

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its first meeting of the 2008 Session on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, in room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman David Adelman called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Vincent Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Kasim Reed, 35<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Valencia Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Doug Stoner, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Adelman welcomed Committee members and guests to the first Urban Affairs Committee meeting of the 2008 Session. Chairman Adelman announced that the Committee will not vote on legislation today because under the Senate Rules bills approved would go directly to the general calendar.

Chairman Adelman opened the floor for opening comments from Committee members. Senator Butler rose to recognize MARTA's new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Beverly Scott and Transit Planning Board Staff Director Cheryl King.

After reviewing the agenda, Chairman Adelman announced that [Senate Bill 332](#) was the only item on the agenda. Senator Thompson presented the bill. He began his presentation by giving a brief history of the MARTA Act. Specifically, Sen. Thompson pointed out two problems with the way the MARTA Act was originally written. First, Sen. Thompson stated when the Act was created in 1965 it failed to consider how suburban communities would grow. Second, Sen. Thompson discussed the limitations of the Act. The original statute only included bus services and not rail services. However, SB 332 provides for bus, rapid transit, and light rail services. Sen. Thompson concluded that SB 332 does not drastically change the MARTA Act, it simply allows for more transportation options.

Dr. Scott rose to offer MARTA's full support of the bill and to thank Senators, Thompson, Reed and Davenport for their work on the bill.

Chairman Adelman opened the floor for questions. Senator Fort asked if [SB 332](#) was considered local legislation. Sen. Thompson responded the bill would require advertisement as a local bill in all five original MARTA counties. Those counties include Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Clayton and Cobb. However, the bill would be voted on in committee and treated like a general piece of legislation.

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Senator Fort rose to acknowledge House Representative “Able” Mable Thomas, who represents the 55<sup>th</sup> district.

There being no further business, Chairman Adelman adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator David Adelman, Chairman

/s/ Karla Johnson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, January 30, 2008**

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its second meeting of the 2008 Session on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, in front of the Senate Chamber. Chairman David Adelman called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Vincent Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Steve Henson, 41<sup>st</sup>  
Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Kasim Reed, 35<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Valencia Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Doug Stoner, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Horacena Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Adelman thanked everyone for attending the meeting at short notice. Chairman Adelman reviewed the agenda and advised the Committee of the only piece of legislation to consider, Senate Bill 332.

**[SB 332](#) (Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>) MARTA; allow a transportation services contract to authorize the extension of/addition to the Authority's existing rail system**

Chairman Adelman asked if any member of the Committee would like to make a motion for [SB 332](#). Senator Reed made a motion of Do Pass, and Senator Orrock seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously with a favor of *Do Pass*.

There being no further business, Chairman Adelman adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator David Adelman, Chairman

/s/ Karla Johnson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, February 29, 2008**

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its third meeting of the 2008 Session on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, in room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman David Adelman called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Senator Gloria Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Vincent Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Steve Henson, 41<sup>st</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Senator Doug Stoner, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Horacena Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Curt Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Senator John Wiles, 37<sup>th</sup>

**SB 503 (Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>) Whistleblower Open Settlements Act; prohibit hospital authority; confidential settlement agreements; federal/state whistleblower**

Chairman Adelman called the Committee to order to take up Senate Bill 503, sponsored by Senator David Shafer of the 48<sup>th</sup> district. SB 503 would prohibit a hospital authority from entering into or enforcing confidential settlement agreements with a protected whistleblower and provides that any such agreements are void and unenforceable. Senator Shafer noted that the bill received bipartisan support.

After Chairman Adelman opened the floor for comments, there was discussion concerning the narrow scope of the bill to just hospital authorities. Also, there was discussion about whether or not this bill would discourage whistleblowers.

Chairman Adelman asked if any member of the Committee would like to make a motion for SB 503. Senator Orrock made a motion of Do Pass. Senator Ramsey seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously with a favor of *Do Pass*.

There being no further business, Chairman Adelman adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr., Secretary

/s/ Karla Johnson, Recording Secretary