

STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE ROSTER

2012 Legislative Session

Senator Rick Jeffares

Chairman

District 17
300 Lester Mill Road, Ste. 200-E
Locust Grove, GA 30248
404.656.0503

Senator Donzella James

District 35
P.O. Box 311225
Atlanta, GA 30331
404.463.1379

Senator Frank Ginn

Vice Chairman

District 47
P.O. Box 1136
Danielsville, GA 30633
404.656.4700

Senator Valencia Seay

District 34
P.O. Box 960008
Riverdale, GA 30274
404.656.5095

Senator Gloria Butler

Secretary

District 55
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
404.656.0075

Senator Johnny Grant

Ex-Officio

District 25
P.O. Box 1458
Milledgeville, GA 31059
404.656.0082

Senator Buddy Carter

District 1
406 Purple Finch Drive
Pooler, Georgia 31322
404.656.5109

Senator Gail Davenport

District 44
P.O. Box 1074
Jonesboro, GA 30237
404.463.5260

Senator Steve Gooch

District 51
P.O. Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30533
404.656.9221

RULES

SENATE STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY 2012

1. A quorum for the Committee shall be five (5) members.
2. A bill or resolution will be considered only after notification of the principal author or others who he/she may designate. The Principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
3. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
4. The Committee will not consider for the first time any measure originating in the Senate the final five (5) days of the session, except upon written petition signed by not less than five (5) members of the Committee.
5. The rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee rules.
6. These rules may be amended upon motion duly made and subsequently approved by three-fourths of the members of the Committee provided that written notice has been given 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.
7. Any member(s) of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall have the privilege to file a minority report.
8. Subcommittees shall have the authority to consider measures assigned to them and to make recommendations thereon to the full Committee, but no measure will be returned to the full Senate except after consideration by full Committee.

**Minutes
State Institutions & Property Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2012
Room 307 CLOB**

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m., announcing a presentation given by Frank Smith and Steve Stancil from the State Properties Commission. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman
Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Ex-Officio
Senator Donzella James, 35th
Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Steve Gooch, 51st

This was the first meeting of the Senate State Institutions and Property Committee of the 2012 Session. Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Jeffares immediately turned the floor over to Mr. Smith and Mr. Stancil for a presentation.

The presentation included the SPC's annual report, a response to January's audit, and an executive summary of the audit. Mr. Smith and Mr. Stancil answered several questions that were posed to them by Senator Davenport, Senator Grant, and Vice-Chairman Ginn concerning lease prices, donated property, and new elevators in the Capitol. Mr. Stancil also elaborated on some projects he had in mind for the near and extended future.

At the end of the discussion, Chairman Jeffares inquired if there were any further questions. There being no further questions or business, Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55th
Secretary
State Institutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

Minutes
State Institutions & Property Committee
Thursday, February 9, 2012
Room 307 CLOB

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman
Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Ex-Officio
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Donzella James, 35th
Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Jeffares turned the floor over to Senator Grant who spoke on Senate Resolution 765 due to Senator Carter's absence at the beginning of the meeting.

SR 765 (Carter, 1st) (LC 40 0042) – Authorizing the Change of Use of Certain Land Located in Bryan, Butts and Liberty Counties - Senator Grant briefly explained the resolution which is intended to authorize the change of use of certain properties located in Bryan and Butts counties currently dedicated as a heritage preserve. After Senator Grant's explanation, Chairman Jeffares opened up the floor for questions. Senator James inquired if there was any opposition to the resolution. Senator Grant responded by stating that there was no opposition to his knowledge. Senator James then called on a representative from the departments to give a statement. The representative confirmed that there was no opposition to the resolution and that all were in support.

Senator Seay then posed the question of whether the affected counties have been notified. Upon Senator Carter's arrival, Senator Grant turned the floor over to Senator Carter. Senator Carter addressed Senator Seay's question by stating that the affected counties, being Bryan and Liberty Counties, have had no expressed opposition to the resolution. There being no further questions, Senator Grant motioned to approve the resolution, followed by a second motion by Senator Seay and the resolution was passed unanimously.

SR 765 DO PASS

There being no further business, Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55th
Secretary
State Insitutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

Minutes
State Institutions & Property Committee
Thursday, February 15, 2012
Room 310 CLOB

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman
Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary

Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th
Senator Donzella James, 35th
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Steve Gooch, 51st

SR 801 (Albers, 56th) (LC 93 0561) – This resolution expresses the resolve of the Senate opposing the use of incarcerated inmates to staff municipal and county fire stations – presented by Senator Albers.

