



Rep. Edward Lindsey
(R - 54)

Legislative Biography

Representative Edward Lindsey is a native Georgian and a graduate of our public schools with deep roots in our state's rural, small town, and urban communities. He earned a degree in History from Davidson College, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia, School of Law. Edward and three partners started their own firm in 1990 defending individuals, small businesses, corporations, churches and private schools in law suits. Today, Goodman McGuffey Lindsey & Johnson LLP employs almost 80 individuals in three states.

First elected in 2004 to the Georgia House of Representatives, Edward has risen to the highest levels of Republican leadership serving as the Majority Whip for three terms, in charge of building support for Republican legislative initiatives.

Previously, he served as Chair of the House Appropriations Sub Committee on Education, Co-Chair of the Republican Caucus Policy Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee. Rep. Lindsey also serves on the Appropriations, Industrial Relations, Education, Ethics, Judiciary, and Rules Committees, as well as ex officio on all other standing House Committees.

In addition, he also serves as one of Georgia's Commissioners to the Uniform Law Commission, a member of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, a member of the Advisory Board of the Georgia World Congress Center, and Chairman of the Conservative Policy Leadership Institute. Since entering the General Assembly, Rep. Lindsey has been honored by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce (2013 Legislator of the Year), the National Federation of Independent Businesses (2013 Small Business Legislative Champion), the American Conservative Union, Georgia Conservation Voters, the Georgia Coalition Against Family Violence, the Georgia Psychological Association, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, the Atlanta Bar Association, Georgia Women for a Change, the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History for his efforts on behalf of the people of Georgia.

Edward and his wife Elizabeth, live in the Buckhead Community of Atlanta and have three college age sons – Harman (U.S. Military Academy), Charlie (University of Georgia), and Zack (University of Georgia).

Legislative Accomplishments

2014 Session

HB 707/943 – The Georgia Health Care Freedom and ACA Noncompliance Act (Co-Sponsor): The bill bars the use of state and local tax dollars from being utilized to administer the federal Affordable Care Act. The original bill (HB 707) was eventually attached to HB 943 through the “Lindsey Amendment.”

HB 804 – Minor Testimony in Criminal Trials (Sponsor): This bill permits a trial judge to allow a minor under the age of 17 years to testify remotely rather than in the court room in front of the alleged perpetrator.

HB 973 – Medicaid False Claims Act (Sponsor): This bill updates and expands the Georgia Medicaid False Claims Act which Rep. Lindsey originally sponsored in 2007.

2013 Session

HB 78 – Protection Against Elder and Disabled Abuse (CO-Sponsor): This bill toughens and clarifies the law against anyone who preys against the elderly and disabled.

HB 94 – Reduction of Earnings to Present Value (Co-Sponsor): This bill simplifies how evidence is introduced in court regarding expected future monetary special damages and how to reduce them to their present cash value.

HB 141 – Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in obtaining help (Sponsor): In 2001, Georgia made a giant leap forward in the passage of HB 200 to attack the horrible crime of human trafficking. This year, HB 141 is an additional step in the right direction by requiring places where the victims of human trafficking are likely to be found such as bars, hotels, bus stations, and massage parlors to post a notice developed by the GBI alerting the victims of a 1-800 hotline number that can provide immediate law enforcement and social services help to the victims. The program is already operating in twelve other states and has helped thousands of victims escape from the dark web of this 21st century form of slavery.

HB 361 & HB 362/HB 179 – Strengthening Georgia’s Right to Work Laws (Sponsor): Georgia has economically benefited from its Right to Work policy and other states such as Indiana and Michigan are beginning to also recognize its benefit. HB 361 and HB 362/SB 179 strengthen this policy. HB 361 allows workers to leave a union at any time and stop payroll deductions immediately if they feel the union is unresponsive to their needs. HB 362/SB 179 bars the state or any local government from mandating that a bidder on a public works project use union labor. (HB 362 passed the House and was then attached to SB 179 which passed both chambers.)

HB 454 – Periodic review of tax breaks (Co-Sponsor): Georgia grants certain tax breaks to spur economic development. HB 454 simply requires that the state periodically review these tax breaks to insure that they are delivering the promised economic growth.

HB 171, HB 347, HB 380, HB 435, HB 437, HB 441, HB 442, HB 443, HB 444, HB 526, HB 594, HB 598, HB 504, & HB 627 (Co-Sponsor): Fulton County has fundamentally changed in the past decade. Over 90% of our residents live in one city or another. As a result, the county government must reduce its areas of operations in order for the cities to take over. In addition, those remaining areas of operation must do so more efficiently. This year as Majority Whip and a member of the Fulton County delegation I co-sponsored and helped guide through the General Assembly a series of reform measures to limit the scope of the Fulton County Government and improve the efficiency of its operations.

2012 Session

HR 1162/HB 744 – State Charter Schools (Co-Sponsor): This constitutional amendment and enabling legislation will make it easier to create charter schools in Georgia and provide parents and children greater choices and education opportunities.

HB 711 – Family Violence Prevention (Sponsor): Georgia tragically ranks sixth in the nation in the number of individuals killed last year in family violence instances in our state. This epidemic must be addressed. This legislation makes it easier for prosecutors to get the necessary evidence to convict abusers and provides privacy protections for victims that seek refuge in a family violence shelter.

HB 1176 – Criminal Justice Reform (Co-Sponsor): This legislation makes it easier for the criminal justice system in Georgia to distinguish and treat differently those we are afraid of versus those that we are merely mad at. We should always have space in our prisons for those violent and dangerous criminals that seek to do us harm. However, a great many criminals – particularly – drug offenders should be dealt with through alternative sentencing programs that focus on rehabilitation and recovery. This legislation is an important step forward in that effort.

HB 822 – Georgia Taxpayer False Claims Act (Sponsor): This legislation enables private whistleblowers to work with the State Attorney General to go after individuals and companies that engage in fraudulent business activities with the state or local governments. Similar laws around the country have helped recover hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars fraudulently obtained.

HB 48 – Local Inventory Tax Exemption (Co-Sponsor): Several years ago, the state of Georgia abolished its state tax on business inventories in order to make Georgia more attractive to businesses wishing to locate in our state. However, local governments were still compelled to collect this tax. This legislation simply gives local governments the option to lower or waive entirely their local inventory tax on businesses if they believe it will spur economic development.

HB 944/HB 1102 – Brownfield Restoration and Redevelopment (Sponsored HB 944 and then attached to companion legislation HB 1102): This legislation encourages developers and property owners to clean up and redevelop existing brownfield property into usable commercial property. HB 944 passed the House and was then combined with HB 1102 sponsored by my friend Chairman Lynn Smith.

HB 100 – Creation of a Georgia Tax Court (Co-Sponsor): This legislation allows Georgia taxpayers with a state tax dispute the option to request a hearing before an administrative law judge with an expertise in tax issues to settle their tax dispute with the state without having to file a law suit in superior court.

HB 744 – Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act (Sponsor): For individuals who inherit property without a will, the partition of the property among family members can be an expensive process and often leaves family members who wish to sell their share with only a fraction of what the property may be worth. This legislation stream lines the partition process and sets up safe guards to allow family members to get the fair market value of property being partitioned and sold.

HB 46 – Uniform Interstate Deposition Act (Co-Sponsor): This legislation stream lines the procedure for taking depositions out of state. For states such as Georgia that pass this legislation, the cost and time for litigants will be greatly reduced.

HB 24 -- Evidence Code Rewrite (Co-Sponsor): This long overdue legislation is a revision of the Georgia Evidence Code which is modeled after Federal Rules of Evidence and utilized in over 40 other states.

HB 200 – Anti-Human Trafficking (Sponsor): This legislation is a comprehensive attack on the serious problem of human trafficking in Georgia. Prosecutors, law enforcement, social workers, religious organizations, and legislators joined together in this effort to toughen sanctions against human traffickers preying upon the most vulnerable members of our society and provide the victims with a compassionate pathway out of the dark web which has entrapped them.

HB 87 – Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act (Co-Sponsor): This legislation requires employers to use e verify to confirm legal status of all job applicants and toughens sanctions against illegal aliens to protect citizens and legal residents in Georgia.

HB 232 -- Ethics Reform (Sponsor): This legislation clarifies and distinguishes between what constitutes lobbying in Georgia as opposed to ordinary citizens exercising their First Amendment rights to petition their government.

SB 79 -- School Board Governance (House Sponsor): This legislation provides for the State School Board and Governor to review of any local school that is placed on accreditation probation. Previous legislation in 2010 had allowed for such review but had exempted any local school boards elected prior to 2010. This legislation closed this loop hole to apply to all local school boards regardless of when they were elected. This was necessary to provide for oversight of the Atlanta School Board which was placed on probation in 2011.

2010 Session

HB 122 -- Accessibility of Local Government's Budgets and Audits (Sponsor): This legislation requires local governments to post on an internet web site in a searchable format their annual budgets and audits. HB 451 -- Uniform Commercial Code Update (Co-Sponsor): This legislation updates Uniform Commercial Code to deal with electronic commercial transactions.

SB 240 -- Comprehensive Revision of the appeal of assessments for ad valorem purposes (House sponsor): This legislation requires greater notice to taxpayers on their rights to appeal their property assessments, provides for the right of arbitration on appeal to property owners, and require that assessors consider sales related to foreclosures in valuing property.

SB 380 -- Authorize funding for creation and expansion of reservoirs and provide for emergency water plans for metro Atlanta (House sponsor): This legislation authorizes the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority to make loans and grants to local governments for the expansion and creation of local reservoirs and to require the creation of an emergency water plan for metro Atlanta in case of a future natural or man- made disaster.

2009 Session

HB 233 -- Moratorium on Property Reassessment Increases (Sponsor): This legislation imposes a three year moratorium on increased property reassessments for tax purposes to protect property owners during the current economic crisis.

HB 126 -- Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (Sponsor): This legislation provides for

uniform requirements for transacting business over the internet.

HB 127 -- Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act (Sponsor): This legislation provides for a statewide uniform system for electronic filing of court documents in each of Georgia's 159 counties.

HB 129 -- Sales Tax Exemption on Construction for the Atlanta Zoo (Sponsor): This legislation to exempt the Atlanta Zoo from sales taxes on its planned expansion.

HB 237 -- Placement Assistance for Hard to Place Foster Children into Permanent Adoptive Homes (Sponsor): This legislation assists foster children who are older or who have special medical or emotional needs in permanent adoptive homes.

2008 Session

HB 881 -- Charter School Reform (Chair of Special Study Sub Committee on Charter Schools and Co-Sponsor): This legislation provides for a dual track chartering system between the local school board and the state and insures that state and local education dollars follow the child.

HB 1132 -- Uniform Environmental Covenants Act (Sponsor): This legislation creates a uniform statewide system for recording and maintaining environmental restrictions on contaminated property that cannot be realistically returned to a pristine condition. By doing so, property owners are able to return the property to a marketable state and reduce brown space, while at the same time protecting surrounding property owners.

HB 1040 -- Child Guardianship legislation (Sponsor): This legislation provides the courts with a third alternative in chronic child abuse and neglect cases. In such cases, the courts historically could only choose between termination of parental rights and continuing temporary foster care.

This legislation allows for the child to be placed with a permanent guardian, which allows the child to maintain at least some connection with his/her biological family.

SB 531 -- Revise Foreclosure Notice Requirements (House Sponsor): This legislation enhances the notice requirements for distressed property owners prior to foreclosure and encourages the parties to try and negotiate a compromise.

2007 Session

HB 232 -- Georgia Development Impact Fee reform (Sponsor): This legislation requires local governments that collect impact fees for transportation purposes to actually use the funds collected in the area impacted by the new development.

HB 551 -- Georgia False Medicare/Medicaid Claims Act (Sponsor): This legislation provides for civil remedies to sue those entities which engage in fraudulent Medicare/Medicaid activity.

HB 369 -- Child Custody Reform (Co-Sponsor): This legislation provides for greater definition of what constitutes the "best interest of the child," encourages greater cooperation between the parents, requires expedited rulings in contested custody cases, and allows for direct appeal of child custody orders.

HB 274 -- Notary Qualifications (Sponsor): This legislation tightens the requirements for those seeking to become a notary in response to the concerns that have arisen in the mortgage fraud crisis.

2006 Session

HB 1501 -- Increased fines for bars (Sponsor): This legislation provides for enhanced penalties for bars selling alcohol to minors or otherwise operating as a nuisance in their communities.

HB 718 -- Pre Trial Diversion Programs (Sponsor): This legislation provides for an expansion of the pre-trial diversion program in state, magistrate, and city courts for certain crimes.

2005 Session

HB 37 -- City of Sandy Springs (Co- Sponsor): This legislation finally allows for the creation of the City of Sandy Springs. SB 100 -- Georgia Residential Mortgage Fraud Act (House Sponsor): This legislation gives the Georgia Attorney General the power to investigate and prosecute mortgage fraud and provide for enhanced penalties under Georgia's RICO statute