

2008 SENATE VETERANS, MILITARY AND
HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
ROSTER

Senator John Douglas, 17th

Chairman

295 Nicklaus Circle
Social Circle, GA 30025

Senator Cecil Staton, 18th

Vice Chairman

P. O. Box 26427
Macon, GA 31221

Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th

Secretary

P. O. Box 1356
Perry, GA 31069

Senator Jack Murphy, 27th

Ex-Officio

3830 Adams Road
Cumming, GA 30041

Senator Robert Brown, 26th

P. O. Box 5742
Macon, GA 31208

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

P. O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

Senator Curt Thompson, 5th

6320 Glenbrook Drive
Tucker, GA 30084

Senator Nancy Schaefer, 50th

Ex-Officio

P. O. Box 294
Turnerville, GA 30580

Senator Bill Jackson, 24th

Ex-Officio

P. O. Box 528
Appling, GA 30802

VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

2008

1. Quorum of the committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Subcommittees in turn shall have authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the chairperson. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
4. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairperson.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. Any member or members of the committee who disagrees with the majority report of the committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the committee.
8. Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
9. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
10. The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
11. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee
January 29, 2008

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 in 307 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17th, Chairman
Staton, 18th, Vice Chairman
Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio
Schaefer, 50th, Ex-Officio
Jones, 10th
Murphy, 27th, Ex-Officio
C. Thompson, 5th

Noted: Senators Brown and Tolleson were absent.

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security rules were approved by the committee.

Chairman Douglas said that the Committee would not be hearing SB 391 today.

SB 369 (Douglas, 17th) Revenue Dept. of; parking permit for disabled persons; affidavit of active duty military physicians

Chairman Douglas spoke for the legislation stating that this legislation would allow active duty or retired military personnel to submit an affidavit from an active duty military physician whether or not such physician is licensed to practice in Georgia for a disabled parking permit. The affidavit must state that the applicant is in active military service, stationed in Georgia or retired from the military, is a Georgia resident, and that such person is disabled.

After discussion, Chairman Douglas asked for a motion. Senator Staton made a motion that **SB 369 do pass** and Senator Schaefer seconded the motion. SB 369 passed with a vote of 6-0.

SB 340 (Pearson, 51st) Counties; municipal corporations; prohibit sanctuary policies by local government entities

Speaking for this legislation:

Mr. D. A. King, Dustin Inman Society.

Mr. King explained the importance of this bill.

After much discussion, Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Jackson made a motion that **SB 340 do pass** and Senator Staton seconded the motion. SB 340 passed with a vote of 6 –0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator John Douglas, 17th
Chairman

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee
February 5, 2008

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17th, Chairman
Staton, 18th, Vice Chairman
Jones, 10th
Tolleson, 20th
Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio
Schaefer, 50th, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Brown, C. Thompson, and Murphy were absent.

Charley English, Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. English explained to the committee that his appointment by Governor Sonny Perdue as Director of GEMA became effective on September 21, 2007. Mr. English was appointed as Director of GEMA in February 2006. Additionally, he is Chairman of the state's Homeland Security Task Force.

Mr. English explained the levels of security and why the United States is under the elevated security levels. He has coordinated the state's response to 15 presidentially declared disasters and numerous states of emergency declared by the Governor and he was a member of the G8 Summit security planning team. Mr. English further explained that GEMA and Homeland Security are always ready to respond to any situation whether it is a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. In the event of a natural disaster there are employees that are on stand by and available to work until the disaster is over.

There were no questions from the committee

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee
February 12, 2008

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17th Chairman
Staton, 18th, Vice Chairman
Tolleson, 20th
Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio
Schaefer, 50th, Ex-Officio
Jones, 10th

Note: Senators Brown, C. Thompson and Murphy were absent.

SR 827: (Schaefer, 50th) U.S. Congress; urged to withdraw the United States from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America.

Senator Nancy Schaefer addressed the committee on the resolution to urge the US Congress, especially the congressional delegation from Georgia, to use all its efforts to withdraw the United States from any further participation in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America and any other legislative activity, however named, that seeks to advance, or fund or in any way promote the creation of any structure or relationship to accomplish any form of North American merger.

Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Jackson made a motion that **SR 827 do pass** and Senator Staton seconded the motion. SR 827 passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Ned M. Hunter, Chief Executive Officer, Stratizon Corporation, spoke to the committee on "Turbo Vet" services. He stated that this software will speed up the claims submission process and decrease the wait time for veterans. He further stated that he has testified before a Congressional House committee and won a 5 year contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia. There are questions built in that prompt the correct answers. The software can be purchased or leased on a monthly basis and it is updated monthly. It can be accessed anywhere there is a PC. It shaves 100 days off the process once it is in place.

This was presented to Commissioner Pete Wheeler, Deputy Commissioner Jim Frederick (now retired), Tom Cook and Len Glass of the Georgia Department of Veterans Services 3 years ago and is not a project that Mr. Wheeler has on his plate.

Deputy Commissioner Tom Cook spoke on the Georgia Department of Veterans Services' position. He stated it is conceptually good, however the concern is the funding to set up the software, have it interface with software and the current budget requirements they are fighting to get basic services. Also, the field offices do not have high speed internet services.

Chairman Douglas stated that he would like for the Georgia Department of Veterans Services to take a serious look at this software and will ask Senator Unterman and Representative Parsons to earmark select funding for this service.

Chairman Douglas turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Staton at 4:20 p.m. to take a telephone call.

Chairman Douglas returned at 4:25 p.m. and resumed the chair.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee
February 26, 2008

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 in Room 310 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17th, Chairman
Staton, 18th, Vice Chairman
Tolleson, 20th
Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio
Jones, 10th
Murphy, 27th, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Brown, Schaefer, and C. Thompson were absent

SB 512: (Douglas, 17th) Education; provide grants to North Georgia College students who accept a military commission.

Chairman Douglas turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Staton while he addressed the committee on the distribution of a \$1,500.00 grant per academic semester for each eligible student attending North Georgia College. Upon submission of an application for the grant from each eligible student who accepts a military commission, and certification from North Georgia College that the student applying is an eligible student, the Georgia Student Finance Authority will approve the grant.

Chairman Douglas resumed the chair.

There was no discussion and Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Staton made a motion to amend **SB 512 “North Georgia College and State University” and “Funding Available”**. Senator Jones seconded the motion.

Senator Jones made a motion that **SB 512 do pass by committee substitute** and Senator Staton seconded the motion. SB 512 passed by a vote of 6-0.

HB 961: (Sims, 169th) Persons with disabilities; special parking permits and license plates; change certain provisions.

There was no member of the House of Representatives present to speak to the committee on this bill.

Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Jones made a motion to table **HB 961**. Senator Staton seconded the motion. HB 961 tabled by a vote of 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee
March 4, 2008

The Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee met on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in Room 307 of the CLOB. Chairman Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Douglas, 17th, Chairman
Staton, 18th, Vice Chairman
Tolleson, 20th
Jackson, 24th, Ex-Officio
Jones, 10th
Schaefer, 50th, Ex-Officio

Note: Senators Brown, Murphy, C. Thompson were absent.

HB 1201: (Day, 163rd) Georgia Emergency Management Agency Nomenclature Act of 2008; enact

Senator Mullis addressed the committee on this legislation explaining that it prohibits entities, without written permission from the director of GEMA, from knowingly using the terms 'Georgia Emergency Management Agency,' 'Emergency Management Agency,' or 'GEMA' in connection with any advertisement, publication, or production in a manner reasonably calculated to convey the impression that such advertisement, publication, or production is approved, endorsed, or authorized by or associated with GEMA. He further explained that this legislation also prohibits any person from using or displaying any symbol, emblem, seal, or badge, current or historical, used by GEMA without written permission from the director. Senator Mullis stated that there is already a similar law in the Senate.

There was no discussion and Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Tolleson moved that **HB 1201 Do Pass**. Senator Schaefer seconded the motion. HB 1201 passed by a vote of 6-0.

HB 961: (Sims, 169th) Persons with disabilities; special parking permits and license plates; change certain provisions

Representative Sims, 169th, addressed the committee on HB 961. He explained that currently there is a lot of abuse of the temporary disabled parking permits being duplicated. Current law authorizes the Department of Revenue to issue various disabled parking permits upon the presentation of an affidavit of a practitioner of the healing arts.

This legislation also requires that such permits must be laminated to prevent alteration of the

information printed on the permit. Temporary permits must vary in color from one period to the next renewal period. The expiration date must be machine printed, not handwritten, in boldface type of sufficient size to be legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror.

It was noted that Section 2 (h) is a duplication. Therefore, Chairman Douglas asked for a motion to amend this section.

Senator Tolleson made a motion to amend **HB 961** by striking all of Section 2 and Senator Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Douglas asked for a motion.

Senator Tolleson voted that **HB 961 Do Pass by substitute**. Senator Staton seconded the motion. HB 961 passed by a vote of 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
Secretary

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary

August 25, 2008

Honorable Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Room 353
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee**, I am returning the following Resolution:

[SR 319](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ethel R. Blackmon
Recording Secretary
Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee