

**SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
2014 MEMBERS**

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SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE RULES 2014 SESSION

The rules of the committee shall be the rules of the subcommittees.

1. The quorum for the Education and Youth Committee shall be 8 members. Record of attendance will be maintained for each full committee or subcommittee meeting. This information shall be considered public.
2. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the chairman. Recess or adjournment of the Committee may also take place by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
3. A bill or resolution will only be placed on the committee agenda after its principle sponsor completes a bill summary form. When a bill or resolution is placed on the committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and the place of the hearing. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal sponsor or a legislator designated by the principal sponsor.
4. The Chairman shall establish the meeting agenda and determine the measures to be considered and the order of consideration. No motion that the committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairperson has stated that such a motion will be entertained.
5. The Chairperson may appoint subcommittees and officers of subcommittees, and at the discretion of the chairperson, refer any matter to a subcommittee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate until it is considered by the full committee. All committee officers will be ex-officio voting subcommittee members.
6. Any member or members who disagree with the majority report of the committee may file a minority report as provided in the Rules of the Senate.
7. These rules may be amended or suspended upon motion duly made and approved by a majority of the members of the committee.
8. Five minutes prior to, during, and five minutes after a televised or web-cast Committee meeting, no one other than a member of the Committee, Legislative Counsel, Committee Aide, Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson, or Committee Intern, shall walk beyond the witness pulpit for any reason.

9. During committee meetings, committee members and everyone in the audience shall either turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers or other similar devices.

10. Any proposed measure shall include a fiscal note when appropriate, as determined by the chairman, prior to committee consideration.

11. Except for Legislative Counsel, no one shall speak to a member of the Committee while a televised or web-cast meeting is in progress without first obtaining the consent of the Chairperson. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Intern, which will then be passed to the Chairperson for approval.

12. Action may be taken by the committee on any bill the first time it is presented. The chairperson shall have the option to take action on a resolution.

13. Committee and Subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The Chairman may also set time limits for this process.

14. The secretary of the committee shall cause a copy of these rules to be distributed to all members of the Senate.

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on January 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

Burke, 11th

Fort, 39th

Hufstetler, 52nd

James, 35th

Millar, 40th

Miller, 49th

Stone, 23rd

The Chairman began the committee by calling the first bill:

SB 288- Bethel, 54th – “**Quality Basic Education Act**” – Senator Bethel explained this bill will enforce the release of complete annual financial reports for the preceding calendar or fiscal year. This would include assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses for all public high schools that receive funding under the “quality Basic Education Act.” This would also apply to any association of schools or any other similar organization which acts as an organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rule-making body for interscholastic events.

If these reports are not completed, they will not be able to participate in, sponsor, or provide coaching staff for sports events which are conducted under the authority of, conducted under the rules of, or scheduled by any athletic association.

Ralph Swearngin, Georgia High School Association spoke against this legislation.

Senator Miller made the motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator Powell-Sims. The vote was unanimous. **SB 288 Do Pass.**

SB 283 – Dugan, 30th – **Traditional Winter Celebrations in Schools** – Senator Dugan explained this bill adds a new Code section allowing local schools to educate students about the history of traditional winter celebrations and offer traditional greetings in schools such as “Merry Christmas,” Happy Hanukkah,” and “Happy Holidays.” It allows local school systems to display scenes or symbols associated with a traditional winter celebrations if the scene or symbol has more than one religion or one religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.

Senator Dugan stated this bill was introduced to provide clarity to the school systems that don't know what they can or can not do.

Senator Millar asked to strike Line 22, "(1) More than one religion;" stating the same language is on line 23 which reads, "(2) One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol"

Senator Millar made the motion to strike Line 22, seconded by Senator Wilkinson. The vote was unanimous.

Senator Millar made the motion "do pass by substitute", seconded by Senator Wilkinson. The vote was unanimous.

SB 283 Do Pass by substitute

Senator Fort arrived at 2:27

SB 289 – McKoon, 29th - Allowing for an Inspirational Message by Students at Student Assemblies – The bill would authorize any student who is responsible for organizing student led assemblies, to be able to have sole discretion on whether there will be an inspirational message delivered or not. The organizing student will be responsible in selecting the student volunteer(s) who will deliver this inspirational message and will also prepare the contents of the message.

The local school system personnel will not review any content, participate in, monitor, nor make a determination as to whether an inspirational message will be delivered or not.

Senator Stone asked what is an inspirational message?

Senator McKoon answered anything that inspires the students. This legislation is in the hands of the student, not the school system or school board.

Legislative Council stated this language was taken from Florida law and to date this has not been challenged in the courts.

A lot of discussion was given to the fact this bill offers no oversight and also does not have any measures to guard against any abuse or offensive assemblies by students.

Those speaking against the bill:

Ralph Swearngin, GA H.S. Association

Angela Palm, Georgia School Board Association

Chairman Tippins stated he doesn't believe the committee had the votes to pass this legislation and assigned **SB 289 to the School Choice and Policy Sub Committee.**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Freddie Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on February 4, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th Vice Chairman
James, 35th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th
Fort, 39th arrived at 3:50p.m.

The Chairman started the meeting stating SB 301 will be held at the request of the author. Senate Bill 319 will need a fiscal note.

