

**SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS
2013-2014
COMMITTEE ROSTER**

**Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43rd, Chairman
5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30035**

**Senator Steve Henson, 41st, Vice Chairman
2643 Sterling Acres Drive
Tucker, Georgia 30084**

**Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087**

**Senator Jason Carter, 42nd
P.O. Box 573
Decatur, Georgia 30030**

**Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
P.O. Box 1074
Jonesboro, Georgia, 30237**

**Senator Vincent Fort, 39th
P.O. Box 42967
Atlanta, Georgia 30311**

**Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2nd
1501 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401**

**Senator David Lucas, 26th
2594 Saratoga Drive
Macon, Georgia 31211**

**Senator Nan Orrock, 36th
1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30316**

**Senator Horacena Tate, 38th
201 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30314-3422**

2013-2014

Senate Urban Affairs Committee Rules

Each member of the Committee should be mindful of the Senate Rules especially regarding attendance.

1. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with the Senate.
2. A quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whose name appears first or second on the list of authors or co-sponsors, unless the author or co-sponsor has made other arrangements with the Chairman.
7. Precedence of motions shall be set out in the Senate Rules.
8. No member of the Committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
9. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.
10. Any member or members of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
11. Failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without prior excuse or a written statement may be cause for removal from the committee by the Committee on Assignments.
12. These rules may be amended upon a motion made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
13. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

Adopted in committee February 5, 2013

SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its first meeting of the 2013 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, in Room 123 CAP, convening at 2:30 pm.

The Committee Members present were as follows:

- **Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43rd, Chairman**
- Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary
- Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
- Senator Lester Jackson, 2nd
- Senator David Lucas, 26th
- Senator Nan Orrock, 36th
- Senator Horacena Tate, 38th

Absent Committee Members:

- Senator Steve Henson, 41st, Vice Chairman
- Senator Jason Carter, 42nd
- Senator Vincent Fort, 39th

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ramsey. He expressed appreciation to those Committee Members present and indicated that this meeting was mainly for the purpose of adopting the Rules for the 2013-2014 Session and discussion of any other item (if there be any) related to Committee organization.

Committee Members were asked to review the rules and Chairman Ramsey asked for a Motion to adopt:

- Senator Lucas rendered a Motion that the Rules be adopted as written
- Senator Lester Jackson seconded the Motion to adopt

Chairman Ramsey called for the Vote, and the **Vote** was **unanimous (7-0)** for the adoption of the Rules.

There being no other business to consider, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ramsey at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Gloria Butler, 55th, Secretary

/s/ Gerri Pringle, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Friday, February 22, 2013

Room 125 CAP, 8:00 AM

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee held its second meeting of the 2013 Session on Friday, February 22, 2013 in Room 125 CAP.

Members present:

Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43rd, Chairman
Senator Steve Henson, 41st, Vice Chairman
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Vincent Fort, 39th
Senator Lester Jackson, 2nd
Senator Horacena Tate, 38th

Note: The following members were absent:

Senator Jason Carter, 42nd (Excused)
Senator David Lucas, 26th
Senator Nan Orrock, 36th
Senator Gloria Butler, 55th

Meeting Agenda:

Committee Hearing of [SB 92](#) (Sen. Vincent Fort, 39th)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ronald Ramsey at 8:27 a.m. (some members were delayed due to traffic and inclement weather), indicating that a quorum was not yet in place and that the member that would give that needed count was on the way and would arrive shortly.

Chairman Ramsey opened the meeting to those present from the public sector for witness testimonies re: SB 92

From the public sector:

- Mr. Brad Hubbard ..., “in full support of the Bill and MARTA, here to speak out for those who cannot be present to speak for themselves. The taxes will support a system which is the only means of transportation many of our fellow Atlantans have.”
- Mr. Neil Herring (Ga. Chapter of the Sierra Club) ..., ”support this Bill and commend the Senator for this initiative, hopefully it will also address the inadequate compensation for the MARTA employees.”
- Rev. Greg Fann (Fulton County resident)..., “support the Bill, it’s the right thing to do, the fair thing to do. It gives support to the least of those who without MARTA transportation would not be able to provide for their families.”
- Mrs. Patricia Hubbard (parent and taxpayer)..., ”in full support of the Bill and would request that there be other legislators who would step up to the plate and fight for what’s happening in our communities.”

At this point, there being no other persons to offer comments, and a quorum now being in place, Chairman Ramsey called for the author of [SB 92](#) (Senator Fort) to address the Bill.

[SB 92](#) (Fort, 39th) Taxation/revenue; add public transit to authorized purposes for proceeds of excise taxes

Senator Vincent Fort, 39th, addressed the bill:

This is a simple bill. The state provides that a car rental tax can be issued by any locality. This is a statewide bill. The only change provided by the bill is that it would add public transit to the list of usages which car rental tax can be applied to. It provides for permissive use of car rental tax for public transit. If a locality wants to adopt the car rental tax for application to their public transit system, the bill allows this to happen.

Questions from Committee Members:

Senator Jackson:

The money does not go into the general State Fund?

Senator Fort:

No

Senator Jackson:

Any idea of the anticipated revenue?

Senator Fort:

Approximately 7 million, and this is a quote based on some in-house research done primarily for Fulton County. So please receive that as a tentative amount.

Senator Tate:

How much do we anticipate the split between Philips Arena and MARTA?

Senator Fort:

No split

Senator Fort indicated that he really wanted to emphasize that this is an opportunity to do something proactive for not just the MARTA system but for other localities as well.

Senator Davenport:

Are you saying that the localities would be the approving and managing entity of using the car rental tax?

Senator Fort:

Yes, if your area opted in, the locality would be the one having to approve it and in control.

Senator Jackson:

Can a local authority impose tax without the approval of statewide legislation?

Senator Fort:

I don't think so. We need to let the public know that this is not a mandate, this is an opt-in by local authorities.

Recognition by the Chair of other public sector representatives wishing to comment on the Bill:

Tom Bowers (Public Transit Authority and Transit Union Rep)...,"We have been neglected; MARTA does not have an "operating" expense from the State. We want to express our appreciation for this Bill and support the initiative."

Curtis Howard (ATU)...,"We support the Bill and would encourage every member on the committee to support the Bill."

A quorum now being in place:

Chairman Ramsey entertains a motion for Do Pass. Senator Tate makes the **motion to do pass [SB 92](#)** and Senator Davenport seconds the motion. SB 92 passes unanimously.

Senator Fort recognized Ms. Rhonda Briggins-Ridley, MARTA representative (arrived late), and made a request of the Chair and Committee to allow her to speak. Permission granted.

Ms. Briggins-Ridley..., "We are in full support of the Bill, and stand with you as partners to assist with other creative, innovative funding initiatives."

Chairman Ramsey expressed his appreciation to all of the participants and with there being no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43rd, Chairman

/s/ Gerri Pringle, Recording Secretary

August 1, 2013

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Senate Urban Affairs Committee
Bills Left in Senate Urban Affairs Committee after the 2013 Session

Dear Secretary Cook,

The Senate Urban Affairs Committee respectfully submits the following House Bill left in our committee out of the two that were assigned during the 2013 General Assembly session:

- [HB 362](#)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Ramsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Senator Ronald Ramsey, 43rd
Chairman, Senate Urban Affairs Committee

/s/ Gerri Pringle
Recording Secretary, Senate Urban Affairs Committee