

Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee Roster

2009-2010

Home Address:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th
Chairman
4710 Jim Hood Road
Gainesville, GA 30506

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th
Vice Chairman
P. O. Box 1458
Milledgeville, GA 31059-1457

Senator Dan Weber, 40th
Secretary
1117 Wynterhall Lane
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th
Ex-Officio
P. O. Box 2000
Cornelia, GA 30535

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
P. O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive
Decatur, GA 30035

Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
105 Olde Overlook Court
Atlanta, GA 30331

Senator John Wiles, 37th
800 Kennesaw Avenue, Suite 400
Marietta, GA 30060-7946

Capitol Address:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th
Room 304, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-6578

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th
Room 321, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-0082

Senator Dan Weber, 40th
Room 301, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-2260

Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th
Room 325, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-5257

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
Room 327, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-0502

Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
Room 320, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-2598

Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
Room 420, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-1379

Senator John Wiles, 37th
Room 324, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-657-0406

Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
2009-2010
Committee Rules

1. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of no less than four (4) of the members.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are eligible to be considered and the order in which said measures shall appear before the committee.
4. A bill or resolution will only be considered after at least one presentation to the Committee by one of its principal authors or designee.
5. The Chairman shall have the right to defer or hold bills or resolutions in the Committee for further study and recommendation.
6. Any member who may disagree with the majority report of the committee may file a minority report if they so desire.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a majority vote of the members of the committee.

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
January 26, 2009

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held their first meeting on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present were:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman
Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary
Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
Senator John Wiles, 37th.

Chairman Hawkins opened the meeting by stating that this is the first meeting of SLOGO for the 2009 Session. The only order of business for this meeting is to adopt the Committee Rules. The Chairman asked the committee members to review the Rules. Senator Wiles moved to adopt the Rules, and Senator Grant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hawkins introduced the SLOGO staff which included Zoie Thompson, Senate Aide for Local Legislation; Mary Whiting, Committee Secretary; Tara Ragin, SLOGO Committee Intern; Bill Perdue of Senate Research; and Jeff Lanier of Legislative Counsel.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
February 4, 2009

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held their second meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present were:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman
Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary
Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
Senator John Wiles, 37th

SB 58 (Weber, 40th) Local Government; newly created municipalities; change certain provisions.

Chairman Hawkins opened the meeting by calling upon Senator Weber, 40th, to speak to his legislation. Senator Weber stated that this legislation has come through the SLOGO Committee previously. It was caught at the last minute of the last day of session and they ran out of time to pass it. The legislation regards home rule over parks, police, etc, and the intent is to allow public services previously provided by a county to be provided by a newly created municipality and to ensure that the municipality receives full credit for taxes paid to support these services.

Senator Wiles asked Senator Weber if Dunwoody can charge Dekalb County citizens for use of the parks, and Senator Weber stated that they could not do that.

Senator Jones asked Senator Weber if the legislation is for Dunwoody citizens only, and Senator Weber stated that it is not. Senator Weber asked the Committee to please move the legislation out today, so that it will have time to pass this year.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Mr. Burl Ellis, CEO for Dekalb County to speak to the legislation. Mr. Ellis stated that he has optimism about working out the problems on the local level. He has a vested interest in working out the problems.

Chairman Hawkins left the meeting to attend the Higher Education Committee where he had a bill before the committee. Vice Chairman Grant took over as Chair of the Committee meeting.

Page 2, Senate State and Local governmental Operations, February 4, 2009

Vice Chairman Grant called upon Senator Wiles for a motion. Senator Wiles moved “**Do Pass [SB 58](#)**,” and Senator Weber seconded. The motion passed 5-1. Voting in favor of the motion were Senators Weber, Butterworth, Wiles, Reed, and Ramsey. Opposed to the motion was Senator Jones.

There being no further business before the Committee, Vice Chairman Grant adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
March 4, 2009

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held their first meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present were:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman
Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary
Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
Senator John Wiles, 37th

[SB 188](#) (Unterman, 45th) Code Officials; provide for protection and training; definitions; penalties.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Unterman to speak to her legislation. Senator Unterman stated that the bill creates a new Code section in Title 16 that makes it a crime to obstruct, hinder, willfully resist, threaten, or perpetrate acts of violence against code officials and also provides for classification and penalties for these crimes.