The first bill called was SB 329 at 3:40p.m.

SB 329, Wilkinson, 50th –Work Based Learning Program

This bill would give students the opportunity to develop partnerships and work and learn in a real-world environment that prepares them for future career opportunities. Any student who is 16 years of age in any public school in the state can enroll in this program. The student learner would be released from school and be able to work/learn at any business enterprise that is deemed a qualified employer. Approval will be decided by the local work based learning coordinator.

A student shall receive secondary credit for work based learning. The department is authorized to establish a work based learning program and guidelines to assist local school systems in operating such a program. The work based learning programs can include, but not be limited to, employability skill development, cooperative education, internships, and youth apprenticeships.

The work based learning programs will include:

- A detailed training agreement and plan between the student and employer;
- A minimum of one unit of credit in a career pathway course relating to the work based learning placement;
- A minimum number of hours of on-the-job training as required in the department's guidelines for awarding secondary credits;
- On-site evaluation of student's performance;
- Training remediation as necessary;
- Skills related to the student's career pathway;
- Developing work based learning opportunities by promoting awareness and encouraging recruitment;

- A high school diploma, and in the case of a youth apprenticeship, a post-secondary credential;
- A coordinator to oversee; and
- Eligibility for funding or assistance.

Upon completing a planned training experience under guidelines developed by the State Board of Education and the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia, students enrolled in the work based learning program may be eligible to earn dual credit. Individual graduation plans will include, but not be limited to, participation in work based programs such as internships, apprenticeships, cooperative education, and employability skill development.

Students in the ninth through twelfth grades will be provided information on work based learning programs. Guidance counselors and teacher advisers in the local school systems will provide career awareness and exploratory opportunities such as field trips, speakers, educational and career information centers, job shadowing, and classroom centers to assist students, parents, and guardians.

Irene Munn, Lt. Governor's office stated this bill will expand the youth apprenticeship program at the college and career academies throughout the state. This is expanding classrooms to the work place while receiving high school credits.

Those speaking in favor of the bill:

Mathew Gamble, Department of Technical Education
Tracey Ann Nelson, Georgia Association of Educators
Kishia K. Towns, DeKalb County Schools
Quentin Fretwell, DeKalb County Schools

Senator Stone, 23rd made a motion Do pass, seconded by Tate, 38th seconded. The vote was unanimous. **SB 329 Do Pass.**

SB 321, Jones, 10th, - Disciplinary Hearings before Non-school Officials

Senator Jones explained this bill amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-752 to provide that a student may elect to have his or her case heard before an external disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal in lieu of a hearing before school officials.

A local board of education may authorize at the beginning of each school year a panel composed of individuals who are not school officials to serve as hearing officers or on tribunals. The local school board shall provide training and ensure that all such individuals sign confidentiality agreements.

A hearing officer, panel, or tribunal shall have all the same powers and duties as hearing officers, panels, and tribunals of school officials, except the authority to place a student in an alternative education setting or impose any suspension or expulsion directly on the student.

Any determination made by a hearing officer, panel, or tribunal is a recommendation only to the local school superintendent. The local school superintendent shall affirm or deny the recommendation within five days of receiving the recommendation.

The local school board will establish provisions governing the manner of selection of hearing officers or members of the panel or tribunal, procedures to be followed, and confidentiality of student records.

Senator Jones stated he brought this bill before the committee because of a problem his county, Henry County, is having with tribunals. He is not trying to micro-manage he just wants to define who can sit on a tribunal panel and believes it should be more than just one officer.

Stone, 23rd asked who appoints the panel.

Jones, 10th stated the local school board appoints and in most cases it is the school resource officer.

The Chairman asked if the hearing officer's decision is appealable.

Jones, 10th stated yes.

The Chairman stated he was going to assign **SB 321 to the School Choice and Policy Subcommittee** to have a full hearing and work out the differences. The chairman continued by stating this is a local issue and he has major concerns about resources and input from both large and small school system.

Kisah Towns and Quentin Fretwell, DeKalb County Safe Schools spoke against the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on February 6, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Burke, 11th

Hufstetler, 52nd

Millar, 40th

James, 35th

Miller, 49th

Stone, 23rd

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1:09 p.m. by announcing the Charter School System Foundation will present a report of progress over the last year.

Mr. Chuck Ledbetter, Dublin City Schools, on governance stated 5 years ago the graduation rate was 59% in 2012 the graduation rate has jumped to 88% with a 4 year standard. This is community involvement as well as the council overseeing the progress and keeping the community involved.

Emily Lembeck, Marietta City Schools, which is a charter system, said choice has given them the flexibility to redesign and retain and attract the best teachers. The best teachers who have a theme of creative thinking for the students which has increased attendance and kept students engaged.

Mr. Allen McCannas, Madison City Schools stated economic development has kept the success of his school system. Caterpillar has partnered with the school to offer corporation programs and internships for the students. The Madison City School System also has a high parental involvement which has kept students involved.

Mr. Eric Arena, Superintendent Putnam County Schools stated his system has 80% free and reduced lunches. 95% of the lowest achiever passed the 9th grade CRCT test. They offer classes through the summer with charter school dollars to keep the students engaged and on target academically.

Senator Stone, 23rd asked Ms. Lembeck how she keeps and retains the best teachers. She stated she offers compensation for the following:

1. Degrees and advanced degrees
2. Performance evaluation
3. Tuition reimbursements – incentive pay
4. Hires advanced degree personnel

5. Advanced roles and responsibilities – added compensation
6. Teacher and administrator effectiveness

Senator Hufstetler made the statement he is thankful for the charter school system
Chairman Tippins thanked everyone for their presentations. He stated the author of SB 343 has asked to hold that bill until our next scheduled meeting. The first bill called was SB 301.

SB 301, Millar, 40th: Allowing wood construction in public school facilities:

Senator Millar, 40th, stated this bill amends the statute relating to minimum facility requirements in public school facilities to disallow prohibitions on wood construction. Senator Millar, 40th, also stated the Department of Education put prohibitions in Rule and that is why we are doing this through statute.

Senator Stone, 23rd asked for the history of the prohibition and Senator Millar, 40th, replied it was put in Rule in the 1900's.

Steve McWilliams, Georgia Forestry Association, stated wood is used in other states for school facilities such as California, Arkansas, and South Carolina. This is an economic driver as it keeps the State growing trees.

John Mixon, Georgia Farm Bureau, spoke in favor the legislation.

Senator Stone 23rd asked about the cost increase in insurance.

Senator Millar, 40th stated there is a cost and it is made public

Senator Wilkinson, 50th made the motion Do pass which was seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous. **SB 301 Do Pass.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on February 18, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB.

Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

Burke, 11th

Hufstetler, 52nd

Fort, 39th

James, 35th

Stone, 23rd, arrived 4:27 p.m.

Tate, 38th, arrived 4:25 p.m.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Chairman called Senator Mullis to present the first bill on the agenda.

SB 343, (LC 33 5523S): Mullis, 53rd ; “Quality Basic Education Act” Conditioning the Participation of Public Schools in Athletic Associations

Senator Mullis offered a substitute to SB 343, explaining the bill offers a fairer opportunity for high schools to be heard by the Georgia High School Association (G.H.S.A). The overview of the bill includes membership, offers term limits for members and fair and equal membership within the organization.

Senator Fort, 39th inquired about diversity within the G.H.S.A

Ralph Swearngin with the G.H.S.A informed there is little diversity within the G.H.S.A. He also gave an overview of the structure of the G.H.S.A. and inquired about the definition of employment within SB 343.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th, asked Mr. Swearngin how the G.H.S.A. can address the lack of diversity. Mr. Swearngin offered no solution.

Senator Powell Sims, 12th, inquired how the executive director is chosen.

Mr. Swearngin explained it is done through an interview process with a small committee, then through the whole board.

Senator Powell Sims, 12th further asked about term limits within the organization.

Mr. Swearngin explained there was no need for term limits because there are changes every two years already.

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd, inquired about the reclassification process.

Mr. Swearngin explained the process of reclassification – the process is done over a 15 month period with sub committees, with an appeal process and the ability for schools to make a lateral move.

Senator Fort, 39th, asked if there were any means to explore practical ways to promote diversity.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th, asked for more information concerning the appeals process for reclassification.

Mr. Swearngin answered that all decisions by the Executive Committee are appealable.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th, so all appeals are essentially approved or denied.

Mr. Swearngin answered the process is about 50/50.

Senator Stone, 23rd, made a motion Do pass by substitute, seconded by Powell Sims, 12th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 343 Do Pass by Substitute

Those speaking about SB 343:

Ralph Swearngin, Georgia High School Association

The next bill on the agenda was SB 319 by Senator Jackson, 2nd. There is no vote on this bill. This is a hearing only.

[SB 319, \(LC 21 2337\) Jackson, 2nd Mandatory Education; Adult Literacy Programs](#)

Senator Jackson provided an overview of the bill, including a fiscal note.

[SB 372, McKoon, 29th HOPE Scholarship; Uniform Reporting System](#)

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd made a motion Do pass, seconded by Senator Powell Sims, 12th. The vote was unanimous. **SB 372 Do Pass.**

SB 372 Do Pass

Chairman Tippins passed running the meeting to Vice-Chairman Wilkinson to present SR 875.

[SR 875, Hill, 4th Forms a Joint Study Committee on the “Property Tax Digest Impact on Education Funding”](#)

Senator Tippins explains the resolution, offering there is a shared relationship between county and state.

Senator Stone 23rd, made a motion Do pass, seconded by Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous. **SR 875 Do Pass**

[SB 356, Tippins, 37th Georgians of Great Character Month](#)

Senator Wilkinson, 50th made a motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous.

SB 356 Do Pass

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on February 20, 2014 at 1:15 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB.

Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary, departed at 1:24 p.m.
Burke, 11th
Hufstetler, 52nd
Millar, 40th
James, 35th
Miller, 49th
Stone, 23rd

The chairman called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Chairman Tippins thanked everyone in attendance and called Senator Ligon to present the first bill on the agenda.

Others attending:

Chairman Brooks Coleman, 97th
Representative Mike Dudgeon, 25th

SB 167, (LC 33 5577ERS); Ligon, 3rd: Restore Educational Authority to Georgia Citizens Act and the Student Right to Privacy Act.

