

**2008 RULES OF THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

1. The quorum of the Committee shall be sixteen (16) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
5. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.
6. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
7. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator designated by the author.

January 22, 2008

The **Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committees** met on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:00 a.m. for the 2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings. Members present from the Senate are shown on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Representative Ben Harbin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Opening remarks were offered by Representative Harbin and Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Governor Sonny Perdue spoke before the Joint Appropriations Committees presenting them with a brief overview of his recommendations for the S.F.Y. 2008 Amended General and S.F.Y. 2009 General Budgets.

The following persons testified before the Joint Committees regarding the S.F.Y. 2008 Amended General Budget ([H.B. 989](#)) and the S.F.Y. 2009 General Budget ([H.B. 990](#)).

1. Dr. Kenneth Heaghney, State Fiscal Economist – Economic Outlook and Revenue Estimating
2. Bart L. Graham, Commissioner – Dept. of Revenue
3. Garland Hunt, Chairman – Board of Pardons and Paroles
4. Col. Bill Hitchins, Commissioner – Dept. of Public Safety
5. Noel Holcomb, Commissioner – Dept. of Natural Resources
6. Chris Clark, Executive Director – Ga. Environmental Facilities Auth.
7. Michael Nehf, Director - Employees' Retirement System
8. Brad Douglas, Commissioner – Dept. of Administrative Services

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Golden of the 8th, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings on
FY2008 Amended and FY2009 General Budgets

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

January 23, 2008

The **Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committees** met on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 9:55 a.m. for the 2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings. Members present from the Senate are shown on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Opening remarks were offered by Senator Hill and Representative Ben Harbin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The following persons testified before the Joint Committees regarding the S.F.Y. 2008 Amended General Budget ([H.B. 989](#)) and the S.F.Y. 2009 General Budget ([H.B. 990](#)).

1. Dr. Erroll Davis, Chancellor – Board of Regents (University System of Georgia)
2. Kathy Cox, State School Superintendent – Dept. of Education
3. Ron Jackson, Interim Commissioner – Dept. of Technical and Adult Education
4. Gena Abraham, Commissioner – Department of Transportation
5. Judge Arch W. McGarity, President – Council of Superior Court Judges
6. Tommy Floyd, District Attorney, Flint Judicial Circuit, President – Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
7. Chief Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes – Court of Appeals

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Hill of the 4th, Chairman

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings on
FY2008 Amended and FY2009 General Budgets

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

January 24, 2008

The **Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committees** met on Thursday, January 24, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 10:25 a.m. for the 2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings. Members present from the Senate are shown on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Representative Ben Harbin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Opening remarks were offered by Representative Harbin and Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The following persons testified before the Joint Committees regarding the S.F.Y. 2008 Amended General Budget ([H.B. 989](#)) and the S.F.Y. 2009 General Budget ([H.B. 990](#)).

1. B. J. Walker, Commissioner – Dept. of Human Resources
2. Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner – Dept. of Community Health
3. James Donald, Commissioner – Dept. of Corrections
4. Albert Murray, Commissioner – Dept. of Juvenile Justice
5. Mack Crawford, Director – Ga. Public Defenders' Standards Council
6. Wrap up - Trey Childress, Director – Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Any documents offered in support of the testimony given can be found in Committee files. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Golden of the 8th, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
2008 Session Joint Budget Briefings on
FY2008 Amended and FY2009 General Budgets

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

February 19, 2008

The **Senate Appropriations Committee** met on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 8:30 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

S.B. 300 by Rogers of the 21st and others – Transparency in Government Act; Dept. of Audits/Accounts; creation/maintenance of certain state expenditure information

This Bill creates the “Transparency in Government Act” requiring the Department of Audits and Accounts to establish a website, searchable and accessible by the public at no cost, that contains information for each expenditure of state funds. State funds include all appropriated and nonappropriated funds spent by a state entity from the state treasury for items such as: grants; contracts; tax refunds; and payments through economic incentive programs. The Website must be operational by January 1, 2010.

Senator Rogers of the 21st explained the Bill and presented a Substitute to the Committee for consideration. After a brief explanation, Tolleson of the 20th made a motion that **S.B. 300** “**Do pass by substitute,**” seconded by Thomas of the 54th. Unanimous vote.

S.R. 786 by Pearson of the 51st and others – Motor Fuel Taxes; provide for the authority of General Assembly to approve, reject, modify any proposed expenditure of revenue CA

A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for the authority of the General Assembly to approve, reject, or modify any proposed expenditure of revenues received from motor fuel taxes; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

Pearson of the 51st introduced S.R. 786 which was offered on behalf of the Senate members of the Transportation Funding Study Committee. This Study Committee reviewed transportation funding issues within the DOT and came up with a list of legislative recommendations for changes and this resolution is one of them.

