

**SENATE EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**2009 MEMBERS**

**Senator Dan Weber, Chairman**  
District 40  
1117 Wynterhall Lane  
Dunwoody, GA. 30338  
404-442-1810  
301-B C.L.O.B.  
404-463-2260

**Senator Dan Moody, Vice Chair**  
District 56  
3977 Merriweather Woods  
Alpharetta, GA. 30022  
421-C State Capitol  
404-463-8055

**Senator Don Thomas, Secretary**  
District 54  
121-G State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA. 30334  
404-656-6436

**Senator Don Balfour**  
District 9  
2312 Waterscape Trail  
Snellville, GA 30078  
770-729-5764  
453 State Capitol  
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**Senator Eric Johnson, Ex-Officio**  
District 1  
128 Baymeadow Point  
Savannah, GA. 31405  
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121-F State Capitol  
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**Senator Gail Buckner**  
District 44  
1834 Carla Drive  
Morrow, GA. 30260  
770-473-9039  
313-A C.L.O.B.  
404-463-5260

**Senator Jim Butterworth**  
District 50  
P.O. Box 2000  
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706-499-7567  
325-B C.L.O.B.  
404-463-5257

**Senator Vincent Fort**  
District 39  
P.O. Box 42967  
Atlanta, GA. 30311  
305-B C.L.O.B.  
404-656-5091

**Senator Bill Jackson, Ex-Officio**  
District 24  
P.O. Box 528  
Appling, GA. 30802  
706-863-5818  
319-A C.L.O.B.  
404-656-5114

**Senator Tommie Williams, Ex-Officio**  
District 19  
148 Williams Ave.  
Lyons, GA. 30436  
912-526-7444  
321 State Capitol  
404-656-0089

**Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr.**  
**District 43**  
**5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive**  
**Decatur, Georgia 30035**  
**404-281-9948**  
**320-B C.L.O.B.**  
**404-463-2598**

**Senator Freddie Powell Sims**  
**District 12**  
**5377 Goose Hollow Road**  
**Dawson, GA. 31742**  
**229-347-0251**  
**305-A C.L.O.B.**  
**404-463-5259**

**Senator Horacena Tate**  
**District 38**  
**201 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., N.W.**  
**Atlanta, GA. 30314**  
**404-577-5609**  
**110-C State Capitol**  
**404-463-8053**

**SENATE EDUCATION & YOUTH  
COMMITTEE RULES**

**2009-2010**

- 1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6).**
- 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 disagrees with the Majority Report of the Committee shall be privileged to fill a Minority Report if they so desire.**
- 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 whom he has designated to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.**
- 8. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as Adopted, shall govern.**

## **SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**(THIS IS A JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING)**

Thursday, January 15, 2009 – Room 406 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **SENATORS PRESENT:**

<b>Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman</b>	<b>Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary</b>	<b>Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio</b>	<b>Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio</b>
<b>Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup></b>

### **REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

<b>Millar, Vice-Chairman, 79<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ashe, 56<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Benton, Secretary, 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Austin, 10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Battles, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Taylor, 55<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Carter, 175<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dickson, 6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Everson, 106<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holt, 112<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Kaiser, 59<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Keown, 173<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Lindsey, 54<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mayo, 91<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reece, 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Nix, 69<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Peake, 137<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Reese, 98<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sellier, 136<sup>th</sup></b>

**Vice-Chairman Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.**

Representative Keown, 173<sup>rd</sup>, was called on to open the meeting in prayer. The new members of the House were introduced, followed by adoption of the House Rules.

Kathy Cox, State School Superintendent, was introduced to the committee to give a presentation. She presented six Strategic Plans/Goals for the Georgia DOE and the State Board of Education. Under each of those goals below, she went into much detail explaining the strengths and weaknesses and plans to make each goal better.

- Increase the Graduation Rate, reduce the Dropout Rate and increase Post-Secondary Enrollment.
- Strengthen teacher quality, recruitment, and retention.
- Improve workforce readiness skills.
- Develop strong education leaders, particularly at the building level.
- Improve the SAT, ACT and achievement scores of Georgia students.
- Make policies that ensure maximum academic and financial accountability.

Representative Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, House Vice-Chairman, opened up the floor for questions.

In closing, State School Superintendent, Kathy Cox announced to the Committee that she would be testifying at the budget hearing on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

There being no further business, House Vice-Chairman Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

***/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary***

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

**SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

**SENATORS PRESENT:**

**Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**

There was no Roll Call

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced at the meeting room door that the meeting had been postponed.

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 2, 2009 - Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>  
Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>

### SENATORS NOT PRESENT:

Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>

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

The first business at hand was the adoption of the Senate Education and Youth Committee Rules; so moved by Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and seconded by Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>. The Rules were adopted by unanimous consent.

