

**VETERANS, MILITARY & HOMELAND SECURITY
2013 COMMITTEE ROSTER**

Senator Ed Harbison, Chairman
District 15
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Senator Hunter Hill, Vice Chairman
District 6
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Senator Barry Loudermilk, Secretary (*resigned from Senate 9/4/13*)
District 14
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Senator Gail Davenport
District 44
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Senator Emanuel Jones
District 10
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Senator Mike Dugan
District 30
104 Champion Drive
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VETERANS, MILITARY & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

2013

1. Quorum of the committee shall be four (4) members.
2. The Chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Subcommittees in turn shall have authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the chairperson. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
4. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairperson.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. 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.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the committee.
8. Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
9. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
10. The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
11. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

**Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee
February 13, 2013**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 4:05 p.m. in MEZZ 1 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15th presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman
Senator Hunter Hill, 6th, Vice Chairman
Senator Barry Loudermilk, 14th, Secretary
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th
Senator Mike Dugan, 30th

Member absent:

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests, informing them that this was an organizational meeting to go over the rules and introduce new 2013 committee members. He announced that Senate Resolution 201 was on the agenda.

Adoption of Rules – 1st motion made by Senator Barry Loudermilk
2nd motion made by Senator Gail Davenport

SR 201 (Harbison, 15th) - Army, Dept. of the; request to carefully consider the socioeconomic impact; Programmatic Environmental Assessment

A resolution requesting that the Department of the Army (DA) carefully consider the socioeconomic impact the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Army 2020 Force Restructuring will have on Fort Benning, Georgia, and the surrounding region; and for other purposes.

Senator Harbison introduced Senate Resolution 201 and explained how this resolution requests that the Department of the Army carefully consider the socioeconomic impact the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Restructuring will have on Fort Benning, Georgia, and the surrounding region.

The restructuring includes two alternatives for reduction of both active duty and civilian personnel at Fort Benning, one of which would lead to the loss of 7,100 personnel and the devastating impact this reduction would have on the region.

According to the Assessment, a reduction of 7,100 active duty and civilian personnel would result in a 17,815 loss in total population, which represents a 5.74 percent decrease in the region, a 3.16 percent loss of sales volume, a 4.99 percent drop in regional income, and 5.94 percent loss in regional nonfarm employment, which has the potential to affect low-income populations the most negatively.

Each member unanimously supported the resolution and thanked Senator Harbison for bringing it before the committee.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Senator Ed Harbison that [SR 201](#) Do Pass. Senator Barry Loudermilk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee
February 14, 2013**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 3:39 p.m. in room 125 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15th presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman
Senator Mike Dugan, 30th
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th

Member absent:

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests. He stated that he is honored to have speakers from the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame on site for a hearing today.

Senator Harbison introduced Col. Paul Longgear, Director of the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame. Col. Longgear thanked the committee for having him and letting him share his information on having a Veterans Hall of Fame in Georgia.

Senator Barry Loudermilk arrived at 3:47 p.m. Senator Hunter Hill arrived at 3:51 p.m .

The Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. (GMVHOF) is a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] that is based and incorporated in Georgia whose objective is to publicly emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of Georgia Military Veterans and their families.

The primary purpose for which the corporation has been organized is exclusively charitable and educational; more specifically, to honor Georgia military veterans and to educate and inform the public of their outstanding accomplishments.

Up to fifteen Georgia military veterans will be inducted into the hall of fame each year and awarded the Hall of Fame Medallion^(TM) during the annual banquet. Of the fifteen inductees, up to ten will be selected exclusively for their valorous military performance, up to five for their extraordinary achievements and up to five will be selected for their combined military/civilian service to our community, state, and nation.

1. NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- a. Eligibility: The nominee must have either been born in Georgia, entered military service from Georgia, or lived in Georgia for a minimum of ten years. Additionally, he/she must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Military service, be of good character, and have no felony convictions. Posthumous nominations are encouraged.
- b. Non-eligibility: To preclude conflict of interest or the appearance thereof, GMVHOF Executive board members, employees of the GMVHOF including members of

GMVHOF Special Selection Committee (SSC), are NOT eligible for consideration for selection to the GMVHOF until three (3) years after they have ceased service therewith.