Speaking to the Committee in favor of the legislation were Mr. Beau Weathers of Warner Robins; Tim Prater, community volunteer; and Angel Gray, President of Code Enforcement in Sylvester, Georgia.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Wiles for a motion. Senator Wiles moved “**Do Pass [SB188](#),**” and Senator Butterworth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[SB 211](#) (Johnson, 1st) State Purchasing; exempt certain purchases Department of Administrative Services.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Johnson, 1st, to speak to his legislation. Senator Johnson stated that the legislation exempts small office supplies that are purchased multiple times per year by the State from the requirement of being purchased through the Department of Administrative Services.

Speaking in favor of the legislation were Juanita Strickland of Malone Office Supply of Columbus, Georgia, and Mike Shah of Cajun Office Supply. Speaking in opposition to the legislation was Brad Douglas, Commissioner of the State Department of Administrative Services.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Reed, 35th, for a motion. Senator Reed moved “**Do Pass [SB 211](#)**,” and Senator Grant seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

[SR 392](#) (Johnson, 1st) Counties; re-creation existing county merged into another county accomplished by law-CA

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Johnson, 1st, to speak to his legislation. Senator Johnson stated that this resolution provides for an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia to allow for the re-creation of formerly existing counties that were previously merged with other counties.

Senator Johnson stated that the requirement for the approval of voters in both parts of the county to be split will not apply with respect to recreating a previously existing county, and only a majority of votes from the residents in the portion of the county being recreated will be needed. The General Assembly may determine the boundaries of the new recreation of a county, so long as they are generally similar to the previous boundaries.

Senator Johnson stated that Fulton County is at present 77 miles long and contains ten percent of the population of the state. The boundaries would be Highway 285 rather than the old line dividing Fulton and Milton Counties.

Speaking in opposition to the legislation were Tom Bell of Cousins Properties; John Sherman, representing Fulton County taxpayers; Brad Carver of the Buckhead Coalition; John Eaves, Chairman of the Board of the Fulton County Commission; Ann Rosenthal, DeKalb County legislative liaison; Mike Vaquer, Fulton County lobbyist; and Megan Middleton, City of Atlanta.

After lengthy testimony, questions, and discussion, Senator Johnson asked Chairman Hawkins to please hold the bill in committee until the report from the Vinson Institute of the University of Georgia regarding the creation of a new county could be read. The report just arrived today and it is quite lengthy.

Page 3, Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee, March 4, 2009

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
March 18, 2009

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held their fourth meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 4:25 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present were: Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman
Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary
Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th
Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd
Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
Senator John Wiles, 37th

[SR 522](#) (Jackson, 24th) Senate Comprehensive Development Impact Fee Study Committee; create.

Chairman Hawkins opened the meeting by calling upon Senator Jackson, 24th, to speak to his legislation. Senator Jackson stated that this resolution by Substitute LC 21 0432S will create the Senate Comprehensive Development Impact Fee Study Committee. The impact fees are outdated, and the legislation will allow the Study Committee to bring others who are knowledgeable into the meeting in an advisory capacity. These would include Georgia Municipal Association, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Mortgage Brokers Association, Home Builders Association of Georgia, and others.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Grant for a motion. Senator Grant moved “**Do Pass by Substitute [SR 522](#).**” Senator Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[HB 553](#) (Lunsford, 110th) Local Government Equipment Financing Authority Act; create.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Representative Lunsford to speak to his legislation. Representative Lunsford stated that he brought a Substitute to HB 553, LC 18 8334S. The substitute legislation gives the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal Association greater detail, with separate paragraphs for cities and counties to allow for a county equipment financing authority.

The Authority created by the legislation provides a mechanism through which local governments may lease or purchase equipment on an installment basis at lower than prevailing costs. The goal of the authority is to make the mechanism available to the largest number of local governments possible. The bill allows for cities and counties to make purchases at discounted rates by combining purchasing power and the sale of bonds.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Lamar Norton from Georgia Municipal Association to speak to the legislation. Mr. Norton stated that they appreciate the bill. Also speaking on behalf of

Georgia Municipal Association was Susan Moore who stated that they support the legislation as well. Senator Grant moved “**Do Pass by Substitute [HB 553](#)**”, and Senator Wiles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Hawkins adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

May 14, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Ewing:

I herewith submit the bills remaining in the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee for the 2009 Session of the General Assembly.

These bills are as follows:

[SR 392](#), [SB 236](#)

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mary W. Whiting
Recording Secretary
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee