

LEGISLATIVE MONITOR

TRACKING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN GEORGIA

Week 12, Days 30-33

April 2, 2007

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1. HIGHLIGHTS

Following Crossover Day, each topical section will be split in two. The first section includes bills that have either passed or crossed over. The second, in smaller type, will still include the bills that failed to cross. As before, we continue to italicize those bills that have seen activity since the last issue of the Monitor.

Legislature on Spring Break

The Legislature is on break until Tuesday, April 10.

Crossover Day Sum Up

Private Cities Pass the Senate

The proposals for Independent Development Districts, SB 200 and SR 309 both passed the Senate and move to the House. SB 200 passed much earlier in the day. Originally, SR 309 failed to garner enough votes necessary to pass but it was then held for reconsideration. SR 309 passed 40-13, achieving the requisite 2/3s majority for a constitutional amendment and it moves on to the House.

Billboard Bills Fail to Cross

The Billboard Bills, HB 610 and SB 256, were widely anticipated on Crossover Day, neither chamber brought them to the floor.

Compromise Reached on HB 463

The Georgia Water Coalition brokered a compromise on HB 463 that keeps the integrity of the education program intact, greatly limiting the potential harm this bill would have caused. The amended

floor version included language supplied by our GWC team and passed the House with a unanimous vote.

2. CALENDAR ITEMS

The week of Monday, March 26th, the Legislature was in session Tuesday through Friday. Session convenes again on Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Please check <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/> for updates to the schedule of committee meetings this week.

3. CONTACTS

The environmental community provides many resources, (in addition to this Monitor) to help you stay up to date on legislative issues that affect the environment.

- ▶ To learn about the Georgia Water Coalition's agenda, find your legislators, and get tips on talking and writing to your elected officials, go to <http://www.gwf.org/gawater/legislator.html>
- ▶ To sign up for the Georgia Environmental Action Network to be alerted when environmental action is urgently needed go to <http://www.protectgeorgia.net>

Other helpful numbers that may you might want are House Information (404-656-0305 or 800-282-5800) and Senate Information (404-656-0028 or 800-282-5803). You may also want to look up information, including Committee assignments, or to view the Senate and House Chambers live at www.legis.state.ga.us.

4. ANIMALS

HB 105	Animals; poultry; revise certain provisions	House Passed 2/2/07 , CS Senate Read 1st 2/8/07 AG&CA, Comm. Fav. Rpt. (Sub) 2/27/07, 2nd Read 2/28/07
SB 16	Animal Fighting Act; change certain provisions (PF)	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/1/07 (CS), House 1st Read 3/19/07, JudyNC, 2nd read 3/20/07
HB 301	Dogfighting; prohibit; punishments; amend provisions	Read 1st 2/8/07, Read 2nd 2/9/07, Judy NC, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S)
HB 418	Wild animal licenses; water buffalo; add exemption	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, GF&P, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 2/27/07
HB 674	Income tax credit; qual. wildlife rehab. exp; prov.	Read 1st 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07, W&M

5. AGRICULTURE

SB 101	Agricultural Facilities; redefine a term	Senate Passed/Adopted
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SB 165	<i>Ag. Commodity Comm; rat. of comm; chg certain prov.</i>	(CS) 3/1/07 , House Read 1st 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07 Senate Passed/Adopted 3/19/07 , House Read 1st 3/20/07, A&CA, Read 2nd 3/27/07
SB 176	<i>State Forestry Comm; rpts; chg certain prov.</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (CS) , House Read 1st 3/27/07, Read 2nd 3/28/07
SB 272	<i>Ag./Forest Prod; lim. liab. for owners/operators of farms offering agritourism under certain circumstances</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07, (CSFA) , House Read 1st 3/28/07, JudyNC

HB 248	State sales & use tax; cert. fuels; dairy prod.; prov. exempt.	Read 1st 2/1/07, Read 2nd 2/2/07, W&M
HB 453	Farm owners; agritourism activities; prov. lim. liability	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, W&M, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S)
HB 584	Agritourism activities; regulation; provisions	Read 1st 2/27/07, Judy, Read 2nd 2/28/07
HB 593	Bona fide cons. use prop; agritourism; change certain prov.	Read 1st 2/28/07, W&M, Read 2nd 3/1/07
HB 649	Georgia Blueberry Commission; create	Read 1st 3/1/07, A&CA, Read 2nd 3/19/07
HB 670	Income tax credit; wood residuals; provide	Read 1st 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07, W&M

6. DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & LAND USE

HB 2	<i>Annexation of territory; establish state policy; prov.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, SLGO(G)
HB 78	Bona fide conservation use property; additional acts	House Passed/Adopted 2/27/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 2/28/07, FIN
HB 109	<i>County and municipality; consolidation; provisions</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (FS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, SLGO(G)
HB 177	<i>Hist. sites; initial inves; state archeologist; notice; req.</i>	Read 1st 1/26/07, House Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, NR&E
HB 214	<i>Jekyll Island - State Park Auth.; renew. prop. lease; prov.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, NR&E
HB 232	<i>Georgia Dev. Impact Fee Act; change definitions; prov.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, SLGO(G).
HB 321	Bona fide cons. use prop; assess; chg cert. elig. req.	House Passed/Adopted

HB 430	<i>Property; railroads; provisions</i>	3/19/07, Senate Read 1st 3/20/07, FIN House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, ECD
HB 445	<i>Bona fide cons. use prop; buffers adj. to rivers;</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, FIN
SB 89	<i>Georgia Township Act; creation</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/28/07, GAff
SB 120	State Properties; requirement that acquisitions of real property must be conducted through commission; remove certain exceptions	Senate Passed/Adopted 2/22/07, House Read 1st 2/27/07, SI&P, Read 2nd 2/28/07
SB 130	<i>Georgia Build. Auth.; general prov.; operational powers</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/19/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/20/07, Read 2nd 3/27/07
SB 173	Pipeline Cos; exempt cert. acq.of add. right of way	Senate Passed/ Adopted 3/1/07 (CSFA), House Read 1st 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07, Judy
SB 200	<i>Georgia Smart Infrastructure Growth Act; creation</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CSFA), House Read 1st 3/28/07, ED&T
SB 225	<i>Redev; req. trng w/prgms; create Redev. Pwrs Trng. Bd</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/28/07, Read 2nd 3/29/07
SR 130	<i>Townships; pwr of zoning/reg. of land use dev; funding</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07, House Read 1st 3/28/07, GAff, Read 2nd 3/29/07
SR 249	Pub. Prop.; conveyance; grant. of easements for facilities	Senate Passed/Adopted 2/28/07, House Read 1st 3/1/07, SI&P, Read 2nd 3/19/07
SR 309	<i>Infrastructure Dev. Dist; prov. by gen. law...</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/28/07, Read 2nd 3/29/07
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HB 33	Metropolitan area planning and dev. commissions	Read 1st 1/9/07, Read 2nd 1/10/07, GAff
HB 36	Landowners; annexation into adjoining co., change prov.	Read 1st 1/10/07, Read 2nd 1/11/07, GAff
HB 46	Annexation of prop.; rezoning; objections to land use; prov.	Read 1st 1/11/07, Read 2nd 1/22/07, Judy
HB 70	Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Act	Read 1st 1/22/07, Read 2nd 1/23/07, NR&E
HB 123	Municipal territory; deannexation; change certain prov.	Read 1st 1/24/07,

HB 198	Income tax credit; certain businesses; biotechnology; prov.	Read 2nd 1/25/07, Judy Read 1st 1/30/07, Read 2nd 1/31/07, W&M
HB 237	Sales & use tax; water poll. elim. mach. exempt...	Read 1st 1/31/07, Read 2nd 2/1/07, W&M
HB 258	DCA; planning procedures; public hearings; provide	Read 1st 2/1/07 Read 2nd 2/2/07, SP&CA
HB 275	Municip. incorp; Gen. Assembly local Acts; prov. reqs.	Read 1st 2/2/07, Read 2nd 2/8/07, GAff
HB 306	Municipal corporations; annexations of territory; prov.	Read 1st 2/8/07, Read 2nd 2/9/07, Judy, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S) 2/12/07, SP&CA
HB 346	Joint authorities; members; successor nominations; prov.	
HB 421	Ad valorem tax; bona fide cons. use prop; chg. certain prov.	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, W&M
HB 548	Jekyll Is. - State Park Auth; certain Island dev; restrict	Read 1st 2/27/07, Read 2nd 2/28
HR 244	Bona fide cons. use prop; acreage restriction; remove	Read 1st 2/14/07 Read 2nd 2/14/07, W&M
HR 271	Soil & Water Cons. Dist; supervisors selection; exp. obj.	Read 1st 2/15/07, Read 2nd 2/20/07, NR&E
HR 323	Georgia Bioeconomic Development Commission; create	Read 1st 2/21/07, Read 2nd 2/22/07, S&T
SB 110	Municipal; deannexation; repeal certain provisions	Read 1st 2/8/07, SLGO(G) Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S), Read 2nd 3/20/07

