

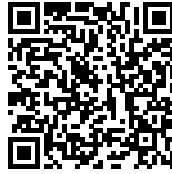


# Rick Townsend

House of Representatives District  
HD-179

Republican

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View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **33%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty      ✗ Anti-liberty      ? Did not Vote      **Vote**

**1. HB520 Mental Health (Passed 163 to 3 on 3/2/2023).** Makes multiple changes to Georgia’s mental-health and other healthcare laws and expands government. **Yes** ✗

**2. SB1 Proof of Vaccine (Passed 99 to 69 on 3/23/2023).** Removes the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services. **Yes** ★

**3. HB206 Green Energy Authorities (Passed 134 to 38 on 3/6/2023).** Provides for the creation of Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Development Authorities in certain counties and municipalities. **Yes** ✗

**4. SB233 Georgia Promise Scholarship Act (Failed 85 to 89 on 3/29/2023).** Would have created a school-voucher program, in which the government gives parents “public funds” (i.e., government money) to get their children out of government-run public or charter schools and instead place them in private school or to homeschool them. **Yes** ✗

**5. HB86 Zoos & Aquariums (Passed 156 to 10 on 3/29/2023).** Exempts purchases of tangible personal property used in the expansion or renovation of a qualified aquarium or zoo from state and local income taxes. **Yes** ✗

**6. SB140 Sex Changes for Minors (Passed 96 to 75 on 3/16/2023).** Prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors from being performed in hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities and prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors. **Yes** ★



## GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Rep. Rick Townsend**      **GA Scorecard 2023**  
**Lifetime Score: 55%**      **2023-2024 Regular Session Score 55%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Georgia Legislature in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.



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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Mental Health

HB520 would make multiple changes to Georgia’s mental-health and other healthcare laws. However, the bill includes provisions that would expand the size of government while also allowing governmental weaponization of “mental health.” For example, it would cost nearly \$72 million annually. A major portion of these costs would be to pay for the largest Medicaid expansion in Georgia’s history. Additionally, HB520 would give broad discretion to unelected bureaucrats.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB520 on March 2, 2023 by a vote of 163 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is a giant expansion in the size of government by adding new programs (in this case, a significant Medicaid expansion) and allocating substantial funds for it to pay for more unelected bureaucrats.

## 2. Proof of Vaccine

SB1 removes the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed SB1 on March 23, 2023 by a vote of 99 to 69. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because an individual’s personal health care decisions should not be the object of government, nor be under its federal, state, or local jurisdictions in the United States. Forcing an individual to receive a vaccination or partake in any medical procedure would be a violation of their fundamental rights protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## 3. Green Energy Authorities

HB206 enacts the creation of Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Development Authorities in certain counties and municipalities. It allows municipalities and counties to create unelected governmental “authorities” to finance “green” projects on private property.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB206 on March 6, 2023 by a vote of 134 to 38. We have assigned pluses to the nays because not only does this bill increase government meddling in the free market — choosing winners and losers — but it is a step toward implementing the United Nations’ Agenda 2030, which will decimate individual freedom and private property in the name of combating supposed “climate change.”

## 4. Georgia Promise Scholarship Act

SB233 would have created a school-voucher program, in which the government gives parents “public funds” (i.e., government money) to get their children out of government-run public or charter schools and instead place them in private school or to homeschool them.

The Georgia State House of Representatives rejected SB233 on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 85 to 89. We have assigned pluses to the nays because all government money comes with strings attached. School vouchers might sound good in theory, but they expand government involvement into all aspects of education — including homeschools and religious schools — and can potentially affect rules and curriculum. We encourage all parents to get their children out of the government school system and instead pursue sound alternatives such as homeschooling and patriotic private schools, where government funds are not involved.

## 5. Zoos & Aquariums

HB86 exempts purchases of tangible personal property used in the expansion or renovation of a qualified aquarium or zoo from state and local income taxes. The exemption applies from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027, or until the aggregate caps of \$4.5 million of state taxes in the case of aquariums or \$800,000 of state and local taxes in the case of zoos is reached.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed HB86 on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 156 to 10. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is exactly what the government shouldn't be doing — picking winners and losers. Government should not intervene in the marketplace by selectively granting tax incentives to specific industries.

## 6. Sex Changes for Minors

SB140 prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors from being performed in hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities and prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors.

The Georgia State House of Representatives passed SB140 on March 16, 2023 by a vote of 96 to 75. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Marxists and Leftists are pushing their woke agenda — telling everyone that one can choose their own gender and decide what their pronouns are. They are pushing this on younger generations, which is pure indoctrination.