

**SENATE GOVERNMENT**  
**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**2010**

**Senator Renee Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, Chairman**  
P.O. Box 508  
Buford, GA 30518

**Senator Don Thomas, 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio**  
121-G State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Senator Ronnie Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman**  
130 Regal Oak  
Tyrone, GA 30290

**Senator Steve Henson, 41<sup>st</sup>, Secretary**  
2643 Sterling Acres Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084

**Senator Gail Buckner, 44<sup>th</sup>**  
7324 Cardif Place  
Jonesboro, GA 30236

**Senator Earl “Buddy” Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>**  
406 Purple Finch Drive  
Pooler, GA 31322

**Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
PO Box 235  
Gracewood, GA 30812

**Senator Greg Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>**  
1300 Hampton Road  
Douglas, GA 31533

**Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>**  
110 Beacon Hill  
Valdosta, GA 31602

**Senator Johnny Grant, 25<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 1458  
Milledgeville, GA 31059

**Senator Seth Harp, 29<sup>th</sup>**  
P.O. Box 363  
Midland, GA 31820

**Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>**  
2225 Cashtown Road  
Bremen, GA 30110

## **2009 – 2010 SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE RULES**

1. Quorum of the committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which cases or investigations shall be heard and the order in which said hearings are to commence.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer cases or investigations to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such cases to the full committee.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman, subject to the rules of the Senate.
5. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.
6. After adoption, these rules may be amended upon motion duly made, seconded, and subsequently approved by a two-third vote of the members of the Committee.
7. The secretary of the Committee shall distribute a copy of these rules to all Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee.

**Minutes of the  
Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**February 10, 2010**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on February 10, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Buckner of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio.

**SB 254 (Rogers, 21<sup>st</sup>) *State Properties Commission; provide authority to enter into multiyear lease agreements***

Senator Rogers presented the bill. This bill would allow the State Properties Commission to enter into multiyear rental agreements. The bill also removes the Department of Labor's power to manage its own space; requires a state entity assigned to a lease to give the Commission 90-days notice prior to termination of the lease agreement; authorizes the Commission to receive direct appropriations for all rents due; and requires the Commission to annually report its total sum of its leasing obligations to the executive and legislative branches. The bill has a conditional effective date of January 1, 2011, depending on whether a constitutional amendment authorizing multiyear rental agreements is passed.

Senator Rogers said that the main purpose of this bill is to save money; right now is a great time for the Commission to lock in good rates for a long-term lease. There were some questions about the provision removing the Department of Labor's (DOL) power to manage its own space. Senator Rogers said that almost all state agencies' spaces are managed by the Commission. He added that having the Commission manage all properties is more efficient. Kenneth English of the DOL said that they have no objection to this change. Upon a question from Senator Harp, Senator Rogers confirmed that this bill does not affect the Board of Regents' power to manage its own properties.

**NOTE:** The resolution on which this bill relies is SR 510, which was passed out of State Institutions and Property on 2/9/10.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 254 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Carter seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**SB 254 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**NOTE:** Senator Grant arrived at 3:18 p.m.

**SB 363 (Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>) State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; Georgia Student Finance Authority; contract in any state health insurance plan**

Senator Goggans presented the bill. This bill allows the Georgia Student Finance Authority to contract with the Board of Community Health for the inclusion of its employees in the State Health Benefit Plan. Senator Goggans explained there is no fiscal impact because the Authority will pay 80% of the cost for the insurance, with the employees covering the other 20%.

Fatimot Lapido of the Georgia Student Finance Authority spoke in support of the bill. She explained that the Authority is self-supporting thanks to interest collected from student loans. The Authority is already buying private insurance for its employees, so the money used for that will be used to cover costs for SHBP coverage. No money will be taken away from money used to make loans. Senator Goggans asked that a change be made to the original bill that allowed for coverage of active employees only. A committee substitute will be created to strike line 16 “and retiring employees” from LC 28 4968.