7. ENERGY & UTILITIES

HB 128	Sales & Use Tax...(Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday)	House Passed/Adopted 2/27/07 , Senate Read 1st 2/28/07, FIN
<i>HB 186</i>	<i>Sales & use tax; certain alt. fuel facilities; five yr. exempt.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, FIN
HB 193	Sales and use tax; jet fuel; additional exemption	House Passed/Adopted 3/1/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/19/07, FIN
<i>HB 247</i>	<i>Local gov.; water & sewer systems; change certain prov.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/1/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/19/07, SLGO (G)
<i>HB 471</i>	<i>Local gov; priv. const. wtr sys; req. ownership trans...</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CSFA) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07 NR&E
<i>HB 587</i>	<i>Gas; public convenience and nec. certs; prov. recov.</i>	House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS) , Senate Read 1st 3/27/07, RI&Util
<i>SB 157</i>	<i>Gasoline Additives; prov. for grants; E-85 gas retail</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/1/07 (FS) , Senate Read 1st 3/19/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/20/07
<i>SB 203</i>	<i>Secondary Metals Recyclers; pub. util./trans. inc. pen.</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted

*3/20/07 (CFSA), House Read
1st 3/27/07, JudyNC, Read
2nd 3/28/07*

HB 59	Sales tax; water and sewer authorities; exempt	Read 1st 1/11/07, Read 2nd 1/22/07, W&M
HB 272	Sales & use tax; nat. or art. gas sales; prov. phased-in exempt.	Read 1st 2/2/07, Read 2nd 2/8/07, W&M, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S)
HB 293	Gas Unification & Tax Simplification Act of 2007	Read 1st 2/8/07, Read 2nd 2/9/07, W&M
HB 438	Income tax credits; business prop; renewable energy prop.	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, W&M
HB 522	PSC; gas companies; interstate capacity assets; prov.	Read 1st 2/21/07, Read 2nd 2/22/07, A&CA, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 2/27/07 (S)
HB 541	Clean & renew. fuels; cert. vehicles; cert. gov. ent; req. use	Read 1st 2/22/07, SP&CA, Read 2nd 2/27/07, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 2/27/07, Recommended 3/1/07 to SP&CA by Rules
HB 577	Affordable Energy Efficient Homes Act of 2007; enact	Read 1st 2/27/07, Read 2nd 2/28/07
HR 48	Motor fuel taxes; jet fuel; funds from sales & use; prov.	Read 1st 1/23/07, Read 2nd 1/24/07, W&M
SB 179	Campaign Contrib; Public Service Commission;	Read 1st 2/20/07, Ethics, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 2/27/07 (S)
SB 180	Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings Act	Read 1st 2/20/07, RI&Util

8. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, POLLUTION & POLICY

<i>HB 463</i>	<i>Soil erosion and sed; exempt; chg certain prov.</i>	<i>House Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), Senate Read 1st 3/27/07 NR&E</i>
HR 56	U.S. A.C.O.E.; raising full pool for Lake Lanier; urge to study	Passed/Adopted 2/9/07, CS
SB 116	State Forestry Comm.; qual. of the dir.; change prov.	Senate Passed/Adopted 2/28/07 (FA), House Read 1st 3/1/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/19/07
<i>SB 185</i>	<i>Watercraft; app. for cert. vessels purch. outside GA tax pd.</i>	<i>Senate Passed/Adopted 3/20/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/27/07, W&M, Read 2nd 3/28/07</i>
<i>SB 187</i>	<i>Env. Adv. Council; app. for cert. variances; chg. prov.</i>	<i>Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/28/07, Read 2nd 3/29/07</i>
<i>SB 226</i>	<i>Qual. Soil Scientists; eval./rpt. accepted by DNR/DHR</i>	<i>Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CS), House Read 1st 3/28/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/29/07</i>
<i>SB 263</i>	<i>Soil/Wtr Cons. Dist; #/bound; alter. existing districts/form.</i>	<i>new dist; chg cert. prov. Senate Passed/Adopted</i>

