolute conflict of interest to have those profiting from conflict to be advising on the military. Moving it from TCSG from economic development is for the purpose of increasing funding, turning it more into an economic development commission, seeking ways to use communist tax credits and government intervention to grow the



	area around bases. For these reasons, the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
SB 399	
Sponsor:	Shelly Echols (R-49)
Summary:	This bill requires the technical college system to compile a report every two years on the transferability of credits to the university system. Furthermore, it provides for the certification of these pre-requisites for the university system in the technical colleges. It encourages the technical colleges and board of regents to coordinate so their credits can be transferred in between and overall pushes for occupational programs in the technical colleges. Less students in university and more pursuing alternate means of being a productive member of society is a good thing and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 414	
Sponsor:	John Kennedy (R-18)
Summary:	This bill makes it unlawful for a government agency to require a nonprofit to disclose personally identifiable information regarding those associated with it in any capacity. Personally identifiable information for these entities would not be subject to open records law. This bill protects the right to privacy and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 420	
Sponsor:	Jason Anavitarte (R-31)
Summary:	This bill bars nonresident aliens and certain foreign companies from acquiring land within 25 miles of a military base. The point is to prevent the Chinese government from buying land near U.S. military bases. This protects our homeland from communists and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 429	



**STATE FREEDOM
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Sponsor:	Greg Dolezal (R-27)
Summary:	This bill allows the Governor, Lt. Governor, or any member of the General Assembly to request the Office of Planning and Budget and the Department of Audits and Accounts to create a small business impact analysis report on any bill in any session of the General Assembly. These offices would be required to comply with the request. The bill would change the definition of small business from those with less than 100 employees to those with less than 300 employees for the purpose of these reports. It then requires agencies notify the General Assembly of news regulations so that the General Assembly can decide whether or not to overturn the regulation. The bill also bars emergency declarations from lasting more than 120 days. It also requires that a process be created for reviewing existing rules and regulations by government agencies to assess whether they are needed or not. This bill presents unbelievable transparency to the actions of government, is one of the best bills to be presented this session, and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 430	
Sponsor:	Greg Dolezal (R-27)
Summary:	This bill expands the COVID-19 liability protections to apply to any instance other than those of gross negligence, providing the presumption of assuming to risk for those entering. There will no longer need to be notices or anything of that nature. This is a great bill, preventing lawsuits over ridiculous claims of COVID-19 liability, and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 449	
Sponsor:	Larry Walker, III (R-20)
Summary:	This bill makes it so military medical personnel can be certified as a nursing aid, paramedic, cardiac technician, or a practical nurse without going through all the examination requirements. These are people who have already been trained and so there is no valid reason to make them do it twice. Furthermore, this bill is an overall weakening of occupational licensing, which is good for freedom, and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.



SFCN Position:	YES
SB 455	
Sponsor:	Brian Strickland (R-17)
Summary:	This bill says that in instances where Medicaid is approved for payment, a third party can't reject it. This is supposedly codifying federal law, specifically the 2022 appropriations act. We do not support Medicaid expansion or forced use or acceptance at all. If the federal government wants its law enforced, they can come enforce it. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
SB 480	
Sponsor:	Mike Hodges (R-3)
Summary:	This bill is student loan repayment for those working in mental health or substance abuse. This is a Bernie Sanders like plan to pay off student loans in order for the government to influence the free market. This is pulled right out of HB 520. If you voted for Bernie Sanders, you probably like this bill. No reasonable conservative can support this bill, however. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
SB 496	
Sponsor:	Max Burns (R-23)
Summary:	This bill allows essentially for a 21-year freeze on assessed values on property a county deems historic. It is currently 9 years. Lower it for everyone or lower it for nobody. It is patently unfair that one person pays less because the government deems their property historic. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
SB 502	
Sponsor:	Clint Dixon (R-45)
Summary:	This bill bars government agencies from working with, in any capacity, news ranking entities. This prevents censorship on the basis of "disinformation" or "misinformation" which truly



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	mean a departure into truth and away from government propaganda and, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SB 533	
Sponsor:	Brian Strickland (R-17)
Summary:	This bill makes it so that, upon someone being found unfit to stand trial, DBHDD would be given full custody of the person, with no regard for the judge, to be the one to restore them to health. This takes away judicial discretion in favor of giving DBHDD more power and the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 82	
Sponsor:	Mack Jackson (D-28)
Summary:	This expands a rural tax credit for physicians in rural areas to also include dentists. This tax credit is a whopping \$5,000 per year. This is done in the name of workforce shortages. Have these people not been to a restaurant in the past two years? They are understaffed consistently. Why are we not giving a tax credit to waiters and waitresses? The government picking winners and losers in this fashion is blatantly unfair; we should let the free market govern our economy and, therefore, the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 206	
Sponsor:	Steven Sainz (R-180)
Summary:	This is effectively a Green New Deal bill for Georgia. This is a Green New Deal type program where we would use public funds to pay for private property to be retrofitted to be more "Green." This is an absolute intrusion into the free market and not the proper role of government. The claim is that this bill does not use public funding, but the text of the bill disagrees. The bill explicitly mentions the use of public funds for private property improvements in the context of financing qualifying improvements, including energy efficiency,