2. NOMINATIONS: The Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame has established three categories of veterans for entry into the Hall of Fame: Each nomination packet should include \$25 for processing expenses. Veterans may be nominated for:
 - a. Category #1: For the military accomplishments of a veteran, e.g., receiving the Medal of Honor or any significant awards for valor during an active duty combat tour or while employed as a government civilian.
 - b. Category #2: For a significant achievement impacting the military overall. This achievement must have contributed to the improvement of the military in an obvious manner, as confirmed by military recognition to include certificate of achievement and or cash awards.
 - c. Category #3: For those who have honorably served in the US Armed Forces, and then contributed exceptionally to community, state, and/or nation.

Senator Harbison and each committee member thanked the men for their service and for bringing the information before the committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee
February 26, 2013**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 3:37 p.m. in 125 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15th presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman
Senator Hunter Hill, 6th, Vice Chairman
Senator Mike Dugan, 30th
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th

Members absent:

Senator Barry Loudermilk, 14th, Secretary
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests and announced that **Senate Bill 76** is on the agenda.

SB 76 (Jackson, 2nd) Returning Veterans Task Force; create; membership

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to veterans' benefits, so as to create the Returning Veterans Task Force; to provide for membership; to provide for duties; to provide for recommendations; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senator Lester Jackson introduced the bill and explained that the legislation creates the Returning Veterans Task Force within the State Department of Veterans Services. The seven-member Returning Veterans Task Force will consist of one representative each of the following agencies: the Department of Veterans Service, the Department of Community Health, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Defense, the Department of Labor, the Board of Regents, and the Technical College System of Georgia.

The task force will meet at least quarterly to investigate how state services can be provided to veterans returning from military service from which the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable within the most recent three years in order to assist them in integrating into society. The task force will issue recommendations to each relevant state agency regarding improving the delivery of services to returning veterans. By November 1 of each year, the task force will transmit specific suggestions for legislation designed to assist returning veterans to the General Assembly and the Governor.

Mr. Dan Holtz from the Department of Veterans Services spoke in support of the bill and thanked the committee for their work on the bill.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Senator Gail Davenport that **SB 76 Do Pass**. Senator Hunter Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Senator Harbison thanked all members and speakers for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee
February 28, 2013**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 4:08 p.m. in MEZZ 1 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15th presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman
Senator Hunter Hill, 6th – Vice Chairman
Senator Mike Dugan, 30th
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th

Members absent:

Senator Barry Loudermilk, 52nd, Secretary
Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests, and to have a **hearing on Senate Bill 144.**

SB 144 (Mullis, 53rd) Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority; create

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the emergency telephone number "9-1-1" system, so as to create the Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority as a body corporate and politic, an instrumentality of the state, and a public corporation; to amend Code Section 38-3-20, relating to the creation of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, director, and director's duties, so as to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Senator Mullis introduced [SB 144](#) and stated that the amendment that he wanted to submit was not ready through Legislative Counsel. Senator Harbison and Senator Mullis agreed to go ahead and have a hearing only on the bill.

Senator Mullis explained that this legislation creates the 13-member Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority charged with the following duties:

- Assist in the adoption and implementation of updated technological resources and enhanced 9-1-1 system services throughout Georgia;
- Facilitate the availability and implementation of data collection programs for the voluntary provision of lifesaving information to first responders;
- Disburse funds to local governments for the operation and improvement of emergency telephone 9-1-1 system services;
- Audit the payment of 9-1-1 fees by telephone service providers;
- Administer, collect, audit, and remit prepaid wireless 9-1-1 revenue for the benefit of local governments in Georgia;
- Assist in the development and support of regional 9-1-1 system service providers throughout this state; and
- Develop, acquire, and distribute services, supplies, and materials, including lifesaving equipment and training, for local emergency 9-1-1 system service providers.

The Authority will be assigned to the Office of Planning and Budget for administrative purposes only.

Officer Alex Gutierrez with the Georgia Tech Police Department testified and answered questions in favor of the bill. This is a free service available to opt-in.

Mr. Robert Sabin with Rare Mobile Safety testified in favor of the bill. The City of Atlanta is using the service now.

After discussion and questions on the bill, Senator Mullis asked if the committee could meet tomorrow when the amendment is ready, giving him time to perfect the bill. Senator Harbison agreed to call a meeting and will give the committee members proper notification as soon as it is scheduled.

Senator Harbison thanked all members and speakers for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee
March 1, 2013**

The Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee was called to order at 11:16 a.m. in 125 of the Capitol, with Chairman Ed Harbison of the 15th presiding.

Members present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman
Senator Hunter Hill, 6th, Vice Chairman
Senator Barry Loudermilk, 14th, Secretary
Senator Mike Dugan, 30th
Senator Gail Davenport, 44th

Member absent:

Senator Emanuel Jones, 10th

Senator Harbison opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests, and to take up **Senate Bill 144**.

SB 144 (Jeff Mullis, 53rd) Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority; create

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the emergency telephone number "9-1-1" system, so as to create the Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority as a body corporate and politic, an instrumentality of the state, and a public corporation; to amend Code Section 38-3-20, relating to the creation of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, director, and director's duties, so as to conform cross-references; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

As discussed in the meeting on February 28, 2013, the amendment to the bill was now ready and was offered before the committee by Senator Jeff Mullis. This offers more detail on the bill:

This legislation creates the 13-member Georgia Emergency 9-1-1 Support Authority to be made up of the following members:

The GEMA Director who will serve as Chairperson;

- Six members appointed by the Governor and who are as follows: a mayor, police chief, fire chief, county commissioner, sheriff, and an EMS director; and
- Six members (three appointed by the Speaker and three appointed by the Lieutenant Governor) experienced in and currently involved in public safety, local government, or management of emergency services.

This legislation transfers all existing 9-1-1 responsibilities from GEMA to the Authority and the Authority will be assigned to the Office of Planning and Budget for administrative purposes only. Significant powers and duties of the Authority include the following:

- Assist in the adoption and implementation of updated technological resources and enhanced 9-1-1 system services throughout Georgia;
- Facilitate the availability and implementation of data collection programs for the voluntary provision of lifesaving information to first responders;

- Disburse funds to local governments for the operation and improvement of emergency telephone 9-1-1 system services;
- Audit the payment of 9-1-1 fees by telephone service providers;
- Administer, collect, audit, and remit prepaid wireless 9-1-1 revenues for the benefit of local governments in Georgia;
- Assist in the development and support of regional 9-1-1 system service providers;
- Develop, acquire, and distribute services, supplies, and materials, including lifesaving equipment and training, for local emergency 9-1-1 system service providers;
- To determine the recipients of assistance grants;
- To study and evaluate the state-wide provision of 9-1-1 service;
- To make changes necessary to accomplish more effective and efficient 9-1-1 service across this state;
- To make any changes necessary in the assessment and collection of 9-1-1 fees;
- To provide training to directors of public safety answering points or other personnel;
- To provide for the collection of moneys and to manage, control, and direct such funds and the expenditures made therefrom; and
- To establish and administer a 9-1-1 grant fund program for local governments and regional 9-1-1 developments and cooperatives.

The Authority is authorized to audit any telephone, wireless, or internet provider offering communication services capable of connecting 9-1-1 service to ensure compliance with state law. The authority may audit or cause to be audited by the state auditor, or other auditor, the financial and business records of any service supplier to the extent necessary to ensure proper collection and remittances in accordance with state law. Failure of the service supplier to comply with an audit request will result in a civil penalty up to \$1,000.00 per day for each day the service supplier refuses compliance. Any service provider found to have willfully failed to provide for the payment of required fees will result in a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.00.

This legislation also directs the Authority to establish a computer aided dispatch database that can provide first responders with 9-1-1 caller information related to disabilities and special needs. Potential caller data will only be provided to the database on a voluntary basis through a secure website.

Senator Mullis stated that this bill could still use perfecting, but is on the right track.

Mr. Greg Whitaker testified and thanked Senator Mullis but agreed that it still needs to be reviewed further.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Senator Barry Loudermilk that **SB 144 Do Pass by Committee Substitute**. Senator Gail Davenport seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Senator Harbison thanked all members and speakers for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Ed Harbison, 15th, Chairman

/s/ Cyndi Williams, Recording Secretary

April 11, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Included with the minutes of the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee meetings for the 2013 legislative session, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

[SB 148](#)

[SB 208](#)

[SB 244](#)

[SB 252](#)

[SB 276](#)

[SR 528](#)

Sincerely,

/s/ Cyndi Williams
Recording Secretary
Veterans, Military & Homeland Security