

**SENATE EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE
2008 SESSION MEMBERS**

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**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 15, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on January 15th, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Moody, 56th
Carter, 13th, Vice Chairman	Tate, 38th
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Thomas, 2nd
Douglas, 17th	
Fort, 39th	

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the committee that the purpose of the meeting was to have a brief introduction of staff and (a) discuss how education funding works in Georgia and, (b) get an update on what the issues are in the consortium lawsuit.

Scott Austensen with the Department of Education, discussed QBE funding in Georgia and Jennifer Hackemeyer, General Council for Education gave a brief update to the committee on what the issues are in the consortium lawsuit.

Discussion led.

Chairman Weber, 40th, asked that James Touchton, with Senate Research, do research on other states across the range of constitution.

There being no further business taken, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 29, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on January 29th, 2008 in Room 307 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Moody, 5th
Carter, 13th, Vice Chairman	Tate, 38th
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Thomas, 2nd
Douglas, 17th	Balfour, 9th
Fort, 39th	

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the committee that this meeting was a continuation of our previous meeting and strictly an informational meeting.

Speakers from the Governor's Education Finance Task Force were: (Cost Model and Best Practices) Dean Alford, Chairman of the Governor's Education Finance Task Force and Dr. Holly Robinson, Commissioner, Bright from the Start, and (School Funding): Dr. Jeffrey Williams, former Director of Research of the Georgia School Superintendents Association were instrumental in the presentation.

Wanda Barrs, Chairman of the State Board of Education spoke briefly to the Committee.

Much discussion led.

Dr. Jeffrey Williams presented the PowerPoints.

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on February 12th, 2008 in Room 307 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40 th , Chairman	Moody, 56 th
Carter, 13 th , Vice Chairman	Tate, 38 th
Thomas, 54 th , Secretary	Thomas, 2 nd
Douglas, 17 th	Balfour, 9 th
Fort, 39 th	Ramsey, 43 rd

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order 3:00 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

[SB 345 \(Harbison,15th\): Relating to education, so as to adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; to create the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.](#)

Speaking to SB 345 was the author of the bill, Harbison, 15th, and Kevin Brush, the Under Secretary to the Department of Defense.

Discussion and questions from Chairman Weber, 40th, and Senators Douglas, 17th, Balfour, 9th, and Thomas 2nd, led.

Chairman Weber, 40th, entertained a motion, and Moody, 56th, made a motion to Do Pass. The motion was seconded by Douglas, 17th. Vote was unanimous.

[SB 345 DO PASS](#)

[HB 881 \(Jones, 46th\): Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for legislative findings and intent; to establish the Georgia Charter Schools Commission.](#)

The bill allows petitioners who want to start a new charter school an additional route to seek approval aside from local boards of education, some of whom have a history of denying well-qualified applications.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the Committee that this will be a hearing only and two more hearings would be conducted on HB 881 before a vote would be taken.

Representative Jones, 46th, author of the bill and Andrew Broy, Associate Superintendent, Policy and Charter Schools, Office of Policy and External Affairs for the Georgia Department of Education, spoke to the bill.

Jones also announced to the Committee that this bill has the support of Governor Sonny Perdue and Kathy Cox, Georgia Schools Superintendent.

Speaking in support of the bill were Faith Shiffert, parent of charter school children (but has some concerns) and Linda Zechmann, member of the State Board of Charter Schools and member of First Congressional District, Georgia Board of Education.

Speaking in opposition to the bill were Angela Palm, GSBA, and Jim Mullins, DeKalb County Schools.

There was much discussion on the bill.

HB 881 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

February 14, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on February 14th, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman
Thomas, 54th, Secretary
Douglas, 17th
Fort, 39th
Ramsey, 43rd

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The following bill was discussed:

[HB 881 \(Jones, 46th\): Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for legislative findings and intent; to establish the Georgia Charter Schools Commission.](#)

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the committee that this would only be another hearing on HB 881.