**SB 14 (Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>): This legislation restricts any person who is on the National Sex Offender Registry or the State Sexual Offender Registry from becoming elected or serving on a local board of education.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, recognized Douglas, 17<sup>th</sup>, to speak to his bill.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized for questions and discussion lead. Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and the motion was seconded by Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>. SB-14 passed out of committee by unanimous vote.

**SB 14 DO PASS**

**SB 60 (Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>): Relating to mandatory education for children; to authorize each local board of education to determine the maximum age of mandatory education from 16 to 18 for its local school system; to provide for alternative tracks.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, recognized Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, to speak to his bill. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, then addressed Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, with questions and concerns and stated that this legislation was being worked on by others and encouraged him to look at others legislation, particularly Representative Millar's. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, was recognized and his concern was regarding the cost to the state and whether a Fiscal Note would be needed, but he was supportive of a good bill dealing with this. Jeff Hubbard with GAE was recognized and testified in support of the bill. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced to the committee there would be no vote taken on SB-60 at this time.

**SB 60 HELD OVER**

**SB 36 (Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>): Relating to local boards of education; to provide for the adoption of codes of ethics to govern members of local boards of education; to provide for annual review of codes of ethics.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, introduced Buckner's, 44<sup>th</sup>, bill due to her absence, as she was attending another meeting. No vote was taken on this bill.

**SB 36 HELD OVER**

There being no further business, Senator Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**

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



**JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Room 506 Coverdell Legislative Office Building**

**SENATORS PRESENT:**

**Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**  
**Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman**  
**Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**  
**Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
**Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>**

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

<b>Brooks Coleman, Jr., 97<sup>th</sup>, Chairman</b>	<b>Hugh Floyd, 99<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Fran Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Doug Holt, 112<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Tommy Benton, 31<sup>st</sup>, Secretary</b>	<b>Margaret Kaiser, 59<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Kathy Ashe, 56<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mike Keown, 173<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Paul Battles, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Edward Lindsey, 54<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>David Casas, 103<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Howard Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Tom Dickson, 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rahn Mayo, 91<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Melvin Everson, 106<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Alisha Thomas Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Allen Peake, 137<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Barbara Massey Reece, 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Bobby Reese, 98<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tony Sellier, 136<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Ed Setzler, 35<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rashad Taylor, 55<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Brian Thomas, 100<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Earnest “Coach” Williams, 89<sup>th</sup></b>

**Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, opened the meeting by announcing to the members that the purpose of the meeting was to give an update on the status of the Career Academy Initiative in Georgia. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, at that time introduced Irene Munn with the Lt. Governor’s Office to speak. She introduced Frank Pinson, CEO, Floyd County Career Academy (Coosa Valley Tech College) and he gave testimony to the committee.

During the meeting presentations were heard from:

Mark Whitlock, CEO of CVTC  
Gary Martin, Hapeville Career Academy  
Russ Moore, Southeastern Early College and Career Academy (SECCA)  
Mark Peavy, Walton County Academy  
Tim Melvin, CEO, Rockdale County Academy  
Barbara Wall, Middle Georgia Technical College  
Sidney Clanton, Career Academy, Carrollton County

Lee Bailey, Thomas County

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, opened the floor for questions from Representative Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, House Vice-Chairman, Irene Munn, and Representative Setzler, 35<sup>th</sup>, discussion followed.

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATOR PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

**SB 84 (Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>): Relating to elementary and secondary education; to revise provisions relating to eligibility for election as a local board of education member; to limit the size of local boards of education; to revise provisions relating to per diem and expenses of local board of education members; to revise certain provisions relating to the secretary of local board of education; to provide for the fundamental roles of local boards of education and local school superintendents; to prohibit certain conflicts of interest of board members; to provide for a code of ethics for local board of education members.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced this would only be a hearing on SB-84.

Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, presented his bill to the committee and introduced Joy Hawkins, President of the Georgia Chamber to speak. Lauren Wilkes, member of the Georgia Chamber, Nels Peterson, Erin Haynes from the Governor's Office, and Lori Brady from the Chatham County School Board all gave testimony in favor of this bill.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, stated that they would work only from the substitute to the bill. Questions from the committee were asked by Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, and Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>. Joy Hawkins and Nels Peterson addressed their questions. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, spoke in favor of the bill but felt it needed some changes.

Angela Palm with the Georgia School Board Association spoke against the bill. She had concerns with the language in the bill.

Others opposing the bill:

Erik Charles, Henry Co. BOE  
Herb Garrett, GSSA

Lorie Brady, Savannah/Chatham Co. BOE  
Katie Reeves, Fulton Co. BOE

**SB 84 HEARING ONLY**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**[SR 152 \(Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>\): Urging the Governor to appoint a working group to study the establishment of “Governor’s Academies”.](#)**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, gave testimony to his bill and then called on Dr. Chuck Knapp, Commission Chairman, Director of Educational Development, CF Foundation. He spoke on his hand-outs and a book titled “*Tough Choices, Tough Times*”. He ended by saying the Governor liked the bill but does not agree with everything in the report.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke briefly again on the bill.