Senator Henson moved that **SB 363 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Thomas seconded the motion. The substitute passed unanimously.

**SB 363 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41<sup>st</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**February 17, 2010**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on February 17, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Buckner of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio.

**SB 336 (Butler, 55<sup>th</sup>) *Georgia Boxing Association; recognized as a governing body for amateur boxing, wrestling, and martial arts***

Senator Butler presented the bill. This bill would add the Georgia Boxing Association to the list of recognized governing bodies for amateur boxing, wrestling, and martial arts. Alex Beadle, of the Georgia Boxing Association, spoke in support of the bill. The Georgia Boxing Association wants to get on this list so that they can do shows independently. They currently have to get a group that is already on the list to sponsor their shows. In response to a question from Chairman Unterman, Mr. Beadle acknowledged that his organization is for profit. Mr. Les Schneider, who spent several years on the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, spoke in favor of the bill. He explained that the statutory list of amateur boxing came into being so that these organizations' fighters could avoid prosecution for unarmed fighting. Also, being on this list means that the organization is not regulated by the Commission. Senator Heath asked about the definition of "amateur boxing." Mr. Schneider said that "amateur" means that the competitors receive no compensation, but it does not necessarily preclude the sponsoring organization from making a profit. Seth Millican and Andy Foster, speaking on behalf of the Georgia Athletic & Entertainment Commission, said that they had no problem with this bill. Mr. Foster did note that being on this list would mean that the Georgia Boxing Association could not be regulated by the Commission.

**NOTE:** Senator Heath arrived at 3:44 p.m. and Senator Harp left at 3:45 p.m.

Senator Davis moved that **SB 336 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Carter seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**SB 336 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**NOTE:** Senators Goggans, Carter, and Golden left at 4:01 p.m.

**SB 351** (Seabaugh, 28<sup>th</sup>) **Accountants; provide reduced required hours for state employees**

Senator Seabaugh presented a committee substitute to the bill. This bill reduces the number of required continuing professional education hours for CPAs who are state employees from 60 to 20, for the calendar years 2010 and 2011. Senator Seabaugh said that this legislation is in response to the furloughing of state employees. Because state employees are missing days of work, the days that they are working are best spent on work itself and not on continuing education requirements. As an added bonus, the state can save money by having to pay for fewer continuing education courses. Senator Seabaugh also noted this temporary reduction in continuing education requirements should not have much of an effect on expertise and that the State Board of Accounting has said that they do not have any problems with this legislation.

Senator Grant moved that **SB 351 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Thomas seconded the motion. The substitute passed unanimously.

**SB 351 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Renee Unterman 45th, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**March 10, 2010**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 10, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Members present included Senators Henson of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Buckner of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio.

**[SB 118](#) (Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>) *Appraisers; prohibit persons who are serving/have served a member of county board of tax assessors from serving as employee of the board***

Senator Brown presented the bill. This bill prohibits anyone who is serving or who has served on a county board of tax assessors within the past 12 months from serving as an employee of that board. This legislation passed out of committee last year. The bill is in response to a situation that arose in Senator Brown's district.

Senator Henson moved that **SB 118 Do Pass**, and Senator Buckner seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**[SB 118 DO PASS](#)**

**NOTE:** Senator Grant arrived at 3:10 p.m.

**[SB 143](#) (Brown, 26<sup>th</sup>) *Public Meetings; limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time/place; change certain provisions***

Senator Brown presented a committee substitute to the bill. This bill provides that, for alleged violations involving the final approval or disapproval of the acquisition of real estate, the 90-day limitations period would not begin to run until the minutes of the meeting in which the alleged violation occurred are publicly released. The bill also clarifies that release of the minutes for a meeting in which a real estate acquisition is being considered may only be delayed until the parties have entered into a binding agreement.

An agency's final official action on the acquisition of real estate must be open to the public; changes the way in which the limitations period for Open Meetings Act violations is calculated. Currently the Open Meetings Act allows agency meetings in which an agency is discussing the future acquisition of real estate may be closed to the public; this bill removes this exception for taking of final action only. Current law also provides a limitations period for commencing actions for alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act of 90 days from the date the contested action occurred. This bill provides that, for alleged violations involving the final approval or disapproval of the acquisition of real estate, the 90-day limitations period would not begin to run until the minutes of the meeting in which the alleged violation occurred are publicly released. The bill also clarifies that release of the minutes for a meeting in which a real estate acquisition is being considered may only be delayed until the parties have entered into a binding agreement.

This bill was heard last year in Committee, but there were concerns that this legislation would unduly burden local governments in their attempts to acquire land at the best deal for the taxpayer. Since that time, Senator Brown has worked with ACCG and GMA to perfect the language of this bill. Marcia Rubensohn of GMA and Todd Edwards of ACCG told the committee that they are now satisfied with the bill's language.

Senator Davis moved that **SB 143 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Harp seconded the motion. The substitute passed unanimously.

**SB 143 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**NOTE:** Senator Henson departed at 3:31 p.m. and Senator Heath arrived at 3:46 p.m.

**SB 398 (Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>) Social Services; Dept. of Community Health website; nonaggregated information on individuals; provide manner of providing such information**

Senator Judson Hill presented the bill. This bill would require that the commissioner of public health make available through the internet website of the Department of Community Health nonaggregated information on individuals collected under the federal Medicaid Statistical Information System. Senator Judson Hill said this would help with Medicaid fraud. Senator Harp stated that there should be a fiscal note, so that the committee will know what the cost will be to the State of Georgia. Rob Finlayson, Inspector General, and Russell Crutchfield of the Department of Community Health, both spoke in opposition to the bill, stating that the information is already provided, and that Senator Judson Hill made no effort to contact them to discuss Medicaid fraud issues, or this legislation he is proposing.

After further discussion by other committee members, the Chairman requested that Senator Judson Hill do research on getting a fiscal note, and also make every effort to work with the Department of Community Health on this issue, before bringing the bill before the committee again.

**SB 399 (Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>) State Government; no department/agency shall implement any provision of federal health care reform legislation**

Senator Hill presented the bill. This bill basically requires that no department or agency shall implement any provision of federal health care reform legislation unless the department or agency provides a certain report to the General Assembly and the General Assembly authorizes such implementation by statute. The committee members expressed many concerns, as well as whether this would require a special legislative session to decide whether the state of Georgia would opt-in or not, and therefore the Chairman did not bring it to a vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

## **Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**March 17, 2010**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 17, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Heath of the 31<sup>st</sup>, and Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio.

### **SB 393 (Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>) Governor; appoint Commissioners for Agriculture, Education, Labor, and Insurance**

Senator Heath presented the bill. This bill provides for the following offices to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate: Commissioner of Agriculture, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of Insurance. Currently all these offices are elected. Persons elected to these offices in the November 2010 election are to serve out their terms, with the Governor's appointing power beginning upon the expiration of the term or vacancy of the office. The bill also allows the Governor to set the salaries for these offices.

Senator Heath explained that the reasons for moving more towards a cabinet style of government include saving money and greater efficiency in these departments, as these officials will no longer have to devote time to campaigning. Moreover, this would provide greater accountability for the Governor. Senator Heath also noted that Georgia is currently in the minority in the way these offices are selected. Currently, 12 states elect their insurance commissioner, 9 elect their agriculture commissioner, 14 elect their state school superintendent, and only 5 elect their labor commissioner. However, Senator Goggans noted that Georgia already has one of the most powerful governorships in the nation. Mr. Jim Jess of Georgia Tea Party stated that his organization is divided on this issue, although he personally supports this reform.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 393 Do Pass**, and Senator Chance seconded. The bill passed with two nay votes by Senators Davis and Goggans.