Jones, 46th, author of the bill and Andrew Broy spoke briefly on the bill and much discussion led.

The following people testified before the committee in opposition to the bill:

Lorri Brady, member of the Savannah Board of Education; Kathy Dobbs, member of the Newton County Board of Education; Angela Palm, GSBA.

The following people testified before the committee in support of the bill: Glenn Delk, Private Attorney; Caletha Powell with University Community Academy; Dorothy Sims with University Community Academy; Dr. Leroy Ervin, Retired Professor at University of Georgia; Jim Horn, Former Commissioner of Education and former Legislator; Dorothy Sims, Atlanta Public Schools.

[HB 881 HEARING ONLY](#)

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth committee was held on February 20, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman
Thomas, 54th, Secretary
Balfour, 9th
Douglas, 17th
Fort, 39th
Jackson, 24th, Ex officio

Moody, 56th
Tate, 38th
Thomas, 2nd
Ramsey, 43rd
Williams, 19th, Ex officio

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to Committee that this would be a hearing only on SB 458.

SB 458 (Johnson, 1st): To provide that if a school system or school loses or fails to attain accreditation, a student shall be entitled to attend another public school or receive a scholarship to attend a private school.

Johnson, 1st, spoke to the bill and much discussion was heard from members of the Committee and audience.

Chairman Weber, 40th, called on Stewart Bennett with DOE to speak and more discussion led.

Those speaking in opposition to the bill were Sally Fitzgerald with Georgia PTA, Jeff Hubbard with GAE, Herb Garrett with Georgia Schools Superintendents Association, Angela Palm with the Georgia School Board Association, Margaret Cicarelli with PAGE and Jim Puckett with GAEL.

Those speaking in support of the bill were Jamie Self with Georgia Family Council/Alliance for School Choice and Kevin Moore with BAEO.

SB 458 HEARING ONLY

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on February 26, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Balfour, 9th
Carter, 13th, Vice Chair	Moody, 53rd
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Tate, 38th
Douglas, 17th	Thomas, 2nd
Fort, 39th	Ramsey, 43rd
Williams, 19th, Ex officio	Jackson, 24th, Ex officio

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following bills were discussed:

[SB 497 \(Williams, 19th\): Education; local school systems; reassign high school foreign language teachers](#)

Senator Williams, 19th, spoke to his bill. The bill adds a new Code Section that requires local school systems that receive Quality Based Education (QBE) funding for high school foreign language teachers to reassign all foreign language high school teachers to an elementary school to teach foreign language beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Furthermore, any newly hired foreign language teachers, no later than 2010-2011 school year, whose salary includes any QBE funds, will be assigned to teach a foreign language in an elementary school. Local school systems are also encouraged to make high school foreign language courses accessible to its students through the Georgia Virtual School. He does not feel this should be done in high school.

Discussion from Moody, 53rd, Thomas, 2nd, and Weber, 40th led.

Senator Williams, 19th, decided to hold the bill for now.

SB 497 HELD OVER

SB 506 (Carter, 13th): “SHAPE Act”; require local school systems to conduct physical testing of students

Carter, 13th, spoke to his bill and noted there was a study committee conducted during the summer on this subject. He continues to go over the PowerPoint on obesity.

Thomas, 2nd, opposed the bill as written.

Speaking in support of the bill: William Sexton, Georgia Chapter American Pediatrics; Dr. Bill Burns, American Heart Association; John Bare, Atlanta Falcons Youth foundation; Jeff Hubbard, GAE.

Thomas, 2nd, offered an amendment – amendment failed 4-7.

Weber, 40th, offered a friendly amendment – motion made by Douglas, 17th, seconded by Thomas, 54th, to do pass by committee substitute and it passed 9-0.

SB 506 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SB 458 (Johnson, 1st): To provide that if a school system or school loses or fails to attain accreditation, a student shall be entitled to attend another public school or receive a scholarship to attend a private school.

