## SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROSTER

#### 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Senator Bill Cowsert, Chairman

District 46 P.O. Box 512 Athens, GA 30603

Senator Josh McKoon, Vice Chairman

District 29 P.O. Box 2565 Columbus, GA 31902

Senator Burt Jones, Secretary

District 25 407 East Second Street SE Jackson, GA 30233

**Senator Buddy Carter** 

District 1 406 Purple Finch Drive Pooler, GA 31322

**Senator Hardie Davis** 

District 22 P.O. Box 6389 Augusta, GA 30916 **Senator Tim Golden** 

District 8 110 Beacon Hill Valdosta, GA 31602

**Senator Lester Jackson** 

District 2 1501 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31401

**Senator Nan Orrock** 

District 36 1070 Delaware Avenue

Atlanta, GA 30316

**Senator Cecil Staton** 

District 18 P.O. Box 26427 Macon, GA 31221

#### RULES

#### **SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2013**

- 1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 (d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
- 2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
- 3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.
- 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 whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name first appears on the list of authors.
- 7. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- 8. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
- 9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
- 10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. (Senate Rule 2)

Minutes Senate Higher Education Committee Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Room 125 CAP

Chairman Cowsert called the meeting to order at 3:07pm., announcing that a quorum was present.

#### Members present:

Senator Bill Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, (Arrived at 3:15 p.m.) Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>

This was the first meeting of the Senate Higher Education Committee of the 2013 Legislative Session. Chairman Cowsert introduced himself and welcomed committee members, staff, and guests. Subsequently, Chairman Cowsert set forth the rules by which the 2013 committee meetings would operate, noting that they were the same rules that were adopted by the Senate Higher Education Committee in the 2012 session year. Chairman Cowsert provided the Committee members a moment to read the proposed rules and asked if there were any comments or feedback to be brought before the committee before entertaining a motion on the adoption of the committee rules.

Senator Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup> motioned "do pass", seconded by Davis of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Motion** passed unanimously.

In accordance with the order of the agenda, the following legislation was discussed:

SB 82 (Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup>) - Change designations from North Georgia College to the University of North Georgia; to designate the University of North Georgia as the senior military college of Georgia- Presented by Senator Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup>. Senator Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> explained that this bill essentially changes the name from "North Georgia College" to the "University of North Georgia" for the sole purpose of benefiting the military scholarship program that is in place at present. Senator Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> emphasized that there are no changes to the bill other than that it recognizes the University of North Georgia as a premier senior military college of Georgia. Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> noted that the word "College" is struck through and is replaced with the words "the University".

Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> offered a substitute to the committee to amend Line 98 to where the number "12" (twelve) indicating the academic "quarters" would be replaced with the number "8" (eight) and where the word "quarter" would be replaced with the word "semester", so that scholarship assistance would be provided to a recipient for a maximum period of "8 academic semesters".

Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> proposed a second amendment to Line 158 to where the grant provided to each eligible student attending the University of North Georgia would change from the "sum of \$500.00 per academic quarter" to the "sum of \$750.00 per academic semester". Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> indicated that there are no increases to the amount granted to each eligible student, but that the change merely reflects an adjustment made to the language a few years ago that was never corrected. Further, Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> noted that the Georgia Board of Regents is in approval of the proposed amendments.

At the end of the discussion, Chairman Cowsert gave members of the audience an opportunity to speak before entertaining motions on the piece of legislation.

Senator Staton of the 18th motioned "do pass by substitute", seconded by Senator Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 41 0066S).** 

#### Members voting in favor

Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>
Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>
Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>
Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

SB 155 (Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup>) - Relating to scholarships, loans, and grants; to change the membership of the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation to accommodate the 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; to change the membership of the Georgia Student Finance Authority. Presented by Senator Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup>. Senator Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> explained that as a result of the addition of a congressional seat this year in Georgia, this bill changes the number from 13 (thirteen) to 14 (fourteen) on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation (from here in GHEAC) so that there is one member per congressional district.

Chairman Cowsert of the 46<sup>th</sup> inquired as to the presence of a provision in the legislation at issue in the event that a tie or an uneven number of members existed. Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> indicated that there is no provision to address the hypothetical situation posed. Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> noted that since every congressional district has to have equal representation on the Board of Directors for the GHEAC, the Chairman could provide a method to resolve the eventuality.

Chairman Cowsert gave committee members and members of the audience an opportunity to speak or ask further questions before entertaining motions on the legislation.

Senator Jackson of the 2<sup>nd</sup> motioned "do pass", seconded by Senator Jones of the 25th. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 21 2112).** 

Members voting in favor Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup> Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

Members absent:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

SB 103 (Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>) - To amend the powers of the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; to provide for the designation of community colleges-Presented by Senator Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> explained that SB 103 gives the power to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to approve requests from applicable post-secondary technical institutions to be named a community college or technical college upon the institutions' receipt of accreditation. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> highlighted the importance of this legislation in light of the increasing demand for technical education as the economy continues to globalize. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> further indicated that if the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia is allowed to execute the power that SB 103 would provide, there would be an increase in the awareness of the importance of technical education in the State of Georgia.

Chairman Cowsert gave Irene Munn, General Counsel and Director of Policy of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle, the opportunity to speak in favor of the adoption of the Bill. Munn indicated that this bill reflects the interest of the Lieutenant Governor to get students on track to achieve post-secondary education. Munn further stressed that SB 103 does not impose a mandate, but it gives the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia the power to name technical schools community colleges.

Tom Daniel representing the University System of Georgia spoke in favor of SB 103 as it reads.

Chairman Cowsert gave committee members and members of the audience an opportunity to speak or ask further questions before entertaining a motion on SB 103.

Senator Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> motioned "do pass", seconded by Senator Staton of the 18<sup>th</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 33 4932).** 

Members voting in favor Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup> Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Buddy Carter, 1st Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>

There being no further business, Chairman Cowsert adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Burt Jones, 25th Secretary Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Beverly Crumbley **Recording Secretary** 

Minutes Senate Higher Education Committee Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Room 125 CAP

#### Members present:

Senator Bill Cowsert 46<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 12:05 p.m.) Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrived at 12:07 p.m.) Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> (left at 12:30 p.m.)

#### Members Absent:

Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Cowsert called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon announcing that a quorum was present.

The following legislation was discussed:

<u>SB 172</u> (Sen. Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>) Relating to the board of Regents and University System of Georgia, so as to provide for a Civil Rights Museum to be established on Capitol Hill.

Senator Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>, explained that the legislation allows for the creation of a museum either inside or outside of the Capitol building. The purpose of the museum is to recognize and highlight the accomplishments of Civil Rights leaders who contributed to the greater good of the nation. Senator Jones stated that the State of Georgia will incur no expense for the construction and operation of the museum. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council, a non-profit corporation established by Governor Deal, is authorized to make recommendations and raise funds in support of the museum.

Chairman Cowsert asked if the Board of Regents has the discretion to accept or reject the Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Council recommendations. Chairman Cowsert asked if it is reasonable for the committee to amend line 12 so as to strike the word "shall" and replace it with the word "may" in order to provide for such discretion. Senator Jones stated his preference to leave the language unchanged.

Minutes Senate Higher Education Committee Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, asked if there was any provision in the legislation that exempted Georgia government from the legal obligation to disburse funds for the construction and operation of the project. Senator Jones indicated that language could be added if the members of the committee deemed it necessary. Senator Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> offered to provide the appropriate language to relieve the State from any financial burden as it relates to this legislation.

Tom Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor of the University System of Georgia commented that the Board of Regents is involved because the General Assembly bestowed the right upon the Board of Regents to operate the Capitol Museum. Chairman Cowsert asked if any of the exhibits have to be permanent by law. Mr. Daniel indicated that the law does not mandate for the exhibits to be permanent.

Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, offered a substitute to amend line 12, so as to replace the word "shall" with the word "may" and to add "upon funds being made available" after notwithstanding and prior to "there shall be a civil rights museum".

A **MOTION** was made by Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> that <u>SB</u> <u>172</u> "**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE".** The vote was 7 yeas and 1 not voting. The one not voting was Senator Cecil Staton who was absent.

SB 241 (Sen. Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>) Creates the "Georgia Leadership and Service Admissions Act" which allows each member of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor to publicly designate a Scholar on an annual basis and offer a written recommendation for use in the admissions process at an institution of the university system.

Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, spoke on his legislation stating that this legislation mirrors the federal program whereby members nominate individuals for admission to West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Air Force.

Chairman Cowsert asked if in addition to the written recommendation, is the candidate required to meet the additional admission requirements of a Zell Miller Scholar. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, answered yes to this inquiry. Chairman Cowsert asked if there is a method to prove the commitment of the eligible student to serve in the ROTC. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, stated that the commitment is made directly to the Legislator at the beginning of the student's junior year and noted that there is no expressed provision to fulfill the objective.

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Senator Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>, offered a recommendation to strike line 19 and line 20 of this legislation so as to eliminate the Zell Miller Scholar requirement in its entirety.

Chairman Cowsert asked Tom Daniel, Senior Vice Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, the importance of meeting the Zell Miller Scholar requirement. Mr. Daniel stated that there are 5 institutions that favor the Zell Miller requirement and none are able to admit all qualified applicants. Mr. Daniel further indicated that the Zell Miller requirement would be of relevance particularly at the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University.

Mr. Daniel advised the committee to either eliminate the Zell Miller Scholar requirement entirely or provide a fixed requirement if the Zell Miller requirement is substituted. Mr. Daniel stressed that any other type of provision would not be recommended as it would be in place for a long period of time.

Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, recommended that the committee amend line 19 so as to replace the Zell Miller Scholar requirement with the HOPE Scholar requirement.

A **MOTION** was made by Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>, that **SB 241** "**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**". The vote was 6 yeas with 2 not voting. The 2 not voting were Senator Nan Orrock as she left the meeting before this vote and Senator Cecil Staton as he was absent.

There being no further business or comment, Chairman Cowsert adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Burt Jones
Secretary
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Beverly Crumbley Recording Secretary Minutes Senate Higher Education Committee Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Room 125 CAP

Chairman Cowsert called the meeting to order at 3:11pm., announcing that a quorum was not present.

#### Members present:

Senator Bill Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> (Arrived at 3:18) Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> (Arrived at 3:07) Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Arrived at 3:17) Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

After announcing that no quorum was present, Chairman Cowsert asked House Representative Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup> to present HB 293. Following the order of the agenda, the following legislation was discussed:

### <u>HB 293</u> (Rep. Rogers, 29<sup>th</sup>) Relating to tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities; nursing; provisions

Presented by Representative Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Representative Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup> explained that the purpose of HB 293 is to aid students of Georgia who wish to pursue a nursing degree from a qualified proprietary institution, such as DeVry University (which has operated in Georgia for over 40 years), by amending the law as it is set forth in HB 293 so that Georgia students can be eligible for HOPE scholarships.

Representative Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup> further indicated that the economic impact of this legislation is \$250,000 and highlighted that tax payers will incur no expense for the construction and operation of the program. Representative Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup> stated the purpose of this bill is to address the severe nursing shortage in Georgia and stressed that this legislation offers a low cost option to assist students achieve a nursing degree in proprietary institutions that fulfill clinical standards and other requirements set forth by the law.

Chairman Cowsert gave Lester Schneider, representing both DeVry University and Herzinger University, the opportunity to speak in support of HB 293. Schneider stated that, two years ago, in light of the severe shortage of nursing schools in Georgia, DeVry University spent close to 5.2 million dollars to build a nursing school and Herzinger spent a similar amount. Schneider indicated that DeVry University is a publicly held company and its Chamberlin School of Nursing is a wholly owned subsidiary and passes all the standards and criteria for the nursing board. However, Schneider indicated that in order for the students to qualify as recipients of the HOPE scholarship, the amendment to the language of HB 293 is necessary. Finally, Schneider stated that the legislation is narrowly drawn and only impacts nursing programs.

Upon hearing all the pertinent information relating to HB 293, Chairman Cowsert, pursuant to Senate Higher Education Committee Rule number 2, ruled that no vote will be taken in absence of a quorum. **No motion was passed.** 

# <u>HB 287</u> (Rep. Hatchett, 150<sup>th</sup>) To transfer the Division of Archives and History from the Office of the Secretary of State to the University System of Georgia; to rename the Historical Records Advisory Board; to provide for disposition and archiving of surplus materials

Presented by Representative Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup>. Representative Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup> explained that this bill would allow the transfer of the Division of Archives and History from the Office of the Secretary of State to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Representative Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup> noted that the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, the Governor, and the Secretary of State support this measure and further indicated that by adopting this bill the archives would increasingly serve the public use.

Tom Daniel, representing the University System of Georgia, spoke in complete support of HB 287.

Upon hearing the discussion, Chairman Cowsert proceeded to entertain a motion on the legislation at issue.

Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup> motioned "do pass", seconded by Senator Jackson of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 28 6606S)** 

#### Members voting in favor Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup> Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup> Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> There being no further business, Chairman Cowsert adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup> Secretary Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Beverly Crumbley Recording Secretary **Minutes Senate Higher Education Committee** Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Room 125 CAP

Chairman Cowsert called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m., announcing that a quorum was present.

#### Members present:

Senator Bill Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup>, Chairman (Arrived at 1:30 p.m.)

Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>, Secretary (Arrived at 1:49 p.m.)

Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> (Arrived at 1:36 p.m.)

Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> (Arrived at 1:35 p.m.)

Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> (Arrived at 1:34 p.m.)

Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Arrived at 1:33 p.m.) Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> (Arrived at 1:37 p.m.)

Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup> (Arrived at 1:45 p.m.)

#### Members absent:

Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Cowsert welcomed members and guests and invited guests to sign up if they would like to speak on agenda items. In accordance with the order of the agenda, the following legislation was discussed:

#### HB 372 (Representative Coomer, 14<sup>th</sup>) To lower the eligibility requirements for the HOPE grant by lowering the GPA requirements from a 3.0 to a 2.0 at a technical college or university institution

Presented by Representative Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup> introduced the bill and explained that the purpose of the legislation is to lower the eligibility requirements for the HOPE grant by lowering the grade point requirements from a 3.0 to a 2.0. Representative Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup> indicated that qualified recipients of the HOPE grant must achieve the 2.0 after attempting 30 or 60 semester hours.

At the conclusion of the presentation of HB 372 by Representative Coomer of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Cowsert gave members of the audience an opportunity to speak or ask questions before entertaining a motion on the legislation at issue.

Senator Carter of the 1st asked if there are any standards for admissions to a technical college or university institution given that a 2.0 GPA is not a requisite.

Laura Gammage, representing the Technical College System of Georgia, indicated that technical colleges have admissions standards. Gammage explained that the 2.0 GPA requirement is not applicable given that in general students who enroll in a technical institution are considered non-traditional. Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup> asked Gammage to describe non-traditional applicants. Gammage indicated that non-traditional applicants are typically older than average college students and remain active in the workforce while they attend classes. Gammage further explained that in lieu of GPA requirements or high school transcripts, students at technical institutions are required to perform an entrance remediation exam.

Upon hearing the discussion, Chairman Cowsert asked committee members and guests if further questions or comments were to be brought before the committee before entertaining any motion on the legislation at issue.

Senator Davis of the  $22^{nd}$  motioned to "do pass", seconded by Senator Orrock of the  $36^{th}$ . Senator Golden of the  $8^{th}$  asked the members of the committee to consider an amendment to HB 372.

Chairman Cowsert gave Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> the opportunity to introduce the amendment prior to adopting the motion submitted. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> offered a substitute to the committee to amend HB 372 (LC 34 3805S) by inserting after "institution;" on line 3 a provision to endow the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia with the power to designate community colleges. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> proposed a second amendment to HB 372 by adding a provision between lines 28 and 29 specifying the powers delegated to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia. Finally, Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> indicated that the amendment would designate Section 2 as Section 3 providing for the repeal of laws and parts of laws in conflict with the legislation at issue (AM 33 1334).

Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> explained that the amendment allows technical schools to be named community colleges. Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> further stated that the amendment is drawn pursuant to SB 103 which was passed by the Senate on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Senate Vote #72). Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> stressed that the amendment will not change the mission of technical institutions, but will merely give the power to the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia to approve requests from applicable technical institutions to be named a community college or technical college upon the institutions' receipt of accreditation.

Chairman Cowsert asked committee members and members of the audience if any comments or questions were to be brought before the committee before entertaining a motion on the amendment.

Senator Golden of the 8<sup>th</sup> motioned "**do pass by committee substitute**", seconded by Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 41 0092S)** 

Members voting in favor Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> Members absent:
Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>
Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>
Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

# <u>HB 324</u> (Representative Dollar, 45<sup>th</sup>) Exemption for verification of lawful presence for Boards of the Georgia Student Finance Commission and of the Georgia Student Finance Authority

Presented by Representative Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup>. Rep. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> indicated that HB 324 was the result of a discrepancy in the university application process that two of the constituents within the jurisdiction of Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> encountered. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> indicated that one of the students received a notification from the University of Georgia requiring the student to file a FAFSA application while the applicant to Kennesaw State University did not receive the requirement. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> stated that the requirement to file a FAFSA application is not only directed to freshman applicants, but is a lengthy requirement imposed on all recipients of the HOPE scholarship. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> explained that the expressed provisions in FAFSA are beneficial in ensuring that state funds are not disbursed to students that are not lawfully present in the United States. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> further stated that the data collected in the FAFSA application could be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security to aid in the control of illegal immigration. However, Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> indicated that the provisions of HB 324 would reduce the duplication of work, would be easier for recipients of the HOPE scholarship and their families, and would exempt the Georgia Student Finance Commission and the Board of Directors of the Georgia Student Finance Authority from requiring verification of lawful presence within the United States in order to receive post-secondary benefits.

Upon hearing the discussion, Chairman Cowsert asked committee members and guests if questions or comments were to be brought before the committee before entertaining a motion on HB 324.

Chairman Cowsert asked if HB 324 is identical to the bill sponsored by Senator Judson Hill of the 32<sup>nd</sup> (SB-187/ LC 29 5639S). Representative Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> stated that HB 324 mirrors the provisions of SB 187. Further, Chairman Cowsert asked if the provisions of the legislation at issue change the standards of admission required from non-legal residents. Representative Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> responded that it does not. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> stressed that the Georgia Student Finance Authority is endowed with the authority to revoke the financial assistance awarded to a student who is not lawfully residing within the United States.

Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup> asked Representative Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> to explain what FAFSA is. Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> stated that FAFSA stands for "Free Application for Federal Student Aid". Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup> asked if the purpose of the legislation at issue is to eliminate the FAFSA requirement. Representative Dollar of the 45<sup>th</sup> responded affirmatively to the question.

Chairman Cowsert asked committee members and members of the audience if any comments or questions were to be brought before the committee before entertaining a motion on HB 324.

Senator Jackson of the 2<sup>nd</sup> motioned "do pass"; seconded by Senator Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously (LC 41 0054).** 

#### Members voting in favor

Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>
Senator Buddy Carter, 1<sup>st</sup>
Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>
Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>
Senator Lester Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>
Senator Cecil Staton, 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Members absent:

Senator Joshua McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>

There being no further business, Chairman Cowsert adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Senator Burt Jones, 25<sup>th</sup>
Secretary
Senate Higher Education Committee

/s/ Beverly Crumbley Recording Secretary

April 24, 2013

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

#### Greetings:

On behalf of the Senate Higher Education Committee Chairman, Sen. Bill Cowsert, and as recording secretary for the committee, the following committee bills and resolutions are respectfully returned to you.

**SB** 16 **SB** 17 **SB 59 SB** 107 **SB** 111 **SB** 112 **SB 150 SB** 151 **SB 214 SB 262 SB 266 SB 274** SR 184 SR 185 **HB 184 HB 293** 

No action was taken by the committee on the above legislation for the 2013 legislative session.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Beverly Crumbley
Recording Secretary
Senate Higher Education Committee