	<p>water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency improvements on private properties. Lines 329-331 even claim it to be an “essential government function” for public funds to be used in this manner. Lines 337-345 explicitly lay out how public funds may be used saying that counties and municipalities may furnish funds to aid in these endeavors. In lines 346-396 it even discusses the authority for imposing assessments.</p> <p>This bill passed the House purely with Democrat support. A large amount of Republicans voted against this bill because no Republican in their right mind can support this legislation.</p> <p>This bill is anti-capitalistic and an affront to the free market.</p> <p>The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.</p>
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 244	
Sponsor:	Jesse Petrea (R-166)
Summary:	<p>This bill adds an exemption on the ban on using recorded sounds to hunt to allow bobcat and fox to be hunted with recorded sounds. The bill further requires licensed seafood dealers to still file a report if they have had no activity. It further defines cages to make it so a cage is any containment unit that contains shellfish even if they are not our idea of a cage. It seeks to make it easier to take licenses and even deny them. If there is a positive in this bill, it is that it eliminates the fee for licensing of cages. The bill updates the year in the citation to rules promulgated by DNR to 2024. Because this bill picks winners and losers in hunting, further regulates seafood dealers, makes it easier to deny licenses, and generally is a bad bill for freedoms, the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.</p>
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 404	
Sponsor:	Kasey Carpenter (R-4)
Summary:	<p>This bill requires leases, rental agreements, and things of the nature include a provision that the home is fit for human habitation. Further, it bars deposits from exceeding two months’ rent. It further makes it harder to kick out a renter who</p>



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	is not paying, requiring one to jump through hoops prior and get them to pay. This bill adds extensive regulations to rental property owners and harshly violates the right to contract and, therefore, the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 456	
Sponsor:	Stan Gunter (R-8)
Summary:	This bill changes the minimum term for a municipal judge for 1 year to 2 years. These judges already operate with too much power. We should not be making it harder to move on from a bad one. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 461	
Sponsor:	Brad Thomas (R-21)
Summary:	Currently local governments may not use their existing regulatory fees for the purpose of raising revenue. This bill strengthens the spirit of that law by saying the funds can only be used for carrying out the regulatory activities and may not go into the general fund. It adds extensive renovations to determining the cost of the regulatory activities to help make the estimate more accurate. Because this will prevent unneeded fees imposed by the government, though they should be banned entirely, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 502	
Sponsor:	Deborah Silcox (R-53)
Summary:	This bill adds to the definition of “cosmetic laser services” which would require one to attain the existing licensure for cosmetic laser services before providing these services. We should be reducing licensure requirements, not increasing them. In the age of services like yelp, and a lack of credibility in government agencies, the people will serve as the best decider on someone’s qualifications. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO



HB 663	
Sponsor:	Matt Hatchett (R-155)
Summary:	This bill gives parents the right to be with their child at all times in the hospital or other long-term care facility. An adult may also have a designated caregiver with the same rights. They may be required to wear masks, protective gear, or whatever other precautions are in place so long as it does not infringe on these rights. This bill is commonsense and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 872	
Sponsor:	Lee Hawkins (R-27)
Summary:	This bill adds dental students to the service cancellable loans we have for healthcare workers. Dentists are already included in law. This bill is simply saying you can merely be a student, not someone who provides the service. It does not even say you must complete the degree. This is absurd Bernie Sanders style state paid college and it is antithetical for conservatism. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 974	
Sponsor:	John LaHood (R-175)
Summary:	<p>This bill mandates the Secretary of State maintain a statewide database of scans of all ballots used in all elections. This promotes transparency in elections and is a step toward trusting the process and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.</p> <p>By substitute, there would be a watermark on all ballots, and they shall be printed on security paper. There will be legal limits on discrepancies for risk limiting audits and it shall be one of the top races on the ticket. It further would establish a pilot program for reading the text rather than the QR code on our ballots. This is good for election integrity and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.</p>
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 977	



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Sponsor:	John LaHood (R-175)
Summary:	This bill would require ballot questions regarding tax increases to be done on the November General Election ballot on even numbered years. This ensures the will of the voters is heard and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 997	
Sponsor:	John Corbett (R-174)
Summary:	This bill gives the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration the ability to disqualify someone from operating a commercial vehicle and reinstate them. We do not need federal tyrants deciding what someone can do in Georgia. The SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 1017	
Sponsor:	Devan Seabaugh (R-34)
Summary:	This bill makes creates the criminal offense of squatting, which is living on someone's property without permission. It would be a misdemeanor. The plaintiff could be awarded fair market value worth of rent in court if the judge deems fit. This bill is good for property rights and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1018	
Sponsor:	Jason Ridley (R-6)
Summary:	This bill makes it unlawful for financial institutions to refuse to allow for certain financial transactions due to the receiver being a gun retailer. It also makes it illegal for any government entity to maintain a database of who owns a lawfully acquired firearm.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1023	
Sponsor:	Bruce Williamson (R-112)



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Summary:	This bill sets the corporate tax rate to correspond with the individual income tax rate. This serves as a cut and, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1041	
Sponsor:	Ron Stephens (R-164)
Summary:	This bill authorizes the Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority to now accrue up to \$400 million in bond debt. Previously they were capped at \$50 million. It also allows them to condemn public property. First, we create an additional layer of government for this convention center, now we authorize it to burden the taxpayers thereof with an additional \$350 million. Furthermore, the term “condemn” in the legal context is the same thing as eminent domain. So now we are allowing this authority to steal people’s property. This bill is anti-freedom and the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 1053	
Sponsor:	Carter Barrett (R-24)
Summary:	This bill would ban the use or participation by Georgia in any form of CBDC. This is great for freedom and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1078	
Sponsor:	Jesse Petrea (R-166)
Summary:	This bill expands Medicaid to provide further coverage for elderly care. Medicaid is inherently single-payer healthcare, it is not the proper role of government, and the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.
SFCN Position:	NO
HB 1104	
Sponsor:	Omari Crawford (D-84)
Summary:	Ignore the author of this bill. It was a horrible liberal piece of garbage which was changed into a conservative omnibus which protects the kids. Kudos to Senator Dixon on this one.



	<p>It would require parents be notified when their kids check books out of the school library. Further, it would partially remove the exemption for schools for harmful content to include these types of instances.</p> <p>The bill gives parents unprecedented access to records for their child.</p> <p>The bill would make sexual education illegal prior to 6th grade. Additionally, all of these courses parents must be notified of and be allowed to review.</p> <p>The bill would strengthen laws keeping males out of girls sports, changing spaces, etc. and keeps the daughters in this state safe from the radical trans agenda. It makes it illegal to allow boys to compete in girls sports.</p> <p>It would allow public school teachers to also be employed by charter schools.</p> <p>It would require high school coaches to complete a course on suicide prevention, which is the only true negative of the bill.</p> <p>This is a great bill and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.</p>
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1105	
Sponsor:	Jesse Petrea (R-166)
Summary:	This bill would require jails to report when an illegal alien is in the jail. Funding will be subject to withholding if there is failure to comply. Additionally, failure to comply would be a misdemeanor and multiple violations would be a high and aggravated misdemeanor. This bill would ensure that illegal aliens in jails in Georgia are adequately detected, tracked, and reported. This is a great step in the right direction and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1149	
Sponsor:	Mesha Mainor (D-56)



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Summary:	This bill requires audits of discretionary funds of county officers. It mandates annual audits for local governments with populations over 1,500 or expenditures exceeding \$550,000, and biennial audits for those not meeting these criteria. Local governments spending less than \$550,000 may opt for an annual report of agreed-upon procedures instead of the audit. Additionally, the bill specifies the content of annual audit reports for county or city-county governments, which must include financial conditions of discretionary funds of county officers. Audit reports must be completed and submitted to the state auditor within specified deadlines, with a requirement for public access to these reports. The bill also outlines procedures for failure to conduct audits or address deficiencies, including public notification and potential withholding of state funds for non-compliance. This bill is good for transparency and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1170	
Sponsor:	Lee Hawkins (R-27)
Summary:	<p>This bill requires that all government buildings and courthouses have opioid antagonists on site and have a training protocol for ensuring someone is on site who knows how to administer it. This is not a bad idea to be implemented on an individual basis, but a state mandate is simply more than is needed. Associated costs and such can be unintended consequences.</p> <p>The second part of this bill fully bans transgender procedures on children left legal by SB140 last year. The first part is not great but the second part is certainly a massive YES from the SFCN.</p>
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1181	
Sponsor:	Chuck Martin (R-49)
Summary:	This bill restricts the carry-forward periods and introduces expiration dates for specific income tax credits, aiming to limit their longevity. It sets December 31, 2029, as the sunset date for several tax credits and exemptions. While we wish it did more, this without a doubt moves things in the right direction and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.



SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1203	
Sponsor:	Trey Kelley (R-16)
Summary:	In the event that a writ of possession is not executed upon within 14 days by law enforcement, this would allow the landowner to hire off-duty certified law enforcement officers to carry it out. This would seemingly bolster property rights, making it easier to get someone off your property, and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB 1207	
Sponsor:	Tim Fleming (R-114)
Summary:	This bill would require the election superintendent to send to each candidate the finalized ballot upon it being finalized. In cases where no candidate qualifies, the qualifying period will reopen for 2 days in a nonpartisan fashion. It provides a process for correcting ballot issues prior to issuing the final version. Additionally, it enhances poll watcher rights. This is a good bill for election integrity and the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.
SFCN Position:	YES
SR 465	
Sponsor:	Greg Dolezal (R-27)
Summary:	This resolution creates a special investigative committee to investigate the rogue actions of Fulton County DA Fani Willis. It invokes the inherent subpoena power and is a great first step in the general assembly holding her accountable. Therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this resolution.
SFCN Position:	YES
SR 543	
Sponsor:	Steve Gooch (R-51)
Summary:	This is a much weaker version of Senator Colton Moore's resolution, S.R. 539, calling on the Governor to declare an invasion due to the extreme amount of illegal immigration into our country and directly affecting our state. It attacks Joe



	Biden’s handling of the crisis, stands with Greg Abbott and Texas, and says the Senate supports actions by the Governor to send resource (but falls short of encouraging resources). It could be much stronger, like S.R. 539 by Senator Colton Moore. Regardless, it says correct things and the SFCN recommends YES on this resolution.
SFCN Position:	YES
HB916-Budget	
SFCN Position:	NO
Motion to Engross SB 340	
Motion Made By:	Steve Gooch (R-51)
Summary:	<p>This was a motion to “engross” in order to prevent an amendment to the bill.</p> <p>Bill Summary: This bill exempts firearm safes and safety devices from the sales tax. This is woke garbage on the pathway to safe storage mandates. The bill should be amended to include firearms themselves. IF amended to also include firearms, we will support it on that basis. Georgians do not need to be pressured to store their gun any way other than that which they please and the SFCN recommends NO on this bill.</p> <p>Senator Colton Moore was attempting to exempt all firearms from the state sales tax, to be included in the underlying bill, and Senator Gooch moved to prevent that amendment from being in order. This was an anti-2A motion and the SFCN recommends NO.</p>
SFCN Position:	NO
Motion to Engross SB 344	
Motion Made By:	Steve Gooch (R-51)
Summary:	<p>This was a motion to “engross” in order to prevent an amendment to the bill.</p> <p>Bill Summary: This bill makes it that a period begins on the second Friday in October, which lasts 5 days, where guns and all gun related</p>



	<p>accessories along with ammunition are exempt from sales taxes.</p> <p>SHOULD BE AMENDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On line 10 delete “<u>For five days beginning on the second Friday of October each year.</u>” making the bill apply all times of the year. • Delete Section 2 of the bill making the bill’s exemption not expire. <p>The SFCN has no objection to the bill, but the exemption of firearms and related things should always apply and not expire. The SFCN recommends YES on this bill and encourages an amended version.</p> <p>Senator Colton Moore was attempting to expand this to applying 365 days a year and Senator Gooch moved to prevent that amendment from being in order. This was an anti-2A motion and the SFCN recommends NO.</p>
SFCN Position:	NO
Motion to Recommit HB 206	
Motion Made By:	Colton Moore (R-53)
Summary:	This was a motion to remove HB 206, Georgia’s Green New Deal, from the General Calendar and recommit it to the Committee on Interstate Cooperation. This motion would have killed the bill and, therefore, the SFCN recommends YES on this motion.
SFCN Position:	YES
Motion to Engross HB 1015	
Motion Made By:	Steve Gooch (R-51)
Summary:	<p>This was a motion to “engross” in order to prevent an amendment to the bill.</p> <p>Bill Summary: This is the Governor’s tiny 0.1% tax cut. Cutting taxes is good, this moves us in the right direction, but barely. Calling this a cut is truly fraudulent. Regardless, it does move it in the right direction, so the SFCN recommends YES on this bill.</p>



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	Senator Colton Moore was attempting to cut taxes by 1% rather than 0.1%. This was prior to the budget being considered and therefore was the right time to make the bill more of a real tax cut. Regardless, Senator Gooch moved to prevent this amendment from even being considered, attempting to keep taxes high on Georgians. The SFCN recommends NO on this motion.
SFCN Position:	NO