Content standards replaces common core curriculum. Content standards for each of the four subject areas of math, english language arts, science and social studies must be reviewed by the Department of Education (DOE) every five years. Any proposed changes to the content standards for a core subject area must be reviewed by the Content Standards Advisory Council. Such Council will be appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker. The bill delineates eligibility of Council members; their duties; the process for reviewing proposed changes to the content standards; and the frequency of their meetings. Additionally, the Senate and House Education committees may hold public meetings on proposed changes to the Content standards.

Content Standards Advisory Council will be composed of the following 15 members:

- Nine parents or grandparents representing public school students; three parents or grandparents from each school level
- Three private-sector representatives; and

- Three postsecondary content specialists (currently employed or retired, who have taught in the subject area for at least five years in a postsecondary institution and has an advanced or doctorate degree).

Beginning September 24, 2014, and until the completion of the adoption of the content standards created herein, all school systems will have the flexibility to decide its curriculum and instruction, including returning to curriculum aligned to the former Georgia Performance Standards that were in effect in June 2010. Once adopted, local school systems may expand and enrich the content standards as they deem appropriate. The bill delineates that upon the bill's effective date, Georgia must retain sole control over the development and revision of content standards. The State shall not adopt any content standards established by a consortium of states or any federally prescribed content standards.

The DOE must annually submit to the General Assembly a detailed report of all grants, federal and private, applied for or received by the DOE. Such report must include: long-term projections of unfunded costs; justification for the program; negative effects on the constitutional rights of Georgia Citizens; and the purpose of the program. All state-wide K-12 tests and assessments must be controlled by the state of Georgia without any obligation to any other entity.

Student Right to Privacy Act

Unless explicitly required by federal law, no state agency, local district or educational institution may collect any data on a student or family without written consent of the parents, unless such data is directly related to the educational needs of the student. Examples of the types of information that is not considered directly related to the educational needs of a student would be: student biometric data; family religious affiliations; family political affiliations; student or family sexual orientation; student or family gun ownership; and family income data.

No funds, whether from private or federal grants, may be used to build or expand student data base that does not comply with this Act. No state agency, local school system or education institution may accept any grant that is in violation of this Act.

The bill further delineates that access to education records in the student data base for research is restricted to authorized persons who require such access to perform their assigned duties. Local systems must develop public criteria for the approval of research related data requests from other governmental entities and academic researchers.

Additionally, provisions of the bill define what information from education records may be provided to consultants, contractors, and other third party persons performing audits, evaluations, compliance work or any such type of program.

Finally, the bill provides for civil penalties for violations by a contractor that has entered into a contract with an educational institution or local school system and that violated the provisions of this Act. Civil penalties for third and subsequent violations may be \$20,000.00 and result in permanent disqualification from future contracts.

The Student Right to Privacy Act will apply to school years beginning with the 2014-2015 academic school year. The bill becomes effective upon approval of the Governor or when it becomes law without such approval.

Senator Ligon introduced SB 167, offering that he worked with Chairman Tippins, the Governor's office, Speaker Pro-Tem, Chairman Coleman and the Lieutenant Governor. This bill will allow Georgia to maintain control of what students are taught. Senator Ligon walked through the bill.

One complaint was that teachers were out of the process.

There was an amendment for an immediate review of the mathematic standards and the language arts standards.

There was an amendment request from the State Board of Education.

Senator Stone – commended the hard work and asked if the Governor's office approved both amendments.

There were thirteen speakers – Senator Tippins set the rules that each speaker is allowed 1 minute each.

Ruth O'Dell and Cynthia Phillips from Franklin County Schools – they were concerned with lines 70-76 they want to add 3 K-12 educators to the advisory council, and squeeze and compact review process. There are also concerns with retraining of teachers.

Next to speak was Angela Palm with the G.S.B.A., she expressed concerns with privacy, also with G.S.B.A was John Zauner expressed concerns with the overreaching of government.

Louis Erste with the Georgia Department of Education spoke about concerns with the review process timeline.

Chuck Clay was concerned about the cumbersomeness of the bill and feels that the bill undermines current progress.

Senator James – Can the school work with Common Core?

Chuck Clay responded yes.

Joel Foster with Americans for Prosperity, Kathy Angelucci with the Cobb County Board of Education, Deborah White with GACIS and GAEL, Caroline Riley all expressed support for the bill.

Mike McPherson, a concerned parent expressed worry that there are too many changes in the bill.

Chairman Coleman and Representative Dudgeon both expressed support for the bill.

Senator Ligon offered an amendment to line 344 which would add K through 12

Senator Wilkinson questioned the lack of K-12 representation on the panel.

Senator Ligon offered that was what the sub committees were for.

Senator Stone echoed Senator Wilkinson's concerns.

Senator Stone, 23rd, made a motion Do pass by substitute, seconded by Senator Millar, 40th. The vote was unanimous.

Senator Stone, 23rd, made a motion Do Pass to the amendments, seconded by Senator Millar, 40th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 167 (LC 33 5577ERS) Do Pass by Substitute

Chairman Tippins introduced SB 384, LC 335576S.