**SB 393 DO PASS**

**SR 1013** (Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>) **General Assembly; eliminate the requirement; Commissioners of Insurance, Agriculture, Labor and State School Superintendent be elected-CA**

Senator Heath presented the resolution. This resolution is to create the Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the requirement that the Commissioner of Agriculture, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of Insurance be elected. The proposed constitutional amendment would also change the requirements for determining the disability of an elected constitutional executive officer. Currently, the Georgia Supreme Court will hold a hearing determining whether such an officer is unable to perform his or her duties upon receiving the petition of four other elected constitutional executive officers; this amendment would change the number of required petitioners to three.

Senator Heath moved that **SR 1013 Do Pass**, and Senator Chance seconded. The resolution passed with two nay votes by Senators Davis and Goggans.

**SR 1013 DO PASS**

**SB 399** (Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>) **State Government; no department/agency shall implement any provision of federal health care reform legislation**

Senator Judson Hill presented the bill. This bill prohibits any state department or agency from implementing any federal health care reform enacted on or after March 1, 2010 without the authorization of the General Assembly. This was the second hearing held on this bill. Senator Judson Hill explained that this bill aims to protect Georgians from unfunded mandates from the federal government. Previously, Committee members expressed concern that the General Assembly may have to wait until next year to approve or disapprove important provisions of federal reform, if such reform is passed in the interim. Today, Senator Judson Hill said that federal legislation often does not become effective upon the President's signature, but rather there will be an effective date far out enough for states to prepare to take appropriate action. Such seems to be the case with the federal health care legislation currently being considered. In any event, the Governor could call a special session if necessary.

Senator Chance moved that **SB 399 Do Pass**, and Senator Grant seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**SB 399 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Senator Chance left at 3:36 p.m.

**SB 502 (Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>) *Public Officers; provide all nonelected members of state authorities, boards or other bodies; compensated only for actual expenses***

Senator Jack Hill presented the bill. This bill provides that nonelected members of state authorities, boards, commissions, councils, or other such bodies may not receive any compensation for their service besides reimbursement for actual transportation costs. Senator Jack Hill explained that this is an idea he has been thinking about for a while, and he figures that with so many members of boards, etc., living in driving distance of Atlanta, per diem is often not truly necessary. This bill would help ensure that such members are serving for the right reasons. Senator Jack Hill also noted that if lack of attendance at meetings becomes a problem, the General Assembly could consider ways to allow for the replacement of truant members. Chairman Unterman expressed some concern that eliminating per diem may hinder the ability of rural Georgians who live far outside of the Atlanta area to participate in government.

Senator Davis moved that **SB 502 Do Pass**, and Senator Goggans seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**SB 502 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Renee Unterman 45<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Government Oversight Committee**

**March 30, 2010**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 30, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Members present included Senators Buckner of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grant of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio.

**[HB 122](#) (Rep. Lindsey, 54<sup>th</sup>) *Counties and municipalities; budget excess; searchable website; provisions***

Rep. Lindsey presented the bill and Senator Carter will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill requires local governments with an annual budget in excess of \$1 million to submit a copy of their budget to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government of the University of Georgia no more than 30 calendar days following the budget's adoption; such local governments and a copy of their audit at the close of each fiscal year; the Vinson Institute is to then post them on a website. The posting requirements take effect for the fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2011.

Rep. Lindsey said he has been working with ACCG and GMA on this legislation. Clint Mueller of ACCG and Marcia Rubensohn of GMA both spoke in favor of the bill. Senator Grant asked how many local governments would meet the \$1 million threshold. Rep. Lindsey did not have an exact answer to this, but he estimated it to be at least 90 to 95 percent of local governments (including 100 percent of the counties). Senator Davis asked if it would make a difference if a local government had a different fiscal year. Rep. Lindsey said that the January 1, 2011 effective date should give all governments enough time to comply, even if they are on a different fiscal calendar.