Johnson, 1st, spoke to his bill and introduced a substitute to the bill.

Jamie Self with the Georgia Family Council spoke in support of the bill.

With little discussion on the bill, a motion was made by Thomas, 54th to Do Pass by Substitute and seconded by Douglas, 17th. Those opposing were Fort, 39th, Tate, 38th, and Thomas, 2nd. Having met the majority vote SB 458 passes by substitute 6-3.

SB 458 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth committee was held on February 27, 2008 in Room 307 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman
Thomas, 54th, Secretary
Balfour, 9th
Douglas, 17th
Fort, 39th

Moody, 56th
Tate, 38th
Thomas, 2nd
Ramsey, 43rd
Jackson, 24th, Ex officio

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following bill was discussed:

[SB 257 \(Fort, 39th\): Relating to school attendance in elementary and secondary education, so as to enact the “Dropout Deterrent Act”.](#)

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Fort, 39th, to speak to his bill. Much discussion led from the committee directing questions to Fort, 39th.

Those speaking in support of the bill were Don Rooks with GSBA, Nicole Knighton with DeKalb County Schools, Marcus Downs with GAE, Herb Garrett spoke on behalf of Superintendents but noted he, himself, has no position; Tom Wommack with PAGE.

Balfour, 9th, made a motion to do pass with the understanding of a Fiscal note. Tate, 38th, seconded the motion to DO PASS. Vote was unanimous.

SB 257 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

MARCH 4, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on March 4th, 2008 in Room 307 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman
Carter, 13th, Vice-Chair
Thomas, 54th, Secretary
Balfour, 9th
Douglas, 17th
Fort, 39th

Moody, 56th
Tate, 38th
Thomas, 2nd
Jackson, 24th, Ex-officio

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following bills were discussed:

[SB 523 \(Moody, 56th\): Education; capital outlay grants to local school systems; extend automatic repeal](#)

Moody, 56th, was recognized to speak to his bill. The bill deals with capital outlay and the expiration of the current capital outlay program and this simply extends the program for one more year. He continued to present his bill.

With no further questions, Douglas, 17th, made a motion to Do Pass and Thomas, 54th, seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

[SB 523 DO PASS](#)

[SB 535 \(Chance, 16th\): To require local school systems to attain and maintain accreditation; to provide for a definition for the term “accreditation”; to provide for the removal of all members of a local board of education of a school system which fails to attain or maintain accreditation.](#)

Chance, 16th, was recognized to speak to his bill. There was much discussion on the bill from the Committee. Also recognized to speak in support of the bill were Herb Garrett and Skip Yo, Georgia School Superintendents Association.

Thomas, 54th, moved to Do Pass and the motion was seconded by Balfour, 9th. Opposing the bill was Tate, 38th, Fort, 39th, and Thomas, 2nd. The bill DO PASS 6-3.

SB 535 DO PASS

SB 521 (Tarver, 22nd): Juvenile proceedings; redefine term; public school disciplinary actions

Tarver, 22nd, was recognized to speak to his bill.

Questions from Weber, 40th, Douglas, 17th, Balfour, 9th and Carter, 13th, followed and much discussion was heard.

Also recognized to speak in support of SB 521 were Margaret Cicarcelli with PAGE and Don Rooks with Georgia School Board Association.

Douglas, 17th, moved and Jackson, 24th, seconded to DO PASS. Vote was unanimous.

SB 521 DO PASS

SB 461 (Rogers, 21st): Bully Prevention Policies in Elementary and Secondary Education.

Rogers, 21st, was recognized to speak to his bill and he stated he was open to changes in the bill such as date requirements.

Weber, 40th, Thomas, 2nd, and Moody, 56th, and Margaret Cicarcelli with PAGE followed up with many questions and discussion and changes to the language of the bill. Fort, 39th, spoke in support of the bill.

