

Question: When is a joke not a laughing matter?

Answer: When our Georgia legislature re-writes the income tax code and calls it revenue neutral!

The 2012 session of the Georgia General Assembly is set to convene on Monday, January 9th. Mixed among a mountain of petty resolutions and promises will be lurking the unfinished business of what is now called HB 387. This bill has been an ongoing effort for the last two years. It originated as a charge from the governor to a blue ribbon commission and was passed off to a special joint committee of the house and senate where it was revised several times and is still not in its final form. If passed as written, it would cost retirees with a pension of \$30,000.00 an extra \$2,400.00 per year in extra income tax and new sales taxes.

The following text can be sent to your elected officials as is or you can edit as you choose.

One of the few things we can thank the 2011 General Assembly for is failing to pass HB 387. As a retiree collecting a monthly pension, I do not appreciate being put in a position of paying more state taxes. While you may put a positive spin on this legislation, it will have a negative effect on all retirees. Between fewer income tax deductions, reducing exemptions for retirement income, and dozens of new sales taxes, you will put a lot more people in a position to increase demand for state sponsored social services. In today's economy, how can you justify creating another financial burden on people with a fixed income. If this elected body can not create laws that will be beneficial to the public, the least you can do is not create laws that continue to destroy what we have worked a lifetime for. You were elected to speak for your constituents and we say "NAY" to HB 387 and so should you.