SB 384 (LC 33 5576S) Millar, 40th – America's Founding Philosophy and Principle Act

It is important that our children have a clear understanding of the founding philosophy and principles of our government. This bill allows for a new Code section requiring the local boards of education, beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, to recommend high school students grades ninth through twelfth to participate in a semester course of study in America's founding philosophy and founding principles. No student will be eligible to receive a diploma if they have not passed this course. The Department of Education and local boards of education will be responsible for providing the content for this course and training teachers to ensure that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented. A biennial report will be submitted by the Department of Education no later than October 15th of each odd-numbered year to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth Committee.

The required course of study must focus on the following:

Founding Philosophies Including:

- The Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;
- The purpose of government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;
- The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and
- The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework.

Founding Principles Including:

- Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill of Rights;
- The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;
- The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none; and
- Eternal vigilance by “We the People.”

Senator Millar, 40th introduced and gave an overview of the bill.

Senator Miller, 49th voiced support for the bill.

Don Vaughn expressed support of the bill with no changes to the bill.

Senator Stone, 23rd, made a motion Do pass by substitute, seconded by Senator Miller, 49th. The bill passed unanimous.

SB 384 Do Pass by Substitute

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on February 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 310 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

Burke, 11th

Fort, 39th

James, 35th

Miller, 49th

Stone, 23rd

Tate, 38th

Millar, 40th

The Chairman began the meeting at 9:17 a.m. by calling on Reverend Hubbard to begin our meeting with prayer. He was the Pastor of the day for Senator Jackson, 2nd.

The Chairman stated that SB 99, Senator Butler, 55th would be placed at the bottom of the calendar and presented by Senator Ramsey, 43rd. The first bill called was SB 409

SB 409, Jackson 2nd Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act:

Senator Jackson presented the bill saying this bill requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired child to determine the child's need for Braille instruction. Also requires Braille instruction in the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student; requires publishers of textbooks and other materials sold to any local board of education to furnish an electronic version in National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard format to the National Instructional Materials Access Center; and requires teachers of blind or visually impaired children to meet certain requirements for licensing.

Senator Tippins, 37th, asked if there were already requirements in place for teachers to teach blind and visually impaired students. All teachers have to be certified and licensed instructors.

Senator Jackson, 2nd stated standards are already in place for technology changes with National Instructors however the instructors need to be recertified to keep up with technology or relicensed.

Mr. McGibomey, DOE, stated that he had concerns with requiring teachers to pass a national assessment in braille and other types of specific educators needs and he thinks this will bring unintended consequences.

Senator Fort, 39th made the motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator Tate, 38th. The vote was 4 yeas, Fort, 39th, Tate, 38th, Powell-Sims, 12th and James 35th. 3 nays: Burke, 11th, Wilkinson 50th and Miller, 49th. **SB 409 Do Pass.**

SB 415, Ramsey 43rd, Deferments on Assessments for Limited-English Proficient Students: Senator Ramsey explained this bill allows for deferments on certain assessments for limited English-proficient students. A limited English-proficient student will be eligible for up to a two-year deferment from content area assessments, except in the areas of math and science, if the student’s proficiency in English indicates that testing is not in the best educational interest of the student.

Senator Ramsey offered substitute language on line 19 that would address the concerns of the DOE. On Line 19 after the word “law” insert “after assessment by local school boards of education”.

Senator Powell-Sims asked why not defer in Science?

DOE stated that science is an area of focus and it is very difficult to receive waiver from Federal Government.

Senator Millar, 40th made motion to adopt the substitute, seconded by Senator Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous

Senator Millar, 40th, made a motion do pass SB 415 by substitute, seconded by Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous. **SB 415 Do pass by substitute.**

SB 399, Butler, 55th: Revises Time line of Reducing the Amount of Local School Board Members.

Senator Ramsey presented the bill for Senator Butler. Under current law, if local school board members are suspended and removed from office upon the potential loss of accreditation of the school system, the Governor appoints temporary replacement members.

This bill requires that in these counties, any board member serving as of January 1, 2014, who was appointed by the Governor in this way will remain in office until January 1, 2017. If any such board member resigns or is no longer eligible to serve on the school board, the Governor will appoint a replacement member to serve until January 1, 2017.

Chairman Tippins, 37th stated he asked the Governor's office about this legislation. The Governor is not taking a position.

Senator Millar stated this is a local issue with DeKalb County and should go through the State and Local Government Committee. (SLOGO)

Senator Powell-Sims, 12th stated it is important to keep continuity of a school board. This is not a Democrat or Republican bill this is about the children of the county. It is the children who suffer. The district is on probation for two (2) years and the children need and want stability.

Senator Tate, 38th, made a motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator James, 35th. The vote was 8 yeas, Tate, 39th, James, 35th, Fort, 39th, Powell-Sims, 12th, Burke 11th, Wilkinson, 50th, Stone, 23rd and Miller, 49th. One nay vote, Millar, 40th. **SB 399 Do Pass.**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 4, 2014 at 2:00p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Burke, 11th

Hufstetler, 52nd

Fort, 39th

Millar, 40th

James, 35th

Miller, 49th

Stone, 23rd

Tate, 38th

The Chairman called the first bill at 2:08 p.m., HB 766.

HB 766 Lumsden, 12th: Work Based Learning Act.

Representative Lumsden stated this bill changes the provisions of and renames the Youth Apprenticeship Program to the Work Based Learning Program.