Weber, 40th, entertained a motion for an amendment with verification from Betsy Howerton, Legislative Council. Douglas, 17th, moved and Weber, 40th, seconded to do pass the amendment. Vote was unanimous. Fort, 39th, moved and Moody, 56th, seconded to Do Pass by Substitute, SB 461. Vote was unanimous.

SB 461 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

/s/ **Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary**

/s/ **Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary**

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

MARCH 12, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on March 12, 2008, in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman

Carter, 13th, Vice-Chair

Douglas, 17th

Fort, 39th

Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio

Moody, 56th

Ramsey, 43rd

Tate, 38th

Williams, 19th, Ex-Officio

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

[HB 881](#) (Jones, 46th): Establishment of the Georgia Charter Schools Commission.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the Committee that after several lengthy hearings on HB 881, today a vote would be cast.

Andrew Broy spoke to the bill in absence of Jones, 46th, the author of the bill.

Still much discussion and questions led.

Speaking in opposition to the bill:

Angela Palm, GSBA; C.C. Bates, Newton County School Board; Herb Garrett, GSSA; Nicole Knighton, DeKalb County Schools.

Speaking in support of the bill:

Nina Gilbert, Founder of Ivy Preparatory Academy; Elsa Celestine, approved for Charter School after being denied 4 times; Tony Roberts, Exec. Director of Georgia Charter School Association.

Douglas, 17th, acted as Chairman while Andrew Broy and Chairman Weber, 40th, presented a Committee Substitute to the bill. Weber, 40th, asked for favorable consideration.

Motion was made by Williams, 19th, and seconded by Moody, 56th, to Do Pass by Substitute. Those opposed were Fort, 39th, Ramsey, 43rd, and Tate, 38th. Those in support of the bill were: Williams, 19th, Moody, 56th, Carter, 13th, Douglas, 17th and Jackson, 24th. The vote carried favorable to Do Pass by Substitute 5-3.

HB 881 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 1286 (Keen, 179th): The bill amends the current law by requiring that public K-12 schools close in observance of Veteran's Day (November 11). The law currently allows the local school boards to decide whether their schools will be closed on Veterans Day.

Douglas, 17th, was recognized to speak to the bill for the author. With no discussion on the bill, Jackson, 24th, moved and Ramsey, 43rd, seconded to Do Pass. Vote was unanimous.

HB 1286 DO PASS

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

/s/ Dan Weber, 40th, Chairman

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

MARCH 18, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on March 18, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman
Carter, 13th, Vice-Chair
Thomas, 54th, Secretary
Balfour, 9th
Fort, 39th

Moody, 56th
Tate, 38th
Thomas, 2nd
Jackson, 24th, Ex-officio
Douglas, 17th

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

HB 1031 (Rep. Hembree, 67th): Public high schools; athletics program; at least one defibrillator; require

This legislation recognizes recent instances of cardiac arrests in high school students that participate in high school sports, the need for a quick response to an emergency is critical in saving lives and requires that each public high school that has an interscholastic athletics program in Georgia, have at least one functional automatic external defibrillator on site at all times.

Hembree, 67th, presented his bill. Discussion followed with Thomas, 54th, demonstrating how to use the defibrillator.

Thomas, 54th, moved and Douglas, 17th, seconded the motion to Do Pass. Vote was unanimous.

HB 1031 DO PASS

HB 250 (Rep. Maxwell, 17th): Local boards of education; reports of criminal offenses; revise provisions

The bill amends the current law to allow an investigation of educators by the Professional Standards Commission for complaints alleging that an educator has been convicted of any criminal offense involving the manufacturing, distribution, trafficking, selling, or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana or of any sexual offense as referenced by law in Section 1.

Maxwell, 17th, spoke to his bill. Kelly Henson, Director of PFC explained the amendment to the bill. Much discussion was led by Carter, 13th, Balfour, 9th, Weber, 40th, and Gary Walker, Professional Standards Commission.