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, commented that Representative Jones, 46<sup>th</sup>, had a bill in the House which may be doing the same things as his bill.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke about the reasoning behind the resolution and discussion lead. There was a motion from Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, to Do Pass and was seconded by Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>. SR-152 DO PASS, vote was unanimous.

### **[SR 152 DO PASS](#)**

Not present at time of vote:

Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>

**SB 90 (Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>): Parental school choice options. The purpose of the program is to tailor a student's education to the student's specific needs by allowing families to make independent choices directing educational funding to schools of their choosing.**

Senator Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, presented his bill to the committee.

Testifying against the bill:

Tate, 38<sup>th</sup> (thinks citizens should decide)

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, has concerns

Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, has concerns

Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>, Democratic Leadership

Jeff Hubbard, President of GAE

Kisa Clark, League of Women Voters

Kem Hulseley, with Georgia PTA

Margaret Ciccarelli, with PAGE

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, addressed questions and concerns from Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>, and Margaret Ciccarelli.

Testifying in support of the bill:

Kelly McCuthen, Policy Institute

Andrew O'Brian, parent in Cobb County

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, also addressed some concerns and questions from Margaret Ciccarelli.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced there would be no vote on SB-90 at this time, but the committee would take SB-90 up at another meeting.

**SB 90 HELD OVER**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 19, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>

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

### [SB 84 \(Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>\): Local Boards of Education Requirements.](#)

Author of the bill, Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, requested that Nels Peterson give testimony to his bill. Nels explained each section of the substitute to the bill. Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, offered this substitute to the bill, (LC 33 2855-EC), as explained by Nels Peterson.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, offered amendment #1.

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, offered amendments #2, #3, #4 and #5

Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, were recognized for comments and questions. Nels Peterson spoke on amendments #2 through #5.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, went over each amendment with questions and discussion followed.

Gary Price, Co-Chair, Chamber of Commerce, and Phil Jacobs, with the Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the bill.

**Amendment #1** by Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, passed (9-0) unanimous vote.

**Amendment #2** by Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, passed (7-2) with Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, opposing.

**Amendment #3** by Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, failed (3-6) with Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, opposing.

**Amendment #4** by Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, not receiving a second motion – failed.

**Amendment #5** by Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, was withdrawn.

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass by Substitute and the motion was seconded by Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous. SB-84 Do Pass by Substitute.

### **SB 84 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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



## **SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **SENATORS PRESENT:**

**Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**  
**Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman**  
**Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**  
**Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>**  
**Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
**Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>**  
**Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>**

**Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
**Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
**Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Late arrivals: Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, arrived at 1:16 p.m. and Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, arrived at 1:18 p.m.**

**Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.**

**SR 153 (Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>): Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by local law for the creation and comprehensive regulation of education improvement districts for the provision of facilities for one or more public or special schools; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, gave testimony to his bill. Representative Stuckey Benefield of Decatur, Georgia offered an amendment. Due to absence of Representative Stuckey Benefield, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, explained her amendment.

Testifying in support of amendment to the bill:

Elisha Hammond, ACLU  
Ann Mintz, United Way  
Dr. Ben Scafidi, Georgia College and State University

Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass on the amendment, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, asked if there was a motion on the bill. A motion was made by Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, to Do Pass by Substitute and was seconded by Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous.

**SR 153 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**SB 90 (Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>): Relating to elementary and secondary education, to provide the option for parents to enroll their child in another school within the local school system, a school in another local school system, or in a private school under certain conditions; to provide for the amount of scholarship and method of payments; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for limited liability; to provide for an annual report on the program.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced that he would call on supporters of the bill to speak, and those in opposition to the bill.

The following testified before the committee in support of the bill:

Walter Corbett from Brookwood School	Ben Furtodd, parent
Gary Rhodes, Gwinnett County parent	Dr. Ben Scafidi, parent
Rachel Barron, parent	Emily Howard, parent
Kimberly Peacock, parent	Shelly Tanner, parent
Melissa Pressley, parent	Rhonda Peterson, Clayton Co.
Cindy Suto, parent	Trina Murphy, parent
Ansley Hines, parent	Nancy Jester, parent
Diane Starkovich, Archdiocen of Atlanta	
Andy Lord, Alliance for School Choice	
Robert Enlow, Friedman Foundation	
Davon Deveaux, parent	
Patricia Levesque, Jeb Bush office Foundation, presented slides and handouts	
Dr. Jewel Frazar, former Supt. of Albany, Ga. (had handouts for committee)	

Recognized for questions were Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Buckner 44<sup>th</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>.

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

Elisha Hammond, ACLU  
Margaret Ciccarelli, PAGE  
Robert Cosley, Habersham Co. Supt.  
Andrew Broy, DOE  
Herb Garrett, Ga. School Supt. Assoc. (gave handouts)  
Peter Isbister, MALDEF  
Stewart Benedict  
Angela Palm, Ga. School Bd. Assoc.  
Jimmy Stokes, Ga. Secondary School Principal  
Keisha Clark, parent  
Peter Islem, Mexican American Assoc.

After all testimony was heard Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke to the committee and audience briefly before the vote. There was a motion by Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, to Do Pass and it was seconded by Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>. The vote carried 7-4. Voting in support of the bill were Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>. Opposing the bill were Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, and Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>. Having met the majority vote required, SB-90 Do Pass.

**SB 90 DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 26, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
William, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

The following bills were considered:

**SB 178 (Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>): Extending the sunset date of capital outlay funds. It extends the current sunset date of capital outlay funds to June 30, 2011.**

Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill by explaining the capital outlay program was set to expire this session so the bill just extends the date for one more session. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, had questions.

Lynn Jackson and Nels Peterson (Governor's Office) explained they were working on a longer term plan. Dave McClesky (Gwinnett County Schools) was for working with legislators on a longer term plan. Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for a question and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, responded.

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. SB-178 Do Pass unanimously.

### **SB 178 DO PASS**

**SB 114 (Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>): Educational Waivers for Military Dependent Student. The bill removes barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and the deployment of their parents. It allows for the uniform treatment of military children who transfer between school districts and states.**

Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill and explained that this bill was previously vetoed by the Governor due to concerns over interstate compact and SB-114 was drawn specifically for meeting those concerns of the Governor. Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, and Erin Homes spoke in favor of the bill.

Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**SB 114 DO PASS**

**SB 137 (Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>): Interstate compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.**

Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, was recognized to speak to his bill and asked for a committee vote but requested to hold the bill in the Rules Committee for now.

There being no questions, Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**SB 137 DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 8:29 a.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT

Weber, 40 <sup>th</sup> , Chairman	Johnson, 1 <sup>st</sup> , Ex-Officio
Moody, 56 <sup>th</sup> , Vice-Chairman	Sims, 12 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas, 54 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary	Buckner, 44 <sup>th</sup>
Balfour, 9 <sup>th</sup>	
Tate, 38 <sup>th</sup>	
Fort, 39 <sup>th</sup>	
Ramsey, 43 <sup>rd</sup>	
Williams, 19 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio	
Jackson, 24 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio	
Butterworth, 50 <sup>th</sup>	

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

**SB 160 (Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>): Relating to Title 20, known as the “Quality Basic Education Act,” to revise provisions relating to instructional activity concerning Veterans Day; to provide that public elementary and secondary schools shall be closed on November 11 of each year in honor of Veterans Day.**

Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, spoke to his bill.

Testifying in opposition to the bill was Jimmy Stokes with GASSP and Don Rooks with the Georgia School Board Association. Recognized for questions and discussion were Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>. Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, addressed testimony to the bill. Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, asked for a friendly word change in the bill and Chapman, 3<sup>rd</sup>, agreed. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, asked for a motion. Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, opposed. Having met the majority vote (11-2) SB-160 Do Pass.

### **SB 160 DO PASS**

**SB 210 (Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>): Honors Program for Home School Students. The bill amends current law to allow for resident students who attend a home school program to be eligible for an honors program already open to students in public and private high schools in Georgia.**

Johnson 1<sup>st</sup>, spoke to his bill. Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, was recognized and she had concerns with home school participation. Speaking in support of the bill was Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE, but she had concerns with quota of students able to participate. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, and Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup> were recognized for questions.

Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, moved Do Pass and was the motion seconded by Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous.

### **SB 210 DO PASS**

### **SB 239 (Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>): Mandatory Attendance in School.**

Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, spoke to his bill. Also speaking to the bill was Robert James, Solicitor of DeKalb County, followed by questions from Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, submitted amendment #1 and moved Do Pass. The motion was seconded by Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>. Amendment #1 passed unanimously. Amendment #2 was offered by Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and he moved Do Pass. Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Amendment #2 passed with Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, opposing. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, offered amendment #3 and moved Do Pass. Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, seconded. Amendment #3 passed unanimously. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, offered amendment #4 and moved Do Pass. Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion and amendment #4 passed unanimously. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass by Substitute on SB-239 and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. SB-239 Do Pass by Substitute. Vote was unanimous.

### **SB 239 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**SR 465 (Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>): Partnership between Educational Entities. This resolution recognizes the value of partnerships between local school systems and postsecondary institutions and urges the Board of Regents, Georgia's private colleges and universities, the Department of Education, Professional Standards Commission and local systems to continue to establish and enable such partnerships.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill and there being no questions, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion. SR-465 Do Pass unanimously.

### **SR 465 DO PASS**

**SR 466 (Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>): Performance Based Principal Certificate Renewal Design Team.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill. There being no questions, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded to the motion. SR-466 Do Pass with a unanimous vote.

**SR 466 DO PASS**

**HB 251 (Representative Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>): School Choice in Local Schools. Relating to organization of schools and school systems under the “Quality Basic Education Act,” to provide that a public school student can attend any school in the local school system under certain conditions.**

Representative Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill. Recognized for questions and concerns with the bill were Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>. Tom Cleveland, Vice-Chairman of the Forsyth County School Board was recognized and was in support of the bill. Marcus Downs with GAE, spoke in support of the bill. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions on the bill. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced to the committee that HB-251 would be a Hearing Only. The committee had lost its quorum due to commitments from other committees.

