

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Charlie Roberts

1/17/09

The 2009 Session of the Georgia General Assembly began on schedule on Monday January 12. The meeting pace was slowed this week due to the number of new legislators, the non return of some Committee Chairs and the reorganization of some committees. More than 100 Bills and Resolutions were filed and after the King Holiday and 3 days of Budget Hearings next week, I am confident that Week 2 will be very active.

There was very little change in the Senate but 21 new House members. I did not have the chance to meet them all but I was most pleased with the conversations I had with returning legislators and the comments they made about the Legislative Programs they had with our Local Units. They are aware of our adopted Legislative Objectives and I commend your continued work at home. You share your Legislative Delegation with me and my work here would be useless without your support.

There were no Retirement Meetings this week and it was Friday before a Chairman was named for the House Retirement Committee. Speaker Richardson selected Howard Maxwell to Chair the committee and I am pleased with the selection. Rep. Maxwell is a long standing member of the committee, is well informed and a good listener. We do not always agree but maintain excellent rapport. Others on the committee are:

John Meadows, Vice-Chairman
Tommy Benton, Secretary
Tyrone Brooks
Debbie Buckner
Brooks Coleman

Burke Day
Rich Golick
J. Craig Gordon
Lynmore James
Gene Maddon
Tom Weldon
"Coach" Williams

On Thursday, I met with the GREA Governing Board and shared with them the financial crisis of our state and my belief that we should not expect any new legislation this year that has a cost. Work has already begun to create legislation to place the GREA Executive Director as a permanent member of the TRS Board of Directors and we will continue to address the other Objectives.

Due to the age of my Laptop, there is no card that will activate my computer in Atlanta. Therefore, I can only respond to email on the week-ends. Should you have questions or concerns, my cell number is 706 570 3603 and it is with me 24 hours a day.

Since next will only address the Budget there will not be an Update until the end of Week 2 on January 30.