

**Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee Roster
2009 – 2010**

Home Address:

Capitol Address:

Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman (until March 25, 2010)

**4710 Jim Hood Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30506**

**Room 304 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Chairman/Ex-Officio (beginning March 25, 2010)

**P. O. Box 2000
Cornelia, GA 30535**

**Room 325 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman

**P. O. Box 1458
Milledgeville, GA 31059-1457**

**Room 321, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

**1117 Wynterhall Lane
Dunwoody, GA 30338**

**Room 301, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Buddy Carter, 1st

**406 Purple Finch Drive
Pooler, GA 31322**

**Room 302, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334**

Senator Hardie Davis, 22nd

**P. O. Box 235
Gracewood, GA 30812**

**Room 327, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334**

Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio

**3800 Pittman Road
College Park, GA 30349**

**Room 313, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334**

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

**P. O. Box 370244
Decatur, Georgia 30037**

**Room 420, State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd

**5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive
Decatur, GA 30035**

**Room 320, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Senator Ronnie Chance, 16th, Ex-Officio (beginning April 20, 2010)

**130 Regal Oak
Tyrone, GA 30290**

**Room 319, Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

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
February 10, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held their first meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 1:00 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 Hardie Davis, 22nd, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd.

SB 322 (Pearson, 51st) Property; covenants with the land; zoning laws; clarify provisions.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Pearson, 51st, to speak to the bill. Senator Pearson stated that this is a simple bill regarding time limits on property covenants.

Senator Pearson introduced Mr. David Durgin, Jr., Commissioner of Gilmer County, Elijay, Georgia, to the committee meeting. Mr. Durgin supported the legislation. Senator Pearson stated that current law does not address covenants that were created prior to a county or municipality adopting zoning laws. This legislation provides or clarifies that these covenants will continue to be effective until the expiration of such covenant in accordance with its terms. He stated that if covenants expire, it would bring on litigation.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Jones for a question. Senator Jones asked if there have been other properties across the state with this problem. Senator Pearson stated that he did not know, but if research turned up difficulties with other new cities, he would ask the Rules Chairman to hold the bill if the committee would pass it out today.

Senator Jones moved **“Do Pass”** and Senator Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
February 17, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary, Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd.

SR 992 (Hawkins, 49th) Congress; urged to enact a single-subject rule for federal legislation.

Chairman Hawkins stated that this is his resolution, and it urges Congress to eliminate earmarks in bills and adopt a single-subject rule similar to Georgia's legislation. After brief discussion Senator Carter moved **"Do Pass"** and Senator Butterworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 388 (Butterworth, 50th) State Printing; any state law authorizes a state officer/agency to publish any matter such publication made in printed electronic format.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Butterworth to speak to his legislation. Senator Butterworth stated that this legislation is a paper reduction act. The State agencies spend approximately \$6.7 million in printing costs. This legislation provides for a preference for electronic format unless a state officer or state agency determines that a printed format is necessary.

After brief discussion, Senator Jones moved **"Do Pass"** and Senator Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 389 (Butterworth, 50th) State Auditor; website of Department of Audits and Accounts; applicable to public information; operation, maintenance; provisions.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Butterworth to speak to this legislation. Senator Butterworth stated that this legislation provides for further transparency in state fiscal affairs for the year 2008 and thereafter. It will provide further transparency also for federal pass-through money. A website accessible by the public will be provided at www.open.ga.gov. Senator Jones moved **"Do Pass"** and Senator Ramsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 390 (Carter, 1st) Local Government; municipal corporations; conservation easement.

Chairman Murphy called upon Senator Carter to speak to his legislation. Senator Carter stated that he had a Substitute for [SB 390](#), (LC 37 1020).

The legislation provides that municipal corporations can determine when it is appropriate to establish a conservation easement. Senator Weber asked a question regarding conservation easements. There were no other questions, and Senator Ramsey moved **“Do Pass by Substitute”** and Senator James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
March 10, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43rd.

HB 867 (Rep. Stephens 164th) Commission on Regional Planning; create; provide for membership and duties.

Chairman Hawkins stated that Representative Stephens was not able to attend the meeting, but Nathan Humphrey from the Senate Pro Tempore staff will speak to the legislation for him.

Mr. Humphrey stated that this is a Department of Community Affairs bill which creates the Commission on Regional Planning. This Commission will provide efficiency in coordinating state contract terms, identify appropriate funding, coordinate resource allocation and service delivery, and identify issues requiring attention. The Governor will serve as Chair along with other members.

After brief discussion, Senator Carter moved **“Do Pass”** and Senator Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Lee Hawkins, Chairman

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
March 17, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Lee Hawkins, 49th, Chairman, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary, Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Ex-Officio, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Senator Hardie Davis, 22nd, Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio, and Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th.

