

## SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014

Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, *Chairman*  
3102 Raines Court  
Marietta, GA 30062

Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>, *Vice Chairman*  
110 Beacon Hill  
Valdosta, GA 31602

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, *Secretary*  
2451 Cumberland Pkwy, Suite 3439  
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Senator Renee S. Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, *Ex-Officio*  
P.O. Box 508  
Buford, GA 30518

Senator Don Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
2312 Waterscape Trail  
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Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
P.O. Box 6389  
Augusta, GA 30916

Senator David Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>  
P.O. Box 880  
Duluth, GA 30096

Senator Jack Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, *Ex-Officio*  
P.O. Box 486  
Reidsville, GA 30453

Senator John Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>  
885 Woodstock Rd. #215, Suite 430  
Roswell, GA 30075

Senator Ronnie Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>  
P.O. Box 267  
Tyrone, GA 30290

Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>  
2225 Cashtown Road  
Bremen, GA 30110

Senator Steve Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
1170 Longwood Drive  
Marietta, GA 30008

## **2014 Senate Finance Committee Rules**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full committee.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman.
5. Any member or members of the committee who disagree with the majority report of the committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
6. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the committee.
7. A bill, resolution or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
8. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.
9. Unless approved by the Chairman, all amendments or substitute bills must be submitted to chairman at least 24 hours before adoption by the committee.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
1/23/2014**

The first Senate Finance Committee meeting of the 2014 Session was held on Thursday, 1/23/2014 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Late Arrivals	Early Departures
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> , Chairman Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> , Vice Chairman Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup>	None	None

Chairman Hill began the meeting with an organizational overview, providing an explanation of the Committee rules. Chairman Hill proceeded with the introduction of staff that would assist the Senate Finance Committee for the 2014 Session.

Following the completion of organizational announcements, the committee took up two bills scheduled on the agenda, HB 399 and SR 415. Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> spoke first on [HB 399](#) which clarifies that airport concessionaires are considered usufructs at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport and fully exempts those businesses from ad valorem tax issued by Clayton County. Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> went on to note that since concessionaires are considered usufruct, they have no claim in property and can be removed at any time, and for those reasons they should not be required to pay county ad valorem tax.

**HB 399 (David Knight, 130<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to ad valorem tax and clarifies what types of interests in real property may be subject to taxation. It exempts airport concessioners from the Clayton County Ad Valorem Airport Tax.**

<b>Testified for HB 399</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Nancy Cook	Concessionaire at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport
<b>Testified Against HB 399</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jack Hancock	Clayton County
Dan Lee	College Park

Senator Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 7-1, Yeas: Senators Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>, Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>. Nay: Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>. Senator Miller, 49<sup>th</sup> carried the bill in the Senate.

**HB 399: DO PASS**

The final piece of legislation taken up was [SR 415](#). Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> spoke on the resolution which prohibits the General Assembly from raising the state income tax and would cap the current income tax rate at 6%. Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> noted that 6% was the highest rate in the Southeast and two neighboring states have 0 state income tax. Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> closed by stating this bill is vital to maintaining Georgia's attractive low tax environment and competitiveness.

**SR 415 (David Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>): This resolution is a constitutional amendment that prohibits an increase in state income tax by the General Assembly and caps the current rate at 6%.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 7-1, Yeas: Senators Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>, Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, & Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>. Nay: Senator Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>. Representative Matt Ramsey, 72<sup>nd</sup> carried the resolution in the House.

**SR 415: DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
2/6/2014**

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Thursday, 2/6/2014 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Late Arrivals	Early Departures
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> , Chairman Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> , Vice Chairman Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> , Ex-Officio Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup>	None	None

This meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. The committee took up three bills scheduled on the agenda, starting with [SB 293](#). Senator Millar, 40<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which would add new compliance regulations for county boards of tax assessors and outlining right of taxpayers.

**SB 293 (Fran Millar, 40<sup>th</sup>): This bill would require tax assessors to include blighted properties in close proximity to the assessed property when determining fair market value. It gives jurisdiction of enforcement to Georgia Superior Courts and establishes penalties for failing to provide assessment records in a timely manner.**

Testified for SB 293	Organization
Walter Hotz	Attorney for Board of Equalization Tax Appeals

Chairman Hill then made a motion to **POSTPONE** the vote on SB 293 until a later date.

**SB 293: POSTPONE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [SR 783](#). Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> spoke on SR 783 which proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit the imposition of ad valorem taxes. The Constitutional Amendment would bar the General Assembly from

raising the ad valorem tax in the future, thereby requiring an amendment to the Constitution to do so.

**SR 783 (Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>): This resolution is a Constitutional Amendment which would prohibit the levy of state ad valorem taxes.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 5-1, Yeas: Senators Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Nay: Senator Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>. Representative Carson, 46<sup>th</sup> carried the resolution in the House.

**SR 783: DO PASS**

The final piece of legislation taken up was [SB 287](#). Senator Seay, 34<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which would permit authorization for the proceeds of County Special Purpose Local Option Sales and Use Tax to be used for maintenance and operation of public transportation. Simply put, the bill would add another designation for which a county could use the proceeds of a SPLOST.

**SB 287 (Valencia Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to sales and use tax so as to authorize the use and expenditure of tax proceeds for maintenance and operation of public transportation.**

Testified for SB 287	Organization
Tom Bauer	Amalgamated Transit Union-Local 732

Chairman Hill made a motion to **POSTPONE** the vote on SB 287 until a later date.

**SB 287: POSTPONE**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
2/18/2014**

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, 2/18/2014 in room 450 of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Late Arrivals</b>	<b>Early Departures</b>
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Chairman Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup>	Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> , Secretary Arrived at 4:32 p.m. Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Arrived at 4:38 p.m.	None

This meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. The committee then proceeded to take up the only bill on the agenda, [HB 719](#). Representative Tanner, 9<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which assists in determining how SPLOST proceeds are to be distributed between a county and municipalities. The need for guidelines arose when it was considered unconstitutional for