Representative Lumsden said he submitted a substitute to the committee and that is what the committee will be working from. HB 766 sub (LC 33-5609S) these changes were brought by Irene Munn in the Lt. Governor's office. Representative Lumsden asked the chairman to let Irene explain the changes.

Irene Munn, Lt. Governor's Office, stated this bill is very similar to Senator Wilkinson's bill that was passed out of the Education Committee. However some minor changes needed to be made that was not done on the Senate Bill. Irene stated recognizing that employers can play an active role in shaping the quality of their future work force, this bill renames the Youth Apprenticeship Program as the work based learning program and further encourages participation by students and expands opportunity for employer participation. The Work Based Learning Program may include employability skills development, cooperative education internships and youth apprenticeships.

The Department of Education must establish guidelines for these programs that include:

- Any eligible student aged 16 or over, regardless of grade, may participate.
- Skill development must be focused on those skills related to the student's career pathway, not just on manufacturing and engineering technologies, office technology, and health care.

- Training plans must also include a training agreement between the student and employer.
- A minimum of one unit of credit in a career pathway course relating to the work based learning placement;
- A minimum number of hours of on-the-job training as required in the department's guidelines for awarding secondary credits;
- Local coordinators must be designated by the local school systems and college and career academies to oversee the work based learning programs established.
- Local coordinators will complete training programs that are collaboratively designed and delivered by the department and the Technical College System of Georgia.
- College and Career Academies established pursuant to Code Section 20-4-37 will be eligible for funding assistance provided for the implementation of the Work Based Learning Program Act.

Senator Burke, 11th, made a motion to adopt the substitute, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd, the vote was unanimous. **HB 766 Do pass by substitute (LC 33 5609S)**

HB 826, Setzler, 35th Hazardous Objects

Representative Setzler stated this bill provides changes to the definitions of key terms. These new definitions are implemented throughout various parts of the official code.

In existing law, a student faces criminal charges and expulsion from school for bringing hazardous objects within a school safety zone. This bill changes provisions to give local school boards the authority to regulate punishments as they deem appropriate.

This bill does not include firearms. It is illegal for any person to possess a firearm or explosive compound other than fireworks within a school safety zone.

Chairman Tippins, 37th, stated he is in complete agreement with the bill.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th, stated this was a really good bill.

Angela Palm, School Board Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Thomas Weaver spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th, made a motion Do pass, seconded by Senator Millar, 40th. The vote was 6 yeas, Miller, 49th, Millar, 40th, Wilkinson, 50th, Stone, 23rd, Hufstetler, 52nd, Burke, 12th, 3 nays, Fort, 39th, Tate, 38th and James 35th. **HB 826 Do Pass**

HB 405, Mayo 84th: Charter Schools; Governance Training;

Representative Mayo stated he has approved the substitute offered by the Lt. Governor's office that would raise the standards for charter school boards and make them accountable. Line 14-17 just added language to include college and career academies as well as the added language on page 2 lines 26-28.

Senator Millar, 40th, made a motion to adopt the substitute, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous. Senator Millar, 40th, made the motion HB 405 Do pass by substitute, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous. **HB 405 Do pass by substitute (LC 33 5604S)**

HB 886, Caldwell, 20th: Public Hearings on Local Education Agencies' Proposed Budgets.

Representative Caldwell stated this bill requires local education agencies to hold at least two public hearings on the proposed budget; and requires a summary of each proposed budget and each adopted budget be posted on the internet; and requires that a full line item detailed budget be made available upon request.

Lewis Massey, Connections Education a virtual school, had a few concerns about language in the bill such as summary of proposed budget. Virtual school do not have public meetings and their budget is already posted. A summary would cause extra hardship.

Senator Millar, 40th had concerns with wording in lines 16-20 concerning "commission charter schools and system charter schools".

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd was concerned about additional costs that could be involved.

The Chairman stated that this bill needs a little work done to satisfy all parties involved. He asked the author to get with those who have concerns and see if they could work out their differences and clarify language.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 6, 2014 at 1:30 in room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th Chairman

Burke, 11th

Hufstetler, 52nd

Fort, 39th

James, 35th

Stone, 23rd

Tate, 38th

The chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Only one bill was on the agenda for a hearing, HB 897. Chairman Tippins asked Representative Dudgeon, 25th to present the bill.

HB 897, Dudgeon, 25th; title 20 revisions; Content Standards; On-Line Learning; Charter Schools.