**HB 251 HEARING ONLY**

**SR 464 (Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>) Teacher Production. The resolution urges the Board of Regents and Georgia’s private colleges and universities to increase teacher production to meet Georgia’s need for K-12 teachers.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill. There being no questions, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to Do Pass.

**SR 464 DO PASS**



**HB 229 (Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>): Annual Fitness Assessment in Schools. Relating to the health of students in elementary and secondary education, to enact the “Student Health and Physical Education Act.”**

Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill. Shannon Williams, Physical Education Coordinator of DeKalb County was recognized and supported the bill. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, spoke and was in support of the bill. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for a statement. There being no further questions, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, seconded to the motion. HB-229 Do Pass by unanimous vote. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 229 DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Monday, March 9, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

Due to Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, running late, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of the committee, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

**[SR 406 \(Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>\): Urging educational agencies, associations, boards, and commissions involved in the accreditation process for school systems in grades kindergarten through 12 to adopt policies and procedures that permit a fair opportunity for school systems to submit necessary documentation.](#)**

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, was recognized to speak to her bill. There being no questions from the committee, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, entertained a motion. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**[SR 406 DO PASS](#)**

**[SB 36 \(Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>\): The bill requires local boards of education to adopt a code of ethics and annually review the code, with changes being announced at regular meetings of the board.](#)**

\*\*At this time Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, arrived and assumed the duty of Chairman of the committee.

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, explained her bill. Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, responded to his questions. There being no more questions, a motion of Do Pass was made by Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and was seconded by Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous.

**[SB 36 DO PASS](#)**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

**/s/ Barbara Landrum, Reporting Secretary**

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40 <sup>th</sup> , Chairman	Johnson, 1 <sup>st</sup> , Ex-Officio
Moody, 56 <sup>th</sup> , Vice-Chairman	Sims, 12 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas, 54 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary	Buckner, 44 <sup>th</sup>
Tate, 38 <sup>th</sup>	
Fort, 39 <sup>th</sup>	
Ramsey, 43 <sup>rd</sup>	
Jackson, 24 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio	
Butterworth, 50 <sup>th</sup>	

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

**HB 455 (Representative Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>): Annual Contracts for Certified Personnel in Education. The bill allows local boards of education, for the 2009-2010 school years, an extension when offering an employee who is certified by the Professional Standards Commission an employment contract. The current deadline to offer a contract is April 15 and will extend until May 15 with this legislation.**

Representative Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized to speak and introduced a substitute to his bill. The committee substitute would change from 1 year to 2 years.

Jeff Hubbard with GAE was recognized to speak and he opposed the bill. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, and Weber, 40<sup>th</sup> had questions.

Angela Palm with the Georgia School Board Association supported the bill and spoke on the committee substitute. Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions and Angela Palm responded to her questions. Representative Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>, made closing remarks on his bill and stated that May 15 was a good date and he does not want to change it. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass on HB-455 and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was (3-4) with Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, and Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, voting for the bill and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, opposing. Not receiving the majority of votes, HB-455 failed.

**HB 455 DO NOT PASS**

**HB 300 (Representative Wilkinson, 52<sup>nd</sup>): Relating to student health in elementary and secondary education, to require local school systems to provide certain information to parents and guardians of students in grades six through twelve on meningococcal meningitis disease and its vaccine whenever other health information is provided.**

Representative Wilkinson, 52<sup>nd</sup>, spoke to his bill. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized for questions. Tamma Lee with the National Meningitis Association spoke and was in full support of the bill. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. HB-300 will be carried by Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, in the Senate.

**HB 300 DO PASS**

**HB 149 (Representative Jones, 46<sup>th</sup>): Relating to financing under the “Quality Basic Education Act,” to enact the “Move on When Ready Act”; to provide for definitions; to provide a program for eleventh and twelfth grade students to attend postsecondary colleges and schools for high school credit, to provide for notice to parents and students of the program, to provide requirements for course credit, to provide for state funding and testing.**

Representative Jones, 46<sup>th</sup>, spoke to her bill. Recognized for questions were Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>.

Representative Jones, 46<sup>th</sup>, asked that HB-149 be engrossed. Speaking in support of the bill was Les Schneider with Devry University, Barnes Fowler, and Jeff Hubbard with GAE.

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and the motion was seconded by Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous. Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, will carry HB-149 in the Senate.