HB 703 (Rep. Smith, 168th) County property; granted first right to purchase condemned property; provide.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Representative Smith to speak to his legislation. Representative Smith stated that this legislation is regarding county purchases of property for creation or development of a lake and where the county did not construct that lake. He also stated that it provides for next of kin to have first right to purchase the land back.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Hardie Davis for a motion. Senator Davis moved to amend line 39 of the legislation so that “30 days” should be changed to “45 days.” Senator Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hawkins then asked for a motion on the bill, and Senator Davis moved “**Do Pass by Substitute**”. Senator Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 456 (Mullis, 53rd) Redevelopment; directors of downtown development authority designated as urban redevelopment agency; serve as commissioners.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Mullis to speak to his legislation. Senator Mullis stated that this legislation is a simple bill regarding the downtown development authority and urban redevelopment. It authorizes directors and other public officers of a city or a county to serve as commissioners of urban redevelopment agencies, as previously they were precluded from holding a position as commissioner.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Mr. Donnie Henriques, Mayor of Woodstock, to speak to the legislation. Mr. Henriques spoke in support of the bill.

After brief discussion, Senator Butterworth moved “**Do Pass**” and Senator Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 476 (James, 35th) Local Government; provide plans for extension of municipal services; annexation.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator James to speak to her legislation. Senator James stated that she represents a diverse community in undeveloped South Fulton County. She stated that Union City and other cities in the 35th District are continuing to annex acres of land from the unincorporated areas of Fulton, then they do not give the annexed properties the services which they should be entitled to. The constituents in those areas do not want to be annexed.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Carter for a question. Senator Carter stated that he believes there are only 4 ways to annex: (1) by legislation, (2) 100% of the votes of the people, (3) 60% of the voters and/or 60% landowners within an 18 month period, and (4) by referendum.

Senator Carter also stated that he believes that in order to annex, they do not have to provide services.

Chairman Hawkins called upon Senator Weber for a question. Senator Weber questioned whether the cities can make an island of the unincorporated areas and annex around them.

Chairman Hawkins asked the representatives from the Georgia Municipal Association and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia if they were in favor of the legislation, and they both stated that they were opposed. Speaking in opposition were Matthew Hicks from ACCG, and Lamar Norton and Marcia Rubensohn from GMA.

Several of the Senators had to leave the meeting in order to attend other meetings, and the Chairman asked the representatives from GMA to make an inquiry about Union City's annexing. The bill was held over for future consideration, and a vote was not taken.

There was no further business, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

March 25, 2010

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

Dear Bob:

Due to the recent departure of Senator Lee Hawkins from the Georgia Senate, I am appointing Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, to serve on the Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations as Chairman/Ex-Officio.

This appointment is effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
March 31, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Chairman/Ex-Officio, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio, and Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th.

HB 965 (Rep. McKillip, 115th) Bicycles; operation on sidewalks; authorize local governments.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Representative McKillip to speak to his legislation. He stated that the original bill is simple. It allows local control to determine who will ride on sidewalks. Rep. McKillip stated that he was asked by a lobbyist, Mrs. Emily Ham from the Georgia Bikes Alliance, to attach legislation that did not make it out of the House Committees. The Substitute that they produced incorporates Rep. McKillip's legislation along with the Georgia Bikes Alliance.

There was discussion regarding the fact that this legislation from the Georgia Bikes Alliance has not been heard in Committee, and that the two parts are not alike at all except that they are both about bicycles.

After lengthy discussion among the committee regarding the Substitute, Senator Grant moved "**Do Pass HB 965**", the original underlying bill. Senator Carter seconded the motion.

Voting in favor of the motion were Senator Grant and Senator Carter. Voting in opposition were Senator Weber and Senator James.

Since this was a tie vote, Chairman Butterworth voted in favor of the motion in order to break the tie. The motion passed.

HB 1007 (Rep. Holt, 112th) Property; sales to political subdivisions; maximum amount exempt; increase.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Representative Holt to speak to his legislation. Rep. Holt stated that this bill amends Code Section 16-20-6 of the OCGA by revising subsection (c) and adding a new subsection. The legislation increases the value of the amount of the quarterly limit of sales from an officer or employee from \$200 to \$800 which is allowed by law. The legislation also includes new language which precludes an officer or employee engaged in a valid transaction from civil liability.

After questions from Senator Carter and Senator Weber regarding GMA and ACCG agreeing on the legislation, Senator Grant moved **“Do Pass”** and Senator Weber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 1258 (Rep. Mills, 25th) State Financing and Investment Commission; powers to meet requirements; provide.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Representative Mills to speak to his legislation. Representative Mills stated that he had a Substitute to [HB 1258](#) (LC 37 1067ECS), and then he introduced Ms. Susan Ridley, Director of the Financing and Investment Division of the State Financing and Investment Commission.