Representative Dudgeon explained HB 897 is a consolidated bill covering many areas of Education policy. We worked over several weeks with all members of the education community and made over 30 changes from the original bill to satisfy many concerns. Representative Dudgeon explained each section of the bill and what changes were made. They are as follows:

Section 1: Remove very old “population act” made to cover one county

Sections 2, 3: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 4: Eliminate duplicate registry/process for online courses that resulted from SB 289 and HB 175 passing the same year (2012)

Section 6: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 7: Make 1st grade readiness report optional eliminate paperwork, clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 8: Eliminate middle grades program language as we are now funding at a single level for middle school, also clarify state sets content standards. Middle school funding includes virtual schools

Sections 9, 10, 11, 12: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Sections 13, 14, 15, 16: Eliminate middle grades program language as we are now funding at a single level for middle school

Section 17: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 19: This underlying program was repealed in 2012, but we missed this section. It is not funded regardless. Federal and local can still do stipends

Section 20: Allow CFO of the DOE to sign contracts less than \$50,000, though the Superintendent is still responsible

Section 21: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 22: Move State Board of Education student waiver process to internal, not through APA saves paperwork and unnecessary work at Sec. of State office

Section 23: Clarify that capital outlay includes computer equipment and software

Section 24: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 25: Revise state testing policy to reflect new direction of state driven testing, non-funding of yearly norm referenced tests, and desire to have some statistically comparable features to other states in future tests without binding obligation. Clarifies state sets content standards, not curricula. Deletes obsolete section from 2003

Section 26: Eliminate middle grades program language as we are now funding at a single level for middle school

Section 27: Move Governor's Honors Program to GOSA not DOE (follow up to Governor's executive order)

Section 28: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 29: Eliminate paperwork

Section 30: Clarify Georgia Virtual School Funding to match appropriation of the last several years. \$250 per course paid by local BOE when child is enrolled there, pool of free slots funded by general assembly for home and private school kids, others pay no more than \$250 per course

Sections 31, 32: Eliminate duplicate registry/process for online courses that resulted from SB 289 and HB 175 passing the same year (2012)

Section 33: Eliminate obsolete report

Sections 34, 35: Clarify state sets content standards, not curricula

Section 36: Home school reports must include the local school system of residence

Sections 37, 38: Compromise reached by DOE and DCH when locals do not contribute their health insurance share. Instead of DOE withholding all QBE earnings, they will withhold enough to pay the obligation

Section 39: Correct date typos related to previous year's bill moving contract date to May 15

Section 40: Give State Board of Education more options on appeals. It can affirm, reverse, remand, or refer to mediation

Section 41: Clarify definition of charter authorizer

Sections 42, 48: Allow expedited process for existing successful charter organizations to reapply or expand. 42 also establishes twice a year charter deadlines

Sections 42A/B: Establishes twice a year charter deadlines and "shot clocks"

Section 43: Add minimum standards and process for authorizing charter schools

Sections 44, 47: Gives charter schools more options in setting priority attendance zones. Any zone must be a city, county, school district, or other Constitutional political subdivision

Section 45: This is not the "original" section 45. This is a revenue neutral administrative provision to provide clarity of the level of local funding for locally approved charters determined by local boards

Section 46: Sets process for SBOE to develop rules for unused facilities, where charters have first rights of refusal to these spaces

Section 48: State Charter Commission will take applications twice a year instead of once. Clarify any kind of state charter school can have a statewide attendance zone

Section 49: Clarifies 5 mil share deduction for virtual / state charter schools is in proportion to the initial funding received. This interpretation has already been funded in governors AFY14 and FY15 budgets. Allows state charter schools to receive initial payment July 1 for enrollment growth

Section 50: State Charter Commission can operate a nonprofit for donations as specified by previous law

Those speaking in favor of HB 897:

Andrew Lewis, Georgia Charter Association

Bradford Swann, Students First

Jamie Lord, Georgia Center for Opportunity

Lewis Massey, Connections Education

Those speaking against HB 897:

Carolyn Wood, Southern Education Foundation

The Chairman stated after hearing from everyone today he felt that some additional changes needed to be made in the Bill. He suggested all parties get together and find some resolution and be prepared to have this bill voted on at the next scheduled Education and Youth Committee Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

The **Senate Education Committee** met on March 11, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

Miller, 49th

Burke, 11th

Hufstetler, 52nd

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. by calling the only bill on the agenda.

[HB 886](#) Sub, (LC 33 5618S) Caldwell, 20th: Public Hearings on Local Education Agencies' Proposed Annual Budgets.

Representative Caldwell stated to the committee that he has worked with the parties who had concerns about the original bill and has offered a substitute which satisfies all parties involved.

- Requires local education agencies to hold at least two public hearings on the proposed budget;
- Requires that a summary of each proposed budget and each adopted budget be posted on the Internet; and
- Requires that a full line item detailed budget be made available upon request.

This bill defines “local education agency” as any local school system and any charter school, excluding college and career academies that are charter schools, conversion charter schools whose charter is not held by a nonprofit corporation, or system charter schools. It defines “governing body” as the entity responsible for creating and implementing the budget of a local education agency.

Each governing body is required to hold at least two public hearings to provide an opportunity for public input on its proposed annual budget before adopting the budget. The governing body of a charter school with a state-wide attendance zone will conduct one public hearing in the county in which its primary business office is located and one public hearing in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

A summary of the budget proposed by the governing board and the adopted annual budget will be posted on the governing body’s website. A governing body may post the line item detailed proposed and adopted annual budgets to meet this requirement. Upon request, each governing body is required to provide an electronic copy of the full line item detailed budget at no cost within three days of the request.

This bill does not apply to the operating budgets or accounting records of a nonprofit corporation itself that operates a charter school.