This legislation would allow the Executive and Legislative branches, working with the DOT Board and Commissioner, to have more direct involvement in decisions on local funds and projects and have them be prioritized and pass through the appropriations process.

A discussion ensued in which many members addressed grave concerns that this bill would further politicize the priorities of the Department of Transportation and take away much of the local control.

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February 19, 2008

An amendment was offered by Mullis of the 53rd but after a brief consultation and clarification with Legislative Counsel, withdrew the amendment.

A motion was made by Mullis of the 53rd, that **S.R. 786, “Do pass”**, seconded by Bulloch of the 11th. The vote **failed** with 5 votes for (Pearson of the 51st, Wiles of the 37th, Staton of the 18th, Bulloch of the 11th, Mullis of the 53rd), and 15 opposed (Hill of the 4th, Goggans of the 7th, Cowser of the 46th, Grant of the 25th, Hamrick of the 30th, Harp of the 29th, Johnson of the 1st, Moody of the 56th, Meyer von Bremen of the 12th, Seabaugh of the 28th, Smith of the 52nd, Tate of the 38th, Thomas of the 54th, Tolleson of the 20th, Unterman of the 45th).

A motion of reconsideration for purposes of tabling the bill was then made by Seabaugh of the 28th. After a brief discussion and clarification by Legislative Counsel, the Chair requested a second motion, no member seconded the motion; therefore, the reconsideration failed.

H. B. 989 by Richardson of the 19th and others - Supplemental appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

A Bill to amend an Act providing appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, known as the “General Appropriations Act.”

Chairman Hill of the 4th presented the Senate version of H.B. 989 to the Committee by providing an overview of the Detail Report identifying and explaining all differences between the House and Senate versions.

The Chairman briefly discussed certain austerity cuts and redirects made by departments and then called on Senator Renee Unterman, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Development to provide a more in- depth explanation of the transfer requests in the Department of Human Resources.

Senator Hill thanked the Subcommittee Chairs for their outstanding leadership and good decisions made in cultivating the amended budget. Following questions and requests for clarification, a motion was made by Bulloch of the 11th, that **H.B. 989 “Do pass by substitute,”** seconded by Mullis of the 53rd. The bill passed with 17 votes for and 1 opposed, (Meyer Von Bremen of the 12th).

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There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Hill of the 4th, Chairman

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
HB 989 – FY08 Supplemental Appropriation
SB 300
SR 786

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

March 4, 2008

The **Senate Appropriations Committee** met on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 11:25 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

S.B. 36 by Thomas of the 2nd - Ga. Peace Officers Standards and Training Council; certified investigators; salary increases

This bill requires that any appropriation authorizing a salary increase for state employed certified investigators which exceed salary increases for state employees generally, must also apply to certified investigators employed by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

Senator Thomas of the 2nd, author of the bill, presented the bill and answered questions. Senator Thomas informed members that a Fiscal Note had been requested by the Department of Audits and Accounts reflecting the monetary impact of this legislation and that the document would be provided to members before the bill went for a full vote on the Senate floor.

A motion was made by Henson of the 41st, that **S.B. 36, “Do pass”**, seconded by Seabaugh of the 28th. Unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Golden of the 8th, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee

SB 36

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

March 27, 2008

The **Senate Appropriations Committee** met on Thursday, March 27, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 9:00 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

H.B. 990 by Richardson of the 19th and others - General appropriations; State Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

A Bill to make and provide appropriations for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

Chairman Hill presented the H.B. 990 Budget Highlights handout that was provided to the Committee for review. He also reviewed all differences in the Senate Committee Substitute. At the conclusion of a brief discussion, minimal questions and comments, a motion was made by Pearson of the 51st that **H.B. 990, “Do pass by Substitute”**, seconded by Unterman of the 45th. Unanimous vote.

H.R. 1078 by Tumlin of the 38th – Williams, Mr. Willie Otis “Pete”; compensate

This resolution directs the Georgia Department of Administrative Services to pay the sum of \$1.2 million to Mr. Williams as compensation for his suffered loss of liberty, personal injury, lost wages, injury to reputation, emotional distress, and other damages as a result of being convicted and incarcerated for more than 21 years for a crime of which he was innocent. In 2007, DNA testing was used to prove that Mr. Williams could not have committed the crime for which he was convicted. This sum will not be subject to state income taxes and will be paid in the form of an annuity over a 20-year period with an initial lump sum payment of \$100,000.00.

Senator Horacena Tate of the 38th, Chair of the Compensation Resolution Study Committee, presented the resolution, reviewing the details of Mr. Williams’ false imprisonment.

Representative Steve Tumlin, author of the Resolution, testified before the Committee discussing the Innocence Project and presenting further information on this case.

