

**2007-2008 SENATE STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY
COMMITTEE ROSTER**

Senator Johnny Grant, Chairman

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Senator Bill Cowsert – Ex Officio

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Senator Valencia Seay, Secretary

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Senator Vincent Fort

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Senator J.B. Powell

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Senator Doug Stoner

District 6
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RULES
STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY 2007

1. A quorum for the Committee shall be four (4) members.
2. A bill or resolution will be considered only after notification of the principal author or others whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
3. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
4. The Committee will not consider for the first time any measure originating in the Senate the final five (5) days of the session, except upon written petition signed by not less than five (5) members of the Committee.
5. The rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee rules.
6. These rules may be amended upon motion duly made and subsequently approved by three-fourths of the members of the Committee provided that written notice has been given 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.
7. Any member(s) of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall have the privilege to file a minority report.
8. Subcommittees shall have the authority to consider measures assigned to them and to make recommendations thereon to the full Committee, but no measure will be returned to the full Senate except after consideration by full Committee.

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, January 30, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Powell, (23rd)
Stoner, (6th)

Note: Senators Fort, (39th) and Thompson, (5th) were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The Chairman introduced himself and the members of the committee followed with introductions. The rules of the committee were discussed. Senator R. Thomas made a motion to adopt the Rules and Senator Seay seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

SR 68 (Sen. Williams, 19th) William H. "Sonny Boy" Skipper Maintenance Headquarters; dedicate

Senator Williams presented the resolution to dedicate the William H. "Sonny Boy" Skipper Maintenance Headquarters. No one spoke to the bill. Senator Powell made a motion that **SR 68 "Do pass"**. Senator Stoner seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, February 13, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Powell, (23rd)

Note: Senators Fort, (39th), Stoner, (6th) and Thompson, (5th) were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Senator Seay called roll and four members were present.

HR 21 (Rep. Dickson, 6th) Elbert Shaw, Jr. Regional Youth Detention Center; designate

Note: **Senator Stoner** arrived at 1:04 p.m.

Representative Dickson presented the resolution honoring the services of Mr. Elbert Shaw, Jr., of Dalton, Georgia, and designating the Dalton Regional Youth Detention Center as the Elbert Shaw, Jr. Regional Youth Detention Center. No one spoke to the bill. Senator Powell made a motion that **HR 21 “Do pass”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

HB 245 (Rep. Barnard, 166th) Georgia State Prison warden; passenger motor vehicle; repeal certain provisions

Representative Barnard presented the bill. Chairman Grant explained that **SB 108** by Senator Whitehead was a duplicate bill and chose to move on HB 245 in place of SB 108. Senator Whitehead spoke in support of HB 245. Misty Holcomb from the Department of Corrections spoke in favor of the bill. Senator Powell made a motion that **HB 245 “Do pass”**. Senator R. Thomas seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

SB 120 (Senator Whitehead, 24th) State Properties; requirement that acquisitions of real property must be conducted through commission; remove certain exceptions

Senator Whitehead presented the bill. Ms. Gena Abraham, State Property Officer spoke to the bill. She explained that current law requires all state entities to acquire real property through the State Properties Commission. However, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Technical and Adult Education are exempt from this requirement and this legislation would remove this exemption. She stated the original legislation did not provide for the exception and was unaware of the origin of the addition of this exception. Mr. Paul Burkhalter from the Department of Natural Resources said the DNR supports this bill. Senator Stoner made a motion that **SB 120 “Do pass”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

SB 121 (Senator Whitehead, 24th) State Properties Commission; administrative space; modify certain exceptions

Senator Whitehead presented the bill. Ms. Gena Abraham, State Property Officer spoke to the bill. Current law requires the State Properties Commission to manage the utilization of administrative space for all state entities. However, the Georgia Department of Labor and the University System of Georgia are exempted from this requirement.

This legislation removes this exemption for the Department of Labor. Senator R. Thomas asked if there had been any communication with the Department of Labor. Ms. Abrams stated that numerous communications have occurred but the Commissioner did not attend the meeting to state an opinion on this legislation. Senator Fort asked if Ms. Abrams believed that the Department of Labor's position would not be favorable and she agreed. Senator R. Thomas requested to hear from the Department of Labor before a vote be called and the Chairman **tabled SB 121** in order to hear from the Department of Labor.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, February 20, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Fort, (39th)

Note: Senators Powell, (23rd), Stoner, (6th), and Thompson, (5th), were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Senator Seay called roll and four members were present.

SB 121 (Senator Whitehead, 24th) State Properties Commission; administrative space; modify certain exceptions

This legislation was postponed to provide sufficient time for the Department of Labor and the State Properties Commission to meet.

SR 249 (Senator Grant, 25th) Public Property; conveyance; granting of easements for facilities, utilities 6 counties

Senator Grant presented the resolution authorizing the granting of nonexclusive easements for operation and maintenance of facilities, utilities, and ingress and egress, in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the State of Georgia in Cobb, Floyd, Gwinnett, Muscogee, Paulding, and Ware counties, Georgia; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Mr. Rod Bowlden, Deputy Executive Director of the State Properties Commission spoke to the bill. Senator Fort asked if Articles 3 and 8 pertained to Georgia Power and announced that he would not vote for anything that Georgia Power wants. Senator Grant explained that these easements would provide for the access necessary to maintain the electrical wires for the hospital.

Senator Seay made a motion that **SR 249 “Do pass”**. Senator R. Thomas seconded the motion. Senator Fort opposed. The bill passed 2-1.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, February 27, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Thompson, (5th)
Cowsert, (46th)

Note: Senators Fort, (39th), Powell, (23rd), and Stoner, (6th), were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Senator Seay called roll and five members were present.

SB 121 (Senator Whitehead, 24th) State Properties Commission; administrative space; modify certain exceptions

This legislation was tabled to provide time for the Department of Labor and the State Properties Commission to resolve the issue internally.

Note: **Senator Fort and Senator Powell** arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Note: **Senator C. Thompson** left at 1:14 p.m.

SB 130 (Senator Grant, 25th) Georgia Building Authority; general provisions; operational powers

Senator Grant presented the bill and offered a substitute. Mr. Rod Bowlden and Ms. Gena Abraham from the State Properties Commission spoke to the bill. They voiced support of the bill but were opposed to performing audits. Senator R. Thomas made a motion that **SB 130 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 5-0.

Note: **Senator C. Thompson** returned at 1:17 p.m.

SB 175 (Senator Grant, 25th) State Government; clarify meaning of criminal action; replace Dept. of Administrative Services with Office of Treasury/Fiscal Services

Senator Grant presented the bill. Brad Douglas and Joe Kim from the Department of Administrative Services spoke in support of the bill to make changes in the state code to reflect current operations of DOAS and to assist DOAS in their procurement mission. Senator Fort was in opposition. Senator Grant offered an amendment to keep private companies' financial information private in the bidding process for public jobs, except that which is pertinent to the bidding process. The amendment was to change line 25 by striking “other than with respect to the procurement of construction contracts” and replacing with “this paragraph shall not apply to construction contracts”. Senator Powell made a motion that **SB 175 “Do pass as amended”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. Senator Fort was in opposition. The bill passed 5-1.

Note: **Senator Powell** left at 1:36 p.m.

SR 270 (Senator Schaefer, 50th) Zell Bryan Miller; urging Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of statue on grounds of the State Capitol Building

Senator Schaefer presented the bill. This resolution urges the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of a Zell Miller statue on the grounds of the State Capitol. Senator R. Thomas made a motion that **SR 270 “Do pass”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 5-0.

Note: **Senator Powell** returned at 1:45 p.m.

SB 129 (Senator Grant, 25th) Penal Institutions; provide limited copayments by inmates for prescription medications

Chairman Grant announced that only testimonies would be heard on the bill and no vote would be called. This legislation requires inmates to repay the cost of prescription medication for self-inflicted injuries, or injuries that an inmate inflicts on another. Additionally, this legislation will defray the cost paid by the state or county for prescription medication for inmates that initiate the request for medical treatment. Testimony was heard from: Dianne Sifford and Anna Watson - prisoners’ families, Shareef Cousin with Fairness for Prisoners’ Families, Sara Totonchi and Lisa Kung with Southern Center for Human Rights, and Sandra Michaels with GACDC.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in the Senate Mezzanine of the Georgia State Capitol, March 1, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Stoner, (6th)
Cowsert, (46th)

Note: Senators Fort, (39th), Powell, (23rd), Thomas, (2nd), and Thompson, (5th) were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 2:51 p.m. Senator Seay called roll and four members were present.

SB 191 (Senator Brown, 26th) Buildings; prohibit the naming of any public building for Sen. Robert Brown

Senator Brown presented the bill and offered a substitute. Sen. Brown explained that this legislation will create a registry to list people who did not want any piece of public property named for them. Senator Seay made a motion that **SB 191 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Stoner seconded the motion. The bill passed 3-0.

Note: **Senator Fort** arrived 2:59 p.m.