Chairman Tippins asked if the required 2 public hearings can be held in conjunction with any regular scheduled meetings. The answer is “yes”

Senator Hefstetler, 52nd made a motion Do Pass by substitute, seconded by Senator Miller, 49th. The vote was unanimous. **HB 886 Do pass by substitute.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 13, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman

Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman

Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

Hufstetler, 52nd

Fort, 39th

James, 35th

Miller, 49th

Stone, 23rd

Tate, 38th

The Chairman started the meeting at 8:15 a.m by asking Senator Miller to lead the committee with prayer.

The first bill called was SR 1201, Jackson, 2nd.

SR 1201, Jackson, 2nd: Integrating Braille Instruction into Classrooms

Senator Jackson explained this Resolution allows every blind or visually impaired child to communicate and learn effectively and efficiently in the classroom. All this Resolution does is urge the State Board of Education to integrate Braille instruction in the classroom. Instructional materials and textbooks in Braille is a primary means to providing a successful education to blind or visually impaired students. Readily available access to student would be available if publishers of textbooks sold to local boards of education, a furnished electronic version in the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard format to the National Instructional Materials Access Center.

Teachers providing academic instruction to blind or visually impaired students should be able to read and write in Braille themselves and be properly trained in how to teach Braille.

Chairman Tippins stated he was willing to work with Senator Jackson and the State Board of Education.

Senator Miller, 49th made the motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator Tate, 38th. The vote was unanimous. **SR 1201 Do Pass.**

HB 897 sub (LC 33 5645 S), Dudgeon, 25th: Content Standards; On line learning; Charter Schools; Title 20 Reviews.

Representative Dudgeon explained this is the substitute he and the chairman had agreed upon stating several changes have been made. He explained the bill by topic and what it does.

Content Standards

This bill requires local school systems' highly rigorous curriculum to align with content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (Board). State criterion based tests must be administered annually to students in first through eighth grades in english, language arts/reading, and mathematics, changed from third to eighth grades. Such tests must contain features that allow for comparability to other states with whom establishing a comparison would be statistically sound; however, no comparison may be conducted which would relinquish any measure of control over assessments to any individual or entity outside the state. The Board must develop an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

On-Line Learning

HB 897 allows students in home study programs and private schools to enroll in courses through the Georgia Virtual School at no cost, if appropriations are provided for this purpose; if funding is not provided, the students may enroll in these courses based on availability of slots and will be subject to the cost of tuition, not to exceed \$250 per student per semester course. Students enrolled in local schools must also pay this fee if they participate in courses that are in excess of the maximum number of courses the student may be enrolled in during a school day.

Charter Schools

HB 897 increases the time frame for approval or denial of a petition for a charter school from 60 to 90 days. This bill also allows the State Charter Schools Commission to create the State Charter Schools Foundation, a non-profit, to actively seek donations to promote state charter schools and any other purpose of the commission. Funds may be awarded through a competitive grant process administered by the commission.

Other Provisions

Language in current law relating to the middle grades program has been removed, now only referencing the middle school program. The bill also allows the State School Superintendent to delegate to the chief financial officer the authority to execute contracts of \$50,000 or less on behalf of DOE. Students may petition the Board for a variance or

waiver to a rule in times of substantial hardship. The Board will also satisfy all outstanding obligations of the local employer to the health insurance fund.

The bill repeals the provision in current law which prohibits members of county boards of education in counties with populations between 500,000 – 600,000 from holding another elective office. The teacher contract renewal notice date is now May 15th (previously April 15th), and an educator's notification date of non-acceptance of a contract is now June 1st (previously May 1st).

The Chairman stated the committee did not have enough time to fully vet this bill therefore most of the Charter School language has been omitted. The chairman also stated he plans to travel around the state this fall to have Charter School listening sessions. This will give the committee a better understanding of how the voters feel about Charter Schools.

The Chairman also made a statement about being a clear distinction of the role of the State Department of Education and the role of the districts.

Senator Tate commended the Chairman on an excellent job he has done on the bill with just 8 days left of the 2014 legislative session. She still has reservations about the bill but appreciates the work that has been done by introducing the substitute.

Senator Sims said she cannot support this legislation because we are asking our public schools to compete for dollars.

Senator Stone, 23rd made the motion Do pass by substitute, seconded by Miller, 49th. The vote was 4 yeas, Wilkinson, 50th, Stone, 23rd, Miller, 49th and Hufstetler, 52nd; 4 nays Powell-Sims, 12th, Fort, 39th, James, 35th and Tate, 38th. The Chairman broke the tie with a yea vote. **HB 897 Do Pass by Substitute.**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

/s/ Senator Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary

March 24, 2014

Honorable David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
Georgia State Senate
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Senate Education and Youth Committee is returning the following Senate and House Bills and Resolutions:

<u>SB 21</u>	<u>SR 1042</u>
<u>SB 22</u>	
<u>SB 43</u>	<u>HB 123</u>
<u>SB 57</u>	<u>HB 327</u>
<u>SB 77</u>	
<u>SB 79</u>	
<u>SB 89</u>	
<u>SB 109</u>	
<u>SB 114</u>	
<u>SB 162</u>	
<u>SB 203</u>	
<u>SB 215</u>	
<u>SB 267</u>	
<u>SB 271</u>	
<u>SB 279</u>	
<u>SB 289</u>	
<u>SB 319</u>	
<u>SB 321</u>	
<u>SB 388</u>	
<u>SB 414</u>	

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski
Recording Secretary