A lengthy discussion ensued questioning the obligation of the State, covered under sovereign immunity, to bear the responsibility of this payout since the defendant was found guilty by trial, had a public defender and was sentenced for this conviction. The consensus of the discussion was that the State fulfilled its legal obligation of prosecution and did no wrong and the passing of this Resolution could set a precedent for thousands of inmates that could be falsely imprisoned.

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March 27, 2008

Senator Seabaugh of the 28th offered a technical amendment for adoption. A motion was made by Thompson of the 33rd that **H.R. 1078 “Do pass as amended”**, seconded by Seay of the 34th.

The resolution passed with 16 votes for and 7 opposed (Smith of the 52nd, Harp of the 29th, Bulloch of the 11th, Wiles of the 37th, Cowsert of the 46th, Moody of the 56th, and Goggans of the 7th.)

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Golden of the 8th, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Roll Call Sheet

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
[HB 990](#)
[HR 1078](#)

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

April 1, 2008

The **Senate Appropriations Committee** met on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 in Room 341 State Capitol, convening at 8:00 a.m. Members present are listed on the attached Roll Call sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jack Hill, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Business was conducted as follows:

H. B. 119 by Willard of the 49th and others – Certain justices and judges; annual salaries; increase

This bill increases the annual salaries of Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges and Superior Court Judges.

Representative Willard of the 49th, author of the bill, explained the content of the bill.

Chairman Jack Hill discussed the Committee Substitute to H.B. 119, which actually increased the raise amount for Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges and slightly reduced the raise amount for Superior Court Judges reflected in the original bill.

After some discussion on whether or not they should be given this raise and several questions, a motion was made by Thomas of the 54th that **H.B. 119 “Do pass by substitute”**, seconded by Hamrick of the 30th.

The bill passed with 17 for and 4 opposed (Pearson of the 51st, Heath of the 31st, Unterman of the 45th, Williams of the 19th).

H.B. 319 by Fleming of the 117th and others – District attorneys; increase annual salaries

This bill increases the salary amount for each State District Attorney.

Representative Fleming of the 117th, author of the bill presented the bill.

A Committee Substitute was presented which changed the salary increase amount of the original bill as well as the effective date to July 1, 2009. After a brief discussion and several questions, a motion was made by Wiles of the 37th that **H.B. 319 “Do pass by substitute”**, seconded by Grant of the 25th. The bill passed with 16 votes for and 1 opposed (Heath of the 31st).

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April 1, 2008

H.B. 887 by Butler of the 18th – Tobacco Prevention Master Settlement Agreement Oversight Committee; create

This bill creates the Master Settlement Agreement Advisory Committee on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Programs within the Department of Human Resources. The Advisory Committee is charged with enhancing the state's tobacco control strategies in dealing with the tobacco use problem in Georgia.

Representative Butler of the 18th, author of the bill, reviewed its content and answered questions. A motion was made that **H.B. 887 “Do pass by substitute”** by Wiles of the 37th, seconded by Unterman of the 45th. Unanimous vote.

H.B. 1163 by Lane of the 167th – Brunswick Judicial Circuit; fifth judge for superior courts; provide

This legislation provides for one additional Superior Court Judge position in each of the Alcovy, Atlanta, and Brunswick Circuits.

Representative Lane of the 167th, author of the bill, explained the bill and answered questions.

Senator Hamrick of the 30th, offered a Committee Substitute to the bill which provides for one additional Superior Court Judge position in the Alcovy and Douglas Districts and removed the Atlanta and Brunswick Circuits.

A motion was made by Harp of the 29th that **H.B. 1163 “Do pass by substitute”**, seconded by Unterman of the 45th. Unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Golden of the 8th, Secretary

/s/ Angela Touhy, Recording Secretary

2008 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Roll Call Sheet

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Meeting: Senate Appropriations Full Committee
[HB 119](#)
[HB 319](#)
[HB 887](#)
[HB 1163](#)

Hill-Chairman	Murphy
Goggans-Vice Chairman	Meyer von Bremen
Golden-Secretary	Pearson
Balfour	Schaefer
Bulloch	Seabaugh
Cowsert	Seay
Fort	Smith
Grant	Staton (ex-officio)
Hamrick	Tate
Harp	Thomas, D.
Heath	Thomas, R.
Henson	Thompson
Hooks	Tolleson
Johnson	Unterman
Moody	Williams
Mullis	Wiles (ex-officio)

Shaded = present

August 25, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Ewing:

I return herewith to the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the following bills and resolutions which were not acted upon in the Senate Appropriations Committee during the 2008 Legislative Session:

[S.B. 22](#)
[S.B. 365](#)
[S.R. 786](#)
[H.R. 1025](#)

I also submit my completed minutes book.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angela W. Touhy, Recording Secretary
Senate Appropriations Committee