**HB 149 DO PASS**

**HB 555 (Representative Casas, 103<sup>rd</sup>): Relating to a facilities fund for charter schools, to revise certain provisions relating to the use of surplus property of a local board of education by a local charter school.**

Representative Casas, 103<sup>rd</sup>, spoke to his bill. There being no questions, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, moved Do Pass and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. HB-555 Do Pass with Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup> opposing. Having met the majority vote HB-555 Do Pass. (Vote was 9-1) Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 555 DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Monday, March 23, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman

Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>

Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>

Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>

Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio

Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>

Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*Late arrival: Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>**

**Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.**

The following bills were considered:

### **HB 280 (Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>): Additional compensation for Math and Science Teachers.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, recognized Representative Coleman to speak to his bill. He explained that Georgia had a 14.3 percent shortage of math and science teachers. The bill would increase the state salary schedule to six years for a secondary school teacher who was certified by the Professional Standards Commission in math or science until the State Board of Education determined that there were no longer areas with an insufficient supply of teachers.

Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, introduced Kelly Henson with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, who spoke briefly.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, had questions regarding the salary schedule.

Kathleen Mathers was introduced by Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, to speak.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, had questions, but supported the bill as a recruiting tool for new teachers in areas that were lacking.

Speaking in opposition to the bill were Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE and Jeff Hubbard with GAE.

Discussion followed between Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Henson, and Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, moved to Do Pass and Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. HB-280 will be carried by Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, in the Senate.

### **HB 280 DO PASS**

### **HB 243 (Representative Pruett, 144<sup>th</sup>): Salary increase for National Board Certified Teachers.**

Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, was recognized to represent Representative Pruett's, 144<sup>th</sup>, bill. He explained that under this bill teachers would have a greater incentive to become certified. HB-243 would give teachers with a National Board Certification a salary increase subject to appropriations by the General Assembly. It was further noted that this bill would need a fiscal note.

Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, had questions and discussion followed. Also recognized to speak in favor of the bill was Sally Barrett, a Gwinnett County teacher. Jeff Hubbard with GAE spoke in favor of the bill, but wanted to have a study committee before a vote. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, directed questions to Hubbard and he responded.

Much discussion followed. Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, made a request to Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, to hold the bill and assign a study committee.

Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE and Andy Lord with the National Board of Certified Teachers opposed the bill and discussion lead. Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, asked Representative Coleman, 97<sup>th</sup>, to comment on Andy Lord's recommendations. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, opposed the bill. An amendment was offered by Representative Pruett, 144<sup>th</sup>, author of the bill. A motion was made on the amendment by Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, to Do Pass and was seconded by Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>. Voting against the amendment were Ramsey of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>, and Fort of the 39<sup>th</sup>. The amendment received the majority of the votes and passed (5-3). A motion was made on HB-243 by Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, to Do Pass by Substitute and was then seconded by Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>. Voting in support of HB-243 were Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>. Opposed were Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>. HB-243 Do Pass by Substitute (5-3). HB-243 will be carried by Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, in the Senate.

### **HB 243 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

### **SR 444 (Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>): "Brittany Sharnay Wells Act". This resolution expresses condolences to the family of Brittany Sharnay Wells, an extraordinary young woman whose life was ended tragically in an act of teen dating violence.**

Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, spoke to her bill and offered a minor change to the bill and the committee agreed. Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass by Substitute and the motion was seconded by Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous.



## **SR 444 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**HB 493 (Representative Brooks, 63<sup>rd</sup>): Georgia Youth Conservation Corps. The bill amends current law to allow the Georgia Youth Conservation Corps the ability to assist in home weatherization projects that seek to reduce energy consumption for home heating and cooling. The bill authorizes the commissioner of the corps to contract with a charitable organization for management and supervision of any projects relating to the reduction of energy consumption for home heating and cooling. Pursuant to this bill, projects can only occur on private residential property and only federal funds made available to the state can be used for these projects.**

Representative Brooks, 63<sup>rd</sup>, was recognized to speak to his bill. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, had questions and much discussion lead. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, suggested appointing a study committee. More questions were asked from Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, and Buckner, 50<sup>th</sup>, and more discussion followed. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, had concerns with the bill. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, assigned HB-493 to a study committee to further examine the bill. The bill would then be taken up again during the week. Assigned to this study committee were Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, and Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **HB 493 HELD OVER**

**HB 455 (Representative Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>): Annual Contracts for Certified Personnel in Education. It allows local boards of education, for the 2009-2010 school years, an extension when offering an employee who is certified by the Professional Standards Commission an employment contract. The current deadline to offer a contract is April 15 and would extend until May 15 with this legislation.**

Representative Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized to speak to his bill. Recognized for questions were Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>. Jeff Hubbard with GAE opposed the bill. Discussion followed. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and the motion was seconded by Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>. HB 455 Do Pass (7-2) with Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, opposing. Having met the majority vote HB-455 Do Pass. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, will carry HB-455 in the Senate.

## **HB 455 DO PASS**

**HB 400 (Representative Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>): The “Bridge” Act. This legislation enacts the “Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia’s Economy Act” as a part of the “Quality Basic Education Act.”**

Representative Millar, 79<sup>th</sup>, explained his bill and presented three amendments. Testifying in support of the bill and its amendments were Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE, Jeff Hubbard with GAE, and Jimmy Stokes with Georgia School Principals. At this time the committee had lost quorum. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced that HB-400 would be held over.