Carter, 13th, moved to do pass as amended and was seconded by Moody, 56th. The vote was unanimous.

HB 250 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 962 (Rep. Freeman, 140th): Local boards of education; budget deficit; require public notice

This bill requires the superintendent and local school board chairperson to publish in the official county organ and the largest circulated newspaper in the county or municipality, notice of any financial irregularities or budget deficits within the accounting system of the local school system or a school within the system, once a week for two consecutive weeks. Additionally the bill requires that the local board of education publish, once a week for two weeks, a statement of actual financial operations of the system, or schools within the system, in the official county organ and a newspaper that has the largest general circulation in the county or municipality of the school board.

Freeman, 140th, spoke to his bill. Weber, 40th, Moody, 56th, and Douglas, 17th, followed up with much discussion and questions. Moody, 56th, offered an amendment. Amendment passed unanimously. Second amendment offered by Weber, 40th, and Douglas, 17th, opposed the amendment. This amendment carried 7-1. The third amendment was offered by Moody, 56th. Fort, 39th, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Freeman, 140th, agreed to the amendments.

With more discussion it was decided to work on the language for the substitute.

HB 962 HELD OVER

HB 652 (Rep. Manning, 32nd): Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act; enact

The bill amends current law by adding a new Code Section establishing the "Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act." (Act) The purpose of the Act is to provide Braille instruction in the individualized education program (IEP) to a student who is blind or visually impaired.

Mullis, 53rd, was recognized to speak to Representative Manning's bill. Representative Reece, 11th, also spoke to the bill.

Much discussion followed.

Betty Grenevitch, Georgia Council for the Blind, and Vince Martin, who works as a Research Scientist at Veterans Administration Hospital, were recognized to speak in favor of the bill.

A motion was made by Thomas, 54th, and Thomas, 2nd, seconded the motion to Do Pass. Vote was unanimous.

HB 652 DO PASS

HB 637 (Coleman, 97th): Quality Basic Education Act; nationally norm-referenced instruments; revise provisions

Relating to the assessment of effectiveness of educational programs under the “Quality Basic Education Act,” so as to revise provisions relating to nationally norm-referenced instruments in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Rep. Benton, 31st, was recognized to speak to the bill for Coleman, 97th, the author of the bill. He stated that the bill was requested by the Department of Education.

Much discussion followed.

Courtney Burnett with DOE asked for clarification from Benton and he responded. With no further questions, Carter, 13th, made a motion and was seconded by Douglas, 17th, to Do Pass. The vote was unanimous. HB 637 will be carried by Hudgens, 47th, in the Senate.

HB 637 DO PASS

HB 1181 (Benton, 31st): State Board of Education; donations, grants & federal aid acceptance; provisions

Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provisions relating to acceptance of donations, grants, and federal aid for vocational or other educational purposes by the State Board of Education; to provide that the State School Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts for \$100,000.00 or less.

Rep. Benton, 31st, spoke to his bill and with no questions. Senator Douglas, 17th, made a motion to Do Pass and was seconded by Thomas, 54th. Vote was unanimous. HB 1181 will be carried by Hudgens, 47th, in the Senate.

HB 1181 DO PASS

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

MARCH 20, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth committee was held on March 20, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Tate, 38th
Carter, 13th, Vice-Chair	Thomas, 2nd
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Williams, 19th, Ex officio
Fort, 39th	
Jackson, 24th, Ex officio	

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The following bills were discussed:

[HB 1335 \(Rep. Coleman, 97th\): Quality Basic Education Formula; funding purposes; change program weights](#)

Relating to the Quality Basic Education Formula; so as to change program weights for funding purposes.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Rep. Coleman, 97th, to speak to his bill.

There was some discussion.

Thomas, 54th, moved to Do Pass, and Carter, 13th, seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Weber, 40th, will carry the bill in the Senate.

[HB 1335 DO PASS](#)

[HR 1103 \(Coleman, 97th\): Joint Study Committee on Teacher Training and Certification; create](#)

This resolution creates a Joint Study committee on Teacher Training and Certification in order to assess Georgia's teacher training programs, certification process and requirements and the impact they have on our students.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Rep. Coleman, 97th, to speak to his bill. This bill is sponsored by me and the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Dan Weber, 40th. He continued to explain the purpose of the bill and why it was drafted.

At this time Thomas, 2nd, was recognized and moved to Do Pass and was seconded by Thomas, 54th. Vote was unanimous.

HR 1103 DO PASS

HB 641 (Coleman, 97th): Education, Department of; State Board; Ga. Excellence Foundation; establish

Relating to elementary and secondary education; so as to revise a provision relating to the delegation of authority to employ staff at the Department of Education; to provide that the State Board of Education can solicit donations, grants, gifts, devises, and bequests; to establish the Georgia Educational Excellence Foundation.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Rep. Tommy Benton, 31st, to speak to Rep. Coleman's, bill. Rep. Benton, 31st, presented a committee substitute to the bill. The bill is a companion bill to HB 1181 passed out of this committee. This was brought about by a request from the Department of Education. He went through the changes made to the bill. The Governor's Office called for the language to this bill. He continued to explain the changes. With no further questions, ready for motion.

Jennifer Hackemeyer with Georgia DOE General Counsel, and Bennett, with DOE spoke briefly in favor of the bill.

Fort, 39th, arrived to vote on this bill.

Motion made by Thomas, 54th, and Jackson, 24th, seconded the motion to Do Pass By Substitute. Vote was unanimous.

HB 641 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 1321 (Shaw, 176th): Education; alleged inappropriate behavior by teacher or school personnel; provisions

The bill amends current law to include a new provision in K-12 student codes of conduct to address students who make false statements, omit or make erroneous claims regarding alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee. Furthermore, this bill adds a new Code Section which directs the Professional Standards Commission to establish a process for students to follow in reporting inappropriate behavior.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Rep. Shaw, 176th, to speak to his bill. He went over some changes he had made to the bill.

Kelley Henson spoke in support of the bill but wanted to make sure it protects students who have real sexual misconduct.

More discussion and changes to the language of the bill followed and Betsy Howerton, Legislative Counsel, was recognized for clarification on language.

Thomas, 2nd, and Kelly Henson agreed to the substitute language. The author of the bill, Shaw, 176th, does not agree to some of the changes in the bill. More discussion led.

At this point, Chairman Weber, 40th, announced that no vote would be taken on this bill today.

[HB 1321 HELD OVER](#)

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

MARCH 27, 2008

The meeting of the Senate Education and Youth Committee was held on March 27, 2008 in Room 310 CLOB.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Jackson, 24th, Ex officio
Carter, 13th, Vice Chairman	Moody, 56th
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Tate, 38th
Balfour, 9th	Thomas, 2nd
Douglas, 17th	
Fort, 39th	

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The following bills were considered:

[HB 1277 \(Kaiser, 59th\): Health insurance plans; education personnel; consider charter school employees; provide](#)

Relating to health insurance plans for teachers and other school personnel in elementary and secondary education, to provide for teachers and employees of charter schools to be considered employees for purposes of participating in the health insurance plans for teachers and other school personnel.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Rep. Kaiser, 59th, to speak to her bill while waiting for a quorum.

Thomas, 2nd, and Balfour, 9th, were recognized to speak. Thomas, 2nd, asked about fiscal impact. Weber, 40th, felt there would be no more cost to the state.

With quorum met, Moody, 56th, moved to Do Pass and Balfour 9th, seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Weber, 40th, will carry this bill in the Senate.

[HB 1277 DO PASS](#)

HB 1209 (Coleman, 97th): State Board of Education; local school systems; contracts; provisions

Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that a local school system may enter into a contract with the State Board of Education for increased flexibility in exchange for increased accountability; to provide that a local system can opt for the status quo; to provide for the development of a three-year strategic plan.

Coleman, 97th, was recognized to speak to his bill. Johnson, 1st, arrived at this time. Coleman, 97th, went over a hand-out which he presented to the committee. Chairman Weber, 40th, asked that Coleman, 97th, explain to the committee what OSA is. Jennifer Ritner was recognized to speak also.

Thomas, 2nd, Weber, 40th, Jackson, 24th, and Rep. Coleman, 97th, continued discussion on the bill. Dean Alford was asked to explain portions of the bill. Fort, 39th, was recognized for questions.

Johnson, 1st, was recognized to discuss his substitute and Jennifer Ritner accompanied him to explain parts of the substitute. Johnson, 1st, had 2 offers to amend, and Douglas, 17th, agreed to the amendments. Marcus Downs with GAE was recognized to speak and commended the efforts for the bill but feels it needs change; concerns with student achievement, opposed as is now. Margaret Cicarelli with PAGE thanked Coleman, 97th, for the bill, but had concerns about Title 20 Waivers – with those changes they could support the bill. Three amendments were offered. Weber, 40th offered the amendment and there was a motion from Thomas, 54th, and Douglas, 17th, seconded the motion – the amendment was a Do Pass. A second amendment was offered by Douglas, 17th, and he moved on the amendment, and Thomas, 54th, seconded - with Fort, 39th, voting against this amendment. Carter, 13th, spoke about language. Weber, 40th, moved and was seconded by Douglas, 17th. Fort voted against the amendment. A vote was cast on the third amendment, Thomas, 54th moved and Douglas, 17th, seconded to Do Pass by Substitute. The majority vote carried 4-1, with Fort, 39th, opposing.

HB 1209 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 905 (Millar, 79th): Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia's Economy Act; enact

Relating to “Quality Basic Education Act,” so as to enact the “Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia’s Economy Act” so as to implement programs to improve graduation rates and to improve the preparedness of students for postsecondary education and careers; to provide for involvement of parents and guardians.

Millar, 79th, was recognized to speak to his bill. He then referred to the Substitute to the bill from the Governor’s Office. Discussion followed.

Jackson, 24th, was recognized to speak and said this was the best legislation he has ever seen and he felt like it would work. Fort, 39th, liked the bill, but had a question about graduates; Millar, 79th, satisfied his question. Motion was made by Thomas, 54th, and seconded by Jackson, 24th, to Do Pass by Substitute. Vote was unanimous.

HB 905 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

APRIL 1, 2008

The Senate Education and Youth Committee meeting was held on April 1, 2008 in Room 125 Capitol.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40th, Chairman	Tate, 38th
Carter, 13th, Vice-Chair	Thomas, 2nd
Thomas, 54th, Secretary	Williams, 19th, Ex officio
Jackson, 24th, Ex officio	
Moody, 56th	

Chairman Weber, 40th, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The following bills were considered:

[HB 962](#) (Freeman, 140th): Local boards of education; budget deficit; require public notice

Relating to local boards of education, so as to require public notice of a budget deficit or irregularities with three business days; to require notification of the superintendent of budget deficits or irregularities identified at the local level.

Chairman Weber, 40th, announced to the committee that we would hear HB 962 and wait for quorum to vote.

Freeman, 140th, spoke to his bill introducing a committee substitute. Quorum was met and Thomas, 54th, moved, and Williams, 19th, seconded to Do Pass by Substitute. Vote was unanimous. Moody, 56th, will carry this bill in the Senate.

[HB 962](#) DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

[HB 1321](#) (Shaw, 176th): Education; alleged inappropriate behavior by teacher or school personnel; provision

Relating to discipline of students in elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel is addressed in the student code of conduct; to establish a state mandated process for students to follow in reporting instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel; to provide for notice of such process in student and teacher handbooks.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Shaw, 176th, to speak to his bill. He explained that he had a committee substitute to his bill and went over the changes. With no further discussion on the bill, Williams, 19th, moved and Thomas, 54th, seconded to Do Pass by Substitute. Vote was unanimous. Thomas, 54th, will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 1321 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 602 (Rep. Cole, 125th): School board members; selling school supplies; penalty; provide exception

Relating to the prohibition of a school board member from selling school supplies or equipment to county board and a penalty, so as to provide an exception to such prohibition.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Cole, 125th, to speak to his bill. A representative from the School Board Association spoke briefly in favor of the bill. With no questions, Thomas, 54th, moved and Carter, 13th seconded to Do Pass. Vote was unanimous. Tolleson, 20th, will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 602 DO PASS

HB 1300 (Carter, 175th): Minimum school year; certain school days; provisions

Relating to the minimum school year and other matters, so as to provide that certain school days which were cancelled due to disaster, emergency, act of God, and other occurrences do not have to be made up under certain circumstances.

Weber, 40th, recognized Carter, 17th, to speak to her bill and no questions or discussion followed. Weber, 40th, moved to Do Pass and was seconded by Carter, 13th. Vote was unanimous. Senator Thomas, 54th, will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 1300 DO PASS

HB 1169 (Morgan, 39th): Relating to definitions relative to early care and learning programs, so as to revise the definition of “day-care center” so as to exclude certain private schools which provide kindergarten through grade 12 education from regulation as day-care centers.

Weber, 40th, recognized Morgan, 39th, to speak to her bill. Williams, 19th, and Weber, 40th, related questions to the author of the bill. Morgan, 39th, responded to their questions. Betsy Howerton, Legislative Counsel, was called on to give legal clarification. Ellen Williams, Ga. Child Care Association opposed the bill. Alicia Morgan was recognized to speak about differences on the bill. Thomas, 2nd, was recognized and discussion continued. Williams, 19th, moved to Do Pass by substitute and Thomas, 54th, seconded the motion to Do Pass with Tate, 38th opposing. The vote was unanimous. Wiles, 37th, will carry in the Senate.

HB 1169 DO PASS

HB 904 (Jerguson, 22nd): Early care and learning; fingerprint record checks; require certain employees

Relating to early care and learning, so as to require certain employees to have state and national fingerprint record checks prior to employment; to review certain definitions; to change certain provisions relating to records check requirements for applicants and notification to such applicants.

Chairman Weber, 40th, recognized Jerguson, 22nd to speak to his bill and introduced an amendment to his bill. With Tate, 38th, not satisfied with the bill or the changes, Jerguson, 22nd, continued to explain the bill in detail to her. Discussion continued.

Those expressing concerns with the bill regarding the 10 days were: Tate, 38th, Lisa Padgett with Child Care Network, Melva Henderson, Trainer for State of Georgia to train employees, and Helen Harden, Director in Clayton County Child Care.

Ella Williams with Child Care Organization is very supportive of the change “10th day admission.” An agreement was made on the substitute.

Weber, 40th, spoke to the committee and said he would like a vote and if it does not work, then come back and work on it.

Thomas, 54th moved to Do Pass by Substitute HB 904 and was seconded by Jackson, 24th. Opposed was Tate, 38th. With majority vote met, HB 904 Do Pass by Substitute. Chip Rogers, 21st, will carry HB 904 in the Senate.

HB 904 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40th, adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Barbara Landrum, Recording Secretary

April 17, 2008

The Honorable Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the *Senate Education and Youth Committee*, I am returning the following Bills:

[SB 85](#)
[SB 206](#)
[SB 277](#)
[SB 297](#)
[SB 336](#)
[SB 497](#)
[SB 500](#)
[HB 332](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Barbara Landrum
Recording Secretary
Senate Education and Youth Committee