Senator Albers felt that SR 801 was necessary to be implemented. Senator Albers used several analogies to stress his point of view, repeatedly posing the question, “How would you feel if an inmate came to your child’s school, and taught them second grade?” His point of view sparked several responses from fellow Senators. Upon Senator Albers yielding the floor, Chairman Jeffares opened the floor for questions.

Senator Carter inquired about what has changed since the implementation of this program. Senator Albers responded by stating that counties are using this program as a way to eliminate hiring firefighters without cutting back on protection for the counties’ citizens. Senator Carter also requested clarification on the wants of Senator Albers. Senator Albers stated that he would not like to eliminate the program from the counties who already have implemented the program, but he would like to prevent the extension of the program.

Senator Ginn then expressed his opposition to SR 801. Senator Ginn stated that by not allowing incarcerated individuals the opportunity to participate in programs such as this one hinders their abilities to provide for their families upon their release and denies them the opportunity to provide a great public service to their communities. However he did state that there should be calls for judgment when placing inmates into such programs. Senator Ginn also stressed his belief in redemption and in closing asked for rebuttal from Senator Albers. Senator Ginn also referred to the language of the bill, specifically pointing out the first line and stating that the request of the resolution appears to be eliminating the program in its entirety, not solely limiting the expansion.

Senator Albers said that he would be willing to change the language if that would make others feel more comfortable voting in favor of the Resolution. Senator Albers also pointed out line eight of his resolution to reiterate his desire and clarify that it is designed to only prevent expansion, not stop the program.

Senator Butler and Senator James inquired if there had been any incidents with current volunteers that have sparked the desire to stop expansion of the program. Senator Albers responded by saying that there have been none to his knowledge. Senator James responded by saying that as per the Governor, Georgia's prisons are overcrowded and filled with nonviolent offenders and therefore this program would be a way to eliminate that problem by teaching those individuals a skill and training them for a profession when they are released. Senator Albers responded by saying he thought that this program would be better suited for individuals who are out of prison rather than those who are currently incarcerated. Senator James pointed out that those who are incarcerated are already working for other companies.

Chairman Jeffares then called for speakers. The first speaker was Senator Jesse C. Stone of the 23rd District. Senator Stone spoke on behalf of the success of the current program in Screven County from a Resolution drafted by the County Commissioner, who does not wish to have the county's program disrupted. Senator Stone stated that the participating inmates were screened very carefully and although some were felons they were not dangerous. Senator Stone also pointed out that most of the participating inmates were near the end of their time and went through extensive training to be a part of the program.

Senator Davenport inquired about how long the program had been going on in Screven County. Senator Stone responded that the program has been successfully running since 2010. Senator Gooch asked Senator Stone how much the county was paying for the program, and how much the federal government paid. Senator Stone did not have the numbers at the time of the meeting, but he stated that the program is mutually beneficial.

Chairman Jeffares opened the floor to the next guest signed up to address the committee:

Debra Nesbit of ACCG expressed her opposition against SR 801.

Sara Totonchi of the Southern Center for Human Rights also expressed her opposition against SR 801.

At the end of the discussion and opposition it was agreed upon that no vote would be taken today.

There being no further business, Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55th
Secretary
State Institutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

Minutes
Senate State Institutions & Property Committee
Thursday, February 23, 2012
Room 328 CLOB

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman

Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Ex-Officio
Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Steve Gooch, 51st
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Jeffares turned the floor over to Senator Gooch. Senator Gooch recited the synopsis of the resolution verbatim. At that point Chairman Jeffares opened up the floor for questions.

SR 873 (Gooch, 51st) (LC 35 2552ERS) - Authorizing Restrictive Easements for the Operation of Facilities in Bartow, Bibb, Butts, Chatham, Clinch, Douglas, Fulton, Gordon, Hall, Houston, McDuffie, Newton, Tattnall and Ware Counties – presented by Senator Gooch. Senator Grant expressed a concern over the size of the current easements versus the size of the easements in the past. In response, Frank Smith of the State Properties Commission assured Senator Grant that the size of the easements would be beneficial to all involved parties. Additional questions were posed by Senator Ginn and Chairman Jeffares. Senator Ginn inquired if all the affected counties were co-signers of the resolution and if they received a synopsis of the resolution and again Frank Smith responded assuring Senator Ginn that they were. Chairman Jeffares inquired if granting the plat will reflect the easement area and again he was assured by Frank Smith that it would.

Senator Ginn motioned that **SR 873 do pass by substitute** and was followed by a second from Senator Seay. Terry Long, Attorney, interjected that there was an amendment to be made to the resolution. Senator Gooch pointed to line 40 on page 7 advising everyone that the number should be changed to 0.0107 of an acre. **SR 873** passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 3:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th
Chairman
State Institutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

Minutes
State Institutions & Property Committee
Monday, February 27, 2012
Room 310 -CLOB

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. due to a Quorum issue. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman
Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Ex-Officio
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Donzella James, 35th
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Jeffares stated that there was one bill on the agenda and turned the floor over to Senator Grant.

SB 485 (Grant, 25th) Patient Right to Know; administrative remedies; prior to inmate filing a complaint; Georgia Composite Medical Board

Senator Grant explained that **SB 485** would mandate that prisoners go through an internal process before bringing grievances to the Medical Review Board. Senator Grant assured that inmates were not being denied their due process, or right to voice a complaint. The bill is simply aimed at lowering current costs and eliminating unnecessary costs to the Medical Review Board and was inspired by the overflow of complaints that either were not of a severe medical nature or of a medical nature at all. Upon summarizing the bill, Senator Grant stated that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Senator Seay asked how the current complaints were reaching the Medical Review Board without going through an internal procedure first. Senator Grant replied that he was not certain if there was an internal procedure at this time; however this legislation would require an internal procedure be put in place and as long as inmates have exhausted the resources. In the internal process they may bring complaints to the Medical Review Board.

Senator Butler asked if the inmates would be notified of the internal process requirements. Senator Grant referred to lines 19-26 stating that this will serve as their notification and proposed a letter be sent as notification as well. Senator Ginn inquired how long the grievance process would take. Senator Grant responded by stating that he could not answer that question due to the fact that it was dependant on the volume of complaints.

Two representatives from The Law Office of the Southern Center for Human Rights, who specialize in representing incarcerated individuals, spoke on behalf of the bill and proposed an

amendment. Senator James asked why inmates cannot have due process and file complaints directly if they are sick. The speakers referred Senator James' question to Senator Grant. Senator Grant referred to lines 27-29 that state that the board must review every complaint and reiterated the problem concerning the number of unnecessary complaints and the thousands of dollars wasted on these complaints. Senator James stated that this was not an indictment against the Medical Review Board; however, she recalled counts of inmates complaining and not receiving proper care and as a result have died and/or sustained major injuries. Senator James asked if it were possible to file complaints through a third party and send them to the Medical Review Board immediately if the complaints were deemed laudable in order to speed up the process of complaints being reviewed while simultaneously saving money by eliminating unnecessary complaints.

Senator Davenport inquired how many complaints the Medical Review Board received per year. Senator Grant stated that he was unsure of the number at the time, but would get it.

Chairman Jeffares asked what the desire of the committee was, and Senator Grant stated that an amendment would be made to line 39 striking the word "made" and add "by his or her custodian to the incarcerated person for any reason" after the word "available." Senator Grant asked if anyone would motion for the amendment. Senator Carter then motioned, followed by a second made by Senator Seay. The amendment was unanimously in favor. Senator Seay motioned that **SB 485 do pass by substitute** and Senator Carter seconded her motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the substitute.

There being no further questions or business, Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55th
Secretary
State Institutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

Minutes
State Institutions & Property Committee
Thursday March 22, 2012
Mezzanine One

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. The following members were in attendance:

Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th, Chairman
Senator Frank Ginn, 47th, Vice-Chairman

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th, Ex-Officio
Senator Buddy Carter, 1st
Senator Valencia Seay, 34th

HR 1376 (Greene, 149th) Conveyance of certain property; Baldwin, Carroll, Clinch, Coffee, and other counties; authorize (Senate Sponsor: Grant, 25th)

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Jeffares turned the floor over to Senator Grant. Senator Grant explained that House Resolution 1376 would expand the lease on geo prisons and help state owned prisons in the counties named in the resolution. Senator Grant explained that there were no concerns or problems at this time that he was aware of.

Senator Ginn wanted clarification on the address listed in the resolution on page 352, page 11, purposing that Maulding Road be changed to Mauldin Road. Senator Grant then proposed that Mr. Frank Smith of the State Properties Commission verify the address and if necessary an amendment would be made on the floor.

Senator Seay motioned **HR 1376 do pass by substitute**. Senator Carter seconded the motion. The bill passed with unanimous consent. Chairman Jeffares adjourned the meeting at 4:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Rick Jeffares, 17th
Chairman
State Institutions and Property Committee

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary

June 4, 2012

Office of the Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

I am returning the following bills assigned to the Senate State Institutions & Property Committee for the 2012 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

No action was taken on the following legislation:

[SB 48](#)
[SR 359](#)
[SR 801](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Phyllis Walker
Recording Secretary
Senate State Institutions & Property Committee