		<i>3/27/07 (CSFA), House Read 1st 3/28/07 NR&E</i>
SR 123	USACOE; urged to begin study; full pool; Lake Lanier	Senate Passed/Adopted 2/13/07
SR 243	USACOE; urged to begin a study; storage capacities	Senate Passed/Adopted 2/22/07
SR 283	<i>Joint Nonpoint Pollution Control Study Comm; create</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07, House Read 1st 3/28/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/29/07
SR 327	<i>Joint Atlantic Coast. Beach Pres. & Maint. Study Comm.; create</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07, House Read 1st 3/28/07, Read 2nd 3/29/07
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HB 42	Coastal Marshlands Protection Act; exempt...private docks	Read 1st 1/11/07, Read 2nd 1/22/07, NR&E
HB 54	Water resources; surface & ground water; permits; chg prov.	Read 1st 1/11/07, Read 2nd 1/22/07, NR&E
HB 55	Water resources; river basins; protection; provisions	Read 1st 1/11/07, Read 2nd 1/22/07, NR&E
HB 68	Coastal Marshlands Protection Act; exempt certain private docks	Read 1st 1/22/07, Read 2nd 1/23/07, NR&E
HB 217	County boards of health; soil reports; modify standards	Read 1st 1/31/07, Read 2nd 2/1/07, NR&E
HB 392	Spec. lic. plates; The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.; prov.	Comm. Fav. Rpt. 2/22/07 Read 1st 2/13/07, Read 2nd 2/14/07, MotV
HB 399	Nat. Res., Dept. of; qual.soil scientists; reports; provide	Read 1st 2/13/07, Read 2nd 2/14/07, NR&E
HB 500	Conservation; CMPA of 1970; change provisions	Read 1st 2/21/07 Read 2nd 2/22/07, NR&E
HB 546	Air qual; coal-fired elec. gen. facil.; permits...	Read 1st 2/27/07, Read 2nd 2/28/07, NR&E
HB 565	Soil erosion and sed; control; beaver dams; add exempt.	Read 1st 2/27/07, Read 2nd 2/28/07, NR&E
HB 569	Solid waste; permit requirements; change certain prov.	Read 1st 2/27/07, Read 2nd 2/28/07, NR&E
HB 596	Water pollution control; surface water returns; regulate	Read 1st 2/28/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/1/07
HR 51	Coastal salt marshlands; urge Bd of Nat. Res. to protect	Read 1st 1/23/07, Read 2nd 1/24/07, NR&E
HR 182	Jekyll Is. Auth, urge to exercise restraint	Read 1st 2/19/07, Read 2nd 2/10/07, SI&P
HR 422	House Climate Study Committee; create	Read 1st 2/28/07, NR&E Read 2nd 3/1/07
HR 466	"Rachel Carson Day"; May 27, 2007; recognize	Read 1st 2/28/07, Rules
HR 471	Coastal Georgia Beach Pres. Trust Fund; create - CA	Read 1st 3/1/07, NR&E, Read 2nd 3/19/07
SB 69	River Basin Prot. Act; reg. interbasin trans. of water; in-stream flow policy	Read 1st 1/29/07
SB 197	Waste Mgmt; mun. solid waste disp. fac. near adj. counties	Read 1st 2/21/07, NR&E
SB 198	Waste Mgmt; prot. gov. pub. drinking wtr supply...	Read 1st 2/21/07, NR&E

SB 221	Solid Waste Mgmt; land disp. sites; permits from DNR...	Read 1st 2/22/07, NR&E Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07
SR 377	Jekyll Is. Auth; redev; exercise great caution/restraint	Read 1st 3/1/07, SI&P
SR 439	Soil & Water Cons. Dist; select. supervisors; express obj.	Read 1st 3/20/07, NR&E

10. PARKS & RECREATION

<i>HB 81</i>	<i>Salt water fishing; charter fishing guide and pier fishing licenses;</i>	House Passed/Adopted 2/2/07, Senate Read 1st 2/8/07, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/1/07, Read 2nd 3/19/07, Read 3rd 3/28/07, Senate Passed/Adopted 3/29/07 (FA)
HB 100	Shrimp and shrimping; revise various provisions	House Passed 2/8/07 Read 1st (Sen.) 2/8/07, NR&E
HB 239	Bd of Nat. Res.; rules; game & fish crim. violations...	House Passed/Adopted 2/20/07, Senate Read 1st 2/21/07, NR&E
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HB 29	Hunting and fishing licenses; exception for nonresidents 65+	Read 1st 1/10/07, Read 2nd 1/11/07, GF&P
HB 142	Nongame species; taking of; add	Read 1st 1/24/07, Read 2nd 1/25/07, GF&P
HB 466	Game & fish; certain deer mgmt. prgms; permits; prov.	Read 1st 2/15/07, Read 2nd 2/20/07, GF&P
SB 3	Hunting; provide for vet. lifetime sportman's license; fees	Read 1st 1/10/07, NR&E Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S), Read 2nd 3/20/07

11. TRANSPORTATION

HB 192	Department of Transportation; contracts; provisions.	House Passed/Adopted 2/21/07 (CS), Senate Read 1st 2/22/07, TRANS, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07
SB 19	Transportation, Department of; pay costs of removal, relocation, adj. of utility facilities necessitated by construction of public roads	Senate Passed, 1/26/07, House Read 1st 1/29/07, Read 2nd 1/30/07, TRANS
SB 282	<i>Highway System; alternative tourism routes; creation</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07, Read 1st 3/28/07, Trans, Read 2nd 3/29/07

SR 263	Commuter Rail; Athens to Atlanta; urging US Congress to fund	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/1/07, House Read 1st 3/19/07, Trans, Read 2nd 3/20/07
SR 365	<i>Transporation Funding; create joint study committee</i>	Senate Passed/Adopted 3/27/07 (CA), House Read 1st 3/28/07, Read 2nd 3/29/07
HB 161	Right of way acq.; additional method; definitions; prov.	Read 1st 1/25/07, Read 2nd 1/26/07, W&M
HB 173	Sales & use tax; local option; trans.; special districts; prov.	Read 1st 1/26/07 Read 2nd 1/29/07, W&M
HB 268	Georgia Rail Passenger Authority; certain article; repeal	Read 1st 2/2/07, Read 2nd 2/8/07, Trans
HB 269	Commuter rail project; app. funding; provide referendum	Read 1st 2/2/07, Trans Read 2nd 2/8/07, Trans
HB 307	Income tax credit; personal mass trans. exp.; provide	Read 1st 2/8/07, Read 2nd 2/9/07, W&M
HB 434	Regional sales and use tax; transportation; provisions	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, W&M
HB 442	Sales & use tax; trans; state-wide 1% tax; provide	Read 1st 2/14/07, Read 2nd 2/15/07, W&M
HB 610	Outdoor ad. signs; hwys; certain height limit; prov.	Read 1st 2/28/07, Trans, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/1/07, Read 2nd 3/1/07
HR 149	Jt. Study Comm. on Rail Svc. Atlanta to West Point, create	Read 1st 2/1/07, Read 2nd 2/2/07, Trans
HR 150	House Study Comm. on Rail Svc. from Atlanta to West Point, create	Read 1st 2/1/07, Read 2nd 2/2/07, Trans
HR 245	Recycling Svcs; commend; encourage Hwy Const to use recycled	Read 1st 2/14/07 Read 2nd 2/15/07, Trans, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S)
HR 509	Transportation Trust Fund; create - CA	Read 1st 3/19/07, Read 2nd 3/20/07
SB 233	Rds; collect, expend. and exempt. re rev; chg cert. prov.	Read 1st 2/27/07, TRANS
SB 256	Outdoor Ad. Signs; hgt. limit.; cond. for lowering signs	Read 1st 2/28/07, TRANS, Comm. Fav. Rpt. 3/19/07 (S), Read 2nd 3/20/07

12. KEY

S or H – before a committee means Senate or House
A&CA – Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
ECD – Economic Development
EDU – Education
Gaff – Governmental Affairs
GF&P – Game, Fish & Parks
H&HS – Health & Human Services
JUDY – Judicial (Senate)
JudyC – Judicial Civil (House)
JudyNc – Judicial Non-Civil (House)
MotV – Motor Vehicles

NR&E – Natural Resources & Environment
RI&Util – Regulated Industries & Utilities
TRANS – Transportation
W&M – Ways & Means

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