Senator Thomas moved that **HB 122 Do Pass**, and Senator Davis seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**[HB 122 DO PASS](#)**

**NOTE:** Senator Buckner arrived at 2:17 p.m.

**HB 831** (Sims, 169<sup>th</sup>) **State auditor; certain state or local government entities' failure to perform audits required by law; provide for effects**

Rep. Sims presented the bill and Senator Unterman will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill requires all local governments to contract with an independent auditor within 180 days following the end of the fiscal year or after such date an auditor is required by law; if the local government fails to do so, the state auditor is to contract with an independent auditor to perform the required audit. Such governments will have to pay the full cost of the audit, plus a fine equal to 50 percent of the cost of the audit as a penalty. The cost of the audit and penalty will be withheld by the Department of Revenue from all funds, including sales tax receipts, less SPLOST revenues, due to the local government. If the amount due to the local government is not enough to cover this, then it will be withheld from funds due to the local government from the Department of Community Affairs.

Rep. Sims explained that this bill aims to get all local governments in compliance with auditing requirements. There are too many small local governments that have not done an audit in years, and failure to do so in some cases costs them certain funds and grants. Senator Davis asked how many local governments are not complying. Rep. Sims did not have an exact answer and said that the State Auditor was unable to be here today; however, he said the last time he looked, it was approximately 50 governments. Senator Grant believed the bill's original penalty of 150 percent of the cost of the audit was too harsh, so he suggested it be reduced to 50 percent. Rep. Sims also suggested the committee make a change to exclude SPLOST funds from the money withheld, as he believed that there otherwise may be some legal problems with the bill. Both changes were unanimously agreed to by the committee and incorporated into the substitute.

Senator Thomas moved that **HB 831 Do Pass By Substitute**, and Senator Carter seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 831 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**HB 1236** (Rep. Willard, 49<sup>th</sup>) **Court reports; reduce number of reports to distribute; change provisions**

Rep. Willard presented the bill and Senator Hamrick will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill reduces the number of court reports that must be sent to various entities by the Supreme Court. Also requires probate court and superior court judges to place a written order by October 1st of each year in order to receive their copy. Rep. Willard explained that this is a cost saving measure.

Senator Carter moved that **HB 1236 Do Pass**, and Senator Davis seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 1236 DO PASS**

**HB 1279** (Willard, 49<sup>th</sup>) **Legislative Counsel, Office of; softbound volumes of Georgia Laws; repeal certain requirements**

Rep. Willard presented the bill and Senator Hamrick will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill eliminates the requirement that Legislative Counsel publish softbound volumes and pamphlets of Georgia law; allows the Secretary of State to distribute electronic copies of the House and Senate journals and gives the SOS the duty to set prices for these volumes; reduces the number of volumes of Georgia Laws that must be sent. The bill also provides that entities ordering House and Senate journals must pay for them and reduces the number of copies of Georgia Laws and House and Senate Journals that must be kept on reserve by the SOS. Finally, the bill provides that within 60 days after any local Act or general Act of local application that requires a local referendum becomes law, the SOS is to provide a copy of the Act to the election superintendent and the governing authority of all affected counties and municipalities. Rep. Willard explained that most of these provisions are cost saving measures.

Senator Davis moved that **HB 1279 Do Pass**, and Senator Carter seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 1279 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Senator Carter left at 2:45 p.m.

**HB 1324** (Butler, 18<sup>th</sup>) ***Mental health; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities; revise provisions***

Rep. Butler presented the bill and Senator Unterman will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill makes corrections and clarifications related to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in last year's reorganization of health and human services agencies; provides that upon entering an order terminating parental rights, a court is to make a placement based on the best interest of the child in accordance with the child's court approved permanency plan. Rep. Butler explained that most of the provisions of this bill are to correct oversights from last year's [HB 228](#), which was over 200 pages long. Many of these oversights were the result of the last minute name change of the department. The one substantive addition relates to the termination of parental rights and the naming of a placement for the child; it is intended to expedite the process for a parent to name potential relatives who would take custody. Senator Grant noted that this provision was purposely removed from HB 228 on the Senate side at the behest of Senator Seabaugh, and it was suggested that Rep. Butler consult with him as this bill moves along.

Senator Harp moved that **HB 1324 Do Pass**, and Senator Thomas seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 1324 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Renee Unterman 45<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
240 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

April 15, 2010

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

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2-3.2, please let this letter serve as official notice that Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, is hereby appointed to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight as an Ex-Officio Member.

This appointment is effective immediately and expires at the end of the day.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle  
Lieutenant Governor

## Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee

April 15, 2010

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on April 15, 2010 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m. Members present included Senators Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goggans of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Harp of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Mullis of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Ex-Officio.

### **[HB 1019](#) (Rep. Morgan, 39<sup>th</sup>) State government; replacement permits, licenses, and identification cards; provisions**

Rep. Morgan presented the bill and Senator Davis will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill entitles citizens to a free replacement of any state-issued permit, license, certificate, or identification card if the original is lost or destroyed in a natural disaster. The request for the replacement must be made within 60 days following a federal disaster declaration, and the citizen must be a resident of the area included in the declaration. Rep. Morgan's district was severely affected by the 2009 floods. This legislation is a response to that. She said that she has worked with GEMA to make sure this legislation is narrowly tailored to a specific group of persons.

Senator Davis moved that **HB 1019 Do Pass**, and Senator Mullis seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**[HB 1019 DO PASS](#)**

### **[HB 1144](#) (Rep. Oliver, 83<sup>rd</sup>) Juvenile proceedings; detention; change provisions**

Rep. Oliver presented the bill and Senator Crosby will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill allows juveniles convicted of a crime to receive credit for time served in confinement prior to sentencing. Also, the bill increases the maximum number of days that a court may order a child to serve in a youth detention center (YDC) from 30 to 60 days, effective until July 1, 2013. Commissioner Albert Murray from DJJ spoke in favor of the bill.

This bill is very similar to Senator Crosby's [SB 400](#), which passed the Senate earlier this session. Adult offenders are eligible to receive credit for time served, so it is only fair to extend this to children as well. Such a policy will also free up bed space, possibly up to 60 beds a year. The bill also extends the effective date of the increase in possible sentences for a delinquent juvenile to 2013. This extension was recommended by the Department of Juvenile Justice as a way to save money. To not extend it could result in over \$10 million in additional costs for housing juvenile offenders.

The substitute presented to the Committee, originally extended the effective date of the increase in possible sentences to 2012. The House passed a similar extension, but theirs was to 2013. DJJ Commissioner Albert Murray prefers the latter, so the Committee unanimously agreed to amend the substitute accordingly.

Senator Goggans moved that **HB 1144 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Harp seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 1144 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**HB 1260 (Rep. Stephens, 164<sup>th</sup>) *Service delivery regions; applicability of regions; revise a provision***

Chairman Unterman presented the bill and Senator Goggans will be the Senate Sponsor. This bill provides that state service delivery regions do not apply to aging program planning and service areas. Doris Clanton of the Division of Aging Services spoke in favor of the bill. Ms. Clanton explained that federal law requires their service boundaries to be set in a particular way in order to receive federal funding. This is just a clarification of existing law and practice.

Senator Goggans moved that **HB 1260 Do Pass**, and Senator Mullis seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**HB 1260 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Renee Unterman 45<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

May 17, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Senate Government Oversight Committee**, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>SB 21</u></a>  | <a href="#"><u>SR 520</u></a>  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 29</u></a>  | <a href="#"><u>HB 108</u></a>  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 225</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>HB 171</u></a>  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 230</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>HB 385</u></a>  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 398</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>HB 1194</u></a> |

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Debra Charnote  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Government Oversight Committee