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13th DISTRICT UPDATE

TOP NEWS:

Congressman Scott Supports Economic Assistance for Homeowners October 3



[Fox 5: Four Georgia Dems Back Bailout Plan, Republicans Still Vote No](#)

Today, Congressman David Scott voted to support final passage of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424).

“Two things changed this week to help me decide to vote for the final version of this economic assistance bill,” stated Congressman Scott. **“First, I was able to work with House leadership to strengthen language providing assistance to homeowners. The language of the bill now forces the Secretary of the Treasury to take a more aggressive strategy to restructure troubled mortgages and prevent further foreclosures.”**

“Secondly, small businesses in Atlanta started running out of short term loan options,” Congressman Scott said. **“They said they would have to start cutting payroll to make ends meet. I believe that in order to help keep employees on the job we could not wait around for a perfect bill. If I thought this was just a bailout for Wall Street, I would continue to oppose it.”**

Congressman Scott also wants to bring more attention to legislation that he previously helped pass to bring relief to homeowners. As a member of the Financial Services Committee, he helped draft the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. This week, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Housing Administration just announced two major programs created by the bill.

Hear what Congressman Scott has to say about the bill:

- [WSB TV- 11 of Georgia's 13 House Members Vote Against Bailout](#)
- [Fox 5 Atlanta- House of Representatives to Vote on Financial Rescue Bill](#)
- [CNBC- Before the Vote, What Were Lawmakers Saying?](#)
- [WABE- GA Congressman Hopes to Influence Bailout Bill](#)

Don't Miss the October 15, 2008 Deadline to File for YOUR Economic Stimulus Payment!



What is it? *It's an economic stimulus payment that is **not taxable** and it won't reduce your 2007 or 2008 refund or increase the amount you owe when you file your 2008 return.*

Who is eligible? *The majority of people who file a 2007 income tax return qualify, and many who don't regularly file a tax return may qualify as well.* You're eligible if you have a valid Social Security number (SSN),

can't be claimed as a dependent on a tax return and have either an income tax liability or "qualifying income" of at least \$3,000. Qualifying income includes any combination of earned income and certain benefits from Social Security, Veterans Affairs or Railroad Retirement. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.

If I receive Social Security retirement benefits and normally do not file a federal tax return, am I eligible to receive the economic stimulus payment? Normally, certain Social Security payments are not subject to income tax. However, the economic stimulus law passed in February contains a special provision allowing Social Security recipients to count those benefits toward the qualifying income requirement of \$3,000 and thereby qualify for the stimulus payment. For more information, [click here](#)

How do you get it? *Simply file a federal tax return for 2007 by Oct. 15, 2008, even if you normally don't have to because your income usually doesn't meet the filing threshold.* Those who normally don't have to file a tax return and can use the short form for the stimulus payment should review information tax package [1040A-3](#), which has instructions, a sample Form 1040A and a blank Form 1040A — everything needed to file the tax form.

How much will you get? *The actual amount depends on the information contained on your tax return. **Eligible individuals will receive between \$300 and \$600.*** Those who are eligible and file a joint return will receive a total of between \$600 and \$1,200. Those with children will get an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify, a child must be eligible under the [Child Tax Credit](#) and have a valid Social Security number.

Can I get free tax preparation assistance? Individuals who need to file a return this year to receive a stimulus payment may be able to take advantage of free tax preparation sites nationwide for low-income and older taxpayers. To find assistance, contact:

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) – 1-800-906-9887

[Free File- Economic Stimulus Payment](#)

[Find an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center near you](#)

For more information on how to receive your economic stimulus payment, contact Congressman Scott's office at 770-432-5405

In Other News:

Congressman Scott Responds to Florida Chancellor's Statement that Florida Universities and Colleges Will Consider Clayton County Students for Admission [September 23](#)

Today, Rep. David Scott (D-GA) responded to Florida Chancellor Mark B. Rosenberg's statement that the State University System of Florida will evaluate Clayton County students on a case-by-case basis and consider those students for admission based on

the school district's previous accreditation.

“I am very pleased to learn that the Florida chancellor has reviewed the admission regulations and will consider qualified Clayton County students for admission into Florida public universities and colleges,” said Scott. **“I urge other state public university systems to closely examine the accreditation issue and to consider the extraordinary circumstances surrounding Clayton County’s accreditation.”**

Congressman Scott's office also has clarified that no federal funding is in jeopardy for Clayton County Schools. Eligible students will be able to receive federal financial aid.

**Read: [Florida Chancellor Rosenberg’s Statement](#)
[Clayton News Daily: Florida Colleges Won’t Penalize Clayton Grads](#)**

Congressman Scott Reminds Constituents to Get Ready for the Nationwide Transition to Digital Television- February 17, 2009



With the nationwide transition to digital television just a few months away, Rep. Scott reminds constituents that on *Tuesday, February 17, 2009* analog television sets that receive signals over the air, and not from cable or satellite, will need a digital-to-analog converter box to display digital signals. Every household is eligible to apply for up to two \$40 coupons, each of which may be applied toward the cost of one converter box.

For more information on the digital television transition visit <https://www.dtv2009.gov/> or call 770-210-5073.

What's Happening in Congress?

Currently on the House Floor

Keep track of the latest developments and votes on legislation being considered in the House.

⇒ [Current Proceedings](#)

Weekly Senate Schedule

See what bills and what amendments will be discussed in the Senate this week, courtesy of the Senate's official website.

⇒ [Senate Calendar](#)

Legislative News:

Recent Votes by Congressman Scott:

⇒ **S. 2617 – Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-living Adjustment Act**

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2008, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.

⌘ **DS voted FOR S. 2617; S. 2617 passed 418-0 (9-10-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 758 – Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act**

Amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code to require a group health plan or a health issuer offering group health insurance coverage that provides medical and surgical benefits to ensure that inpatient (and in the case of a lumpectomy, outpatient) coverage and radiation therapy are provided for breast cancer treatment. Prohibits such a plan or issuer from: (1) restricting benefits for any hospital length of stay to less than 48 hours in connection with a mastectomy or breast conserving surgery or 24 hours in connection with a lymph node dissection; or (2) requiring that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or issuer for prescribing any such length of stay.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 758; H.R. 758 passed 421-2 (9-25-2008)**

⌘ **H.R. 4120 – Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act**

Amends the federal criminal code to expand the definitions of the crimes of child sexual exploitation and child pornography to include activities constituting such crimes that merely affect interstate or foreign commerce.

⌘ **DS voted FOR H.R. 4120; H.R.4120 passed 418-0 (9-26-2008)**

⌘ **S. 3197 – National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act**

Amends federal bankruptcy law to prohibit the bankruptcy court from dismissing or converting a case based on means testing while the debtor: (1) is either on active duty in the military service of the United States or performing a homeland defense activity for at least 90 days, and during the 540 days following the end of such period; and (3) was called to such active duty or performed such homeland defense activity after September 11, 2001, as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or the National Guard.

⌘ **DS voted FOR S. 3197; S. 3197 passed 411-0 (10-3-2008)**