SB 210 (Senator Hooks, 14th) Secretary of State; authorize to designate/establish facilities; government agency as a branch depository; Division of Archives/History

Michael O’Sullivan from the Secretary of State’s office presented the bill. Chairman Grant offered a substitute to correct a typographical error on line 11 on page 1. The Code Section being amended is Code Section 45-13-45 and not code Section 45-12-45 as it appears in that line. Senator Fort made a motion that **SB 210 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

SB 235 (Senator Grant, 25th) Corrections, Dept. of; certified correctional employees; leave under certain conditions may retain their badges

Senator Grant presented the bill and explained that this legislation allows correctional employees, who leave the Department of Corrections under honorable conditions and have 25 or more years of service as a certified peace officer, to retain his or her badge as part of such employee’s compensation. Additionally, if a correctional employee, serving in a certified position, leaves the Department due to a disability that arose in the line of duty and prevents him or her from working as a law enforcement officer, such employee will retain the Department issued badge regardless of the number of years of service as part of such employee’s compensation. Michael Nail from the Department of Corrections spoke in favor of the bill. Senator Fort made a motion that **SB 235 “Do pass”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, March 28, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Powell, (23rd)
Stoner, (6th)
Cowsert, (46th)

Note: Senators Fort, (39th), Seay, (34th), and Thompson, (5th), were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Secretary Donna Yeomans called roll and five members were present.

HR 57 (Representative McCall, 30th) Elbert County; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize

Representative McCall presented the bill and explained that this resolution authorized the State Properties Commission to transfer such property, currently under the custody of the Department of Defense, to the City of Elberton for \$1.00. Senator Powell made a motion that **HR 57 “Do pass”**. Senator Stoner seconded the motion. The bill passed 4-0.

Note: **Senator Seay** arrived at 11:08 a.m.

HB 366 (Representative Bearden, 68th) Guide or service dog; certain persons; equal public accommodations; provide

Representative Bearden presented the bill. Chairman Grant offered a substitute that attaches the language from SB 16 to the House bill. Senator Powell made a motion that **HB 366 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 5-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

STATE INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, April 10, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Grant, (25th), Chair
Thomas, (2nd), Vice-Chair
Seay, (34th), Secretary
Fort, (39th)

Note: Senators Cowsert (46th), Powell (23rd), Stoner (6th), and Thompson, (5th), were absent.

Chairman Grant called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Senator Seay called roll and four members were present.

HR 369 (Representative Barnard, 166th) Baldwin, Charlton, Chatham, Coffee, and Columbia counties; convey property; authorize

Chairman Grant introduced the bill and offered a substitute. He explained that this resolution authorizes the conveyance of certain state owned real property located in Baldwin County, Charlton County, Chatham County, Coffee County, Columbia County, Forsyth County, Fulton County, Hall County, McDuffie County, Pulaski County, Stephens County, Tattall County, Treutlen County, Troup County, Wayne County, and Whitfield County. Chairman Grant introduced a substitute to add the conveyance of state owned property in Whitfield County. Rod Bowlden from the Department of Administrative Services spoke in support of the bill.

Senator Fort made a motion that **HR 369 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 3-0.

HR 370 (Representative Barnard, 166th) Bibb, Cobb, Dougherty, Mitchell and Troup Counties; lease property; authorize

Chairman Grant introduced the bill and offered a substitute. He explained that this resolution authorizes the State of Georgia, acting through its State Properties Commission, to lease certain state owned properties in Bibb County, Cobb County, Dougherty County, Mitchell County, and Troup County. Chairman Grant introduced a substitute to add the leasing of state owned property in Monroe County. Rod Bowlden from the Department of Administrative Services spoke in support of the bill and clarified that a rental agreement was for a term up to three years and a lease agreement would be required for a term to exceed three years. Senator R. Thomas made a motion that **HR 370 “Do pass by substitute”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 3-0.

HR 524 (Representative Barnard, 166th) Gerald Dasher Memorial State Farmers' Market; dedicate

Chairman Grant presented the bill and explained that this resolution dedicates the State Farmers' Market in Glennville, Georgia as the Gerald Dasher Memorial State Farmers' Market. Senator R. Thomas made a motion that **HR 524 “Do pass”**. Senator Seay seconded the motion. The bill passed 3-0.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Secretary

/s/ Donna Yeomans, Recording Secretary

April 20, 2007

Mr. Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing,

I hereby submit the following bills upon which no action was taken by the Senate State Institutions and Property Committee during the 2007 Legislative session of the General Assembly.

[Senate Bill 108](#)

[Senate Bill 121](#)

[Senate Bill 129](#)

[Senate Bill 250](#)

[Senate Bill 287](#)

[Senate Resolution 25](#)

[Senate Resolution 26](#)

[Senate Resolution 377](#)

Sincerely,

/s/ Donna Yeomans
Recording Secretary
Senate State Institutions and Property Committee