Ms. Ridley spoke in favor of the legislation. Ms. Ridley stated that the legislation authorizes the State Financing and Investment Commission to comply with requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (federal stimulus money) including mandating, requiring, or deeming the waiver of local allocation by way of resolution or by Commission policy.

After discussion among the committee members, Senator Weber moved **“Do Pass by Substitute”** and Senator Carter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no further business, and Chairman Butterworth adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

April 14, 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 State and Local Governmental Operations as an Ex-Officio Member.

This appointment is effective immediately and concludes at the close of business.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
April 14, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Chairman/Ex-Officio, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Senator Hardie Davis, 22nd, Senator Donzella James, 35th, Ex-Officio, Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th, and Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd (who was appointed as an Ex-Officio member for this meeting).

HB 203 (Rep. Jacobs, 80th) Local government; development authorities; clarify certain terms.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Senator Weber to speak to the legislation, since the House of Representatives was still in session and Representative Jacobs could not attend the meeting. Senator Weber stated that he had a Substitute to [HB 203](#), which was approved by Representative Jacobs.

Senator Weber stated that the original bill amends OCGA 36-75-11, which requires referenda for public bonds and restricts the proceeds and interest from the bonds to be used for the resolved purposes only. The referendum requirement will be extended to authorities' use of bond issuance for real property purchases and improvements.

The substitute (LC 29 4380ERS) creates OCGA 36-31-11.1 in addition to the original bill. It specifically applies to the City of Dunwoody, which was created after July 1, 2008. It allows for that city to obtain control over the parks and fire stations in the new city. The county (DeKalb County) cannot interfere with the parks and fire stations. The legislation also requires referenda for public bonds and restricts the proceeds and interest from the bonds to be used for the resolved purposes only.

After brief discussion among the Committee, Senator Mullis moved **“Do Pass by Substitute”** and Senator Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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April 14, 2010

Chairman Butterworth stated that Representative Lane and Representative Harbin were not at the meeting and did not send anyone to speak to their respective legislation which was on the agenda for today, ([HB 980](#) Lane, 167th and [HB 1117](#), Harbin, 118th.) therefore the Chairman will hear their legislation at the next meeting.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

April 20, 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 Ronnie Chance, 16th, is hereby appointed to the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee as an Ex-Officio Member.

This appointment is effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle
Lieutenant Governor

Minutes
Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
April 20, 2010

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Senator Jim Butterworth, 50th, Chairman/Ex-Officio, Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Vice Chairman, Senator Dan Weber, 40th, Secretary, Senator Buddy Carter, 1st, Ronnie Chance, 16th, Ex-Officio, and Senator Hardie Davis, 22nd.

SR 1394 (Chance, 16th) Senate Local Government Contracting Study Committee; create.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Senator Chance to speak to his Resolution. Senator Chance stated that this Study Committee will review how cities and counties enter into contracts for the provision of goods and services. The Study Committee will be appointed by the Lt. Governor, and he shall designate a Chairperson for the Study Committee. The Study Committee will meet at his discretion.

Senator Chance then called upon Mr. Todd Edwards from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to speak to the legislation. Mr. Edwards stated that they will be happy to offer their services to the Study Committee.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Senator Davis for a motion. Senator Davis moved **“Do Pass”** and Senator Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 980 (Rep. Lane, 167th) Public officers and employees; school board members in bail bond business; modify provisions.

Chairman Butterworth called upon Representative Lane to speak to his legislation. Representative Lane stated that the legislation deletes the limitation on local school board members to participate in the bail bond business in their home county. He stated that currently local school board members are exempted from the existing prohibition of elected officials to engage in bond businesses. Representative Lane also stated that the Georgia sheriffs are satisfied with the legislation as long as it is only for school boards.

After brief discussion Senator Grant moved **“Do Pass”** and Senator Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Page 2, Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
April 20th, 2010

HB 1117 (Rep. Harbin, 118th) State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers; executive director; provide.

Chairman Butterworth stated that Representative Harbin was not at the meeting at this time, and he did not send anyone to speak to his bill, [HB 1117](#), therefore it would not be heard today.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Dan Weber, Secretary

/s/ Mary Whiting, Recording Secretary

May 6, 2010

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 2010 Session of the General Assembly.

These bills are as follows:

[SR 392](#), [SR 1334](#)
[SB 236](#), [SB 450](#), [SB 476](#)
[HB 1117](#)

Sincerely yours,

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