**HB 400 HELD OVER**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40 <sup>th</sup> , Chairman	Johnson, 1 <sup>st</sup> , Ex-Officio
Moody, 56 <sup>th</sup> , Vice-Chairman	Sims, 12 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas, 54 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary	Buckner, 44 <sup>th</sup>
Tate, 38 <sup>th</sup>	Butterworth, 50 <sup>th</sup>
Fort, 39 <sup>th</sup>	
Ramsey, 43 <sup>rd</sup>	
Jackson, 24 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio	

\*\*Late Arrivals: Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, arrived at 2:20 p.m., Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, arrived at 2:30 p.m., and Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, arrived at 2:40 p.m.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The following bills were considered:

**SR 595 (Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>): Senate Study Committee on Regional Educational Service Agencies. It creates a Senate Study Committee on Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESA). The study committee will have five members appointed by the President of the Senate and will report any findings and recommendations for legislation on or before December 31, 2009. Study committee members may only receive allowances for five days unless additional days are authorized and the committee will stand abolished on December 31, 2009.**

Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, spoke to his bill. There were no questions. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, seconded the motion. SR-595 Do Pass unanimously. (7-0)

### **SR 595 DO PASS**

**SR 649 (Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>): This resolution urges educational agencies, associations, boards, and commissions to make their first priority the education and well being of the students of a school system.**

Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, spoke to her bill, and she asked that two words be removed which would not create any change to the bill. There were no questions. Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, moved Do Pass and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. (8-0)

### **SR 649 DO PASS**

**HB 278 (Representative Ramsey, 72<sup>nd</sup>): This bill allows local school system to temporarily waive certain expenditure controls under the Quality Basic Education Act (QBE) relating to funds earned for direct institutional costs, media center costs, staff and professional development costs, without penalty to the system. 2009-2010 school years only and will stand repealed July 1, 2010.**

Representative Ramsey, 72<sup>nd</sup>, presented his bill. He spoke about the sunset on the bill. There were questions from Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, regarding Media Center, Site Based, Additional Days and Direct Instruction Cost. Nels Peterson with the Governor's Office responded to these questions and added that they were in support of this bill. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions and Nels Peterson responded. At this time Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced to the committee that there was a committee substitute to the bill (LC 33 3199S) and Irene Munn presented the committee substitute. She explained amendments #1 and #2. Amendment #1 was dealing with dual enrollment and amendment #2 was dealing with waivers, and middle school programs. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Sims, 12<sup>th</sup> and Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, were recognized for questions. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, will sponsor the committee substitute in the Senate but commented that he had a problem with waiting so long to bring the bill forward and felt it should be the House to do the substitute. Irene Munn responded that dual enrollment was a problem they could not leave this Session without addressing with a vote. Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized for questions regarding funding of dual enrollment of outside schools. Representative Ramsey, 72<sup>nd</sup>, opposed the substitute. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, expressed concerns over the process. He felt it should have been amended in the House. Nels Peterson addressed their concerns. A motion on the committee substitute was made by Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, to Do Pass, and was seconded by Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, moved to amend the motion and vote on the original bill and it failed. Vote was unanimous to Do Not Pass. Therefore, the motion by Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, on the committee substitute stood. HB-278 Do Pass by Substitute (6-1). Opposing the bill was Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>. **\*\*Not present for the vote:** Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>, and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, was present for the vote but abstained. Having met the majority vote, HB-278 Do Pass by Substitute.

### **HB 278 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**HB 193 (Representative Graves, 12<sup>th</sup>): State Board Mandated School Hours. This bill allows the State Board of Education to define the length of the school year as 180 days or the equivalent number of hours. Additionally, the base payment for a school lunch position has been changed from 190 days multiplied by eight hours to 1,520 hours in an annual school year.**

Representative Graves, 12<sup>th</sup>, presented his bill and offered the following amendment: on Line 16, after "thereof" to add "in accordance with State Board". (LC 33 3228S)

In opposition to the bill was Karynn Schooley, Georgia Afterschool Investment Council due to the impact shorter school days would have on schooling and parents who would need to find day care. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for questions directed to Karynn Schooley and she responded.

Speaking in support of the bill were Jeff Hubbard, Georgia School Educators, and Tom Womack, PAGE. Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, spoke in support of the bill. Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved Do Pass by Substitute and the motion was seconded by Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>. Vote was unanimous. Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, will carry the bill in the Senate.

### **HB 193 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 26, 2009 – Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*Senators not present: Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.**

The following bills were considered:

**HB 251 (Representative Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>): Relating to organization of schools and school systems under the “Quality Basic Education Act,” so as to provide that a public school student can attend any school in the local school system under certain conditions; to provide for statutory construction.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, began the meeting by making suggestions to the author and the committee. Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, explained that SB-90, regarding contract signing, was included in HB-251). Also, HB-881 from 2008 included a formula for money that is transferred to the receiving school.

Representative Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>, presented his bill. He stated that this was a bi-partisan effort that passed on the House side unanimously.

Andrew Broy with the Department of Education spoke briefly in support of the bill. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, offered a change in sub-section “e” and Representative Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>, agreed to the change. Substitute (LC 33 3230S).

Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, was recognized for a question. Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, wanted to know what would happen to the funds if a student was transferred. Representative Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>, responded by saying FTE dollars, state portion and local portion, follows the student only if the receiving district accepts the student.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, was recognized and supported the bill. Herb Garrett with GSSA opposed the bill and made a suggestion that the local portion stay with the former district. He did not agree with the allotment of funds. Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, was recognized and opposed Garrett's suggestion. Questions were asked from Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, and Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>. There was clarification from Andrew Broy on Fort's, 39<sup>th</sup>, questions. Johnson moved Do Pass by Substitute. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, had amendments and asked for clarification on the amendments from Legislative Council, Betsy Howerton. The language of the bill needs a deadline on transfers included in the amendments.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, amendments:

On amendment #1- Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, moved and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded Do Pass. Voting for passage was Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>. Amendment #1 Do Pass unanimously.

On amendment #2- Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, moved and Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded Do Pass. Voting for passage was Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, and Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>. Amendment #2 Do Pass unanimously.

On amendment #3- Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, moved and Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, seconded Do Pass. Voting for passage was Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, and Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>. Amendment #3 Do Pass unanimously.

Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, made a motion on the bill and Weber, 40<sup>th</sup> seconded Do Pass by Substitute. Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, opposed. Vote carried (6-1) HB-251 Do Pass by Substitute.

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, will carry this bill in the Senate.

### **[HB 251 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE](#)**

**[HB 493 \(Representative Brooks, 63<sup>rd</sup>\): Relating to the Georgia Youth Conservation Corps, so as to change certain provisions relating to creation and purposes of the corps and rules and regulations related thereto; to change certain provisions relating to the director and administration.](#)**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced to the committee that HB-493 would be moved to the next scheduled meeting.

### **[HB 493 HELD OVER](#)**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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



## SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### SENATORS PRESENT:

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>  
Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>  
Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>

\*\*Members not present: Moody, 56<sup>th</sup>, Williams, 19<sup>th</sup>, Jackson, 24<sup>th</sup>, Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup>, Sims, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>

Late arrival: Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

The following bill was considered:

**HB 493 (Representative Brooks, 63<sup>rd</sup>): The bill amends current law to allow the Georgia Youth Conservation Corps the ability to assist in home weatherization projects that seek to reduce energy consumption for home heating and cooling. The bill authorizes the commissioner of the corps to contract with a charitable organization for management and supervision of any projects relating to the reduction of energy consumption for home heating and cooling. Pursuant to this bill, projects can only occur on private residential property and only federal funds made available to the state can be used for these projects.**

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, announced to the committee that he had invited Phil Foil with GEFA and Commissioner Michael Thurmond with the Georgia Department of Labor to testify before the committee.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, assigned a study committee on HB-493 consisting of Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, as Chairman, Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, and Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>, to examine and study the bill closer. An amendment was presented (LC 25 1152ER) by the study committee. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, explained that he would like to stream line this and avoid more bureaucracy.

Phil Foil with GEFA spoke. They contract with 21 different organizations to audit homes after verification of funds and if approved, help weatherize homes. Under the organizations they have 19 community action agencies, two local government agencies, and one nonprofit. Funding works with low-income families. All the funds will be used for weatherization. Money flows to Community Action Agencies.

Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> had asked for clarification of Conservation Corps. Author of the bill, Representative Brooks, 63<sup>rd</sup>, responded to his questions. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, directed questions to Phil Foil, who responded.

Michael Thurmond, Commissioner of the Department of Labor, was recognized to speak. He stated that he was very familiar with these programs.

Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, proposed the following amendment: line 3 – delete from “to provide” to “selected”.

Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, said the deadline had passed to receive the funds. The question was whether they would be eligible for those funds if HB-493 passed. He directed the questions to Commissioner Thurmond, who responded. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, had concerns about the wording in the amendments. There was discussion from Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Butterworth, 50<sup>th</sup>. Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, offered proposed amendments. Commissioner Thurmond and Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, discussed Child Labor Laws.

Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, offered two amendments:

**Amendment #1** – Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, moved and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, seconded Do Pass. Vote was unanimous. (6-0)

**Amendment #2** – Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>, moved and Ramsey, 43<sup>rd</sup>, seconded Do Pass. Vote was unanimous. (6-0)

Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>, moved on HB-493 and was seconded by Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, to Do Pass by Substitute. Vote was unanimous. (6-0)

### **HB 493 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, Chairman Weber, 40<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

**/s/ Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Secretary**

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

April 15th, 2009

The Honorable Bob Ewing  
Secretary of the Senate  
Room 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 60](#)

[SB 93](#)

[SB 132](#)

[SB 217](#)

[SB 219](#)

[SB 278](#)

[HB 400](#)

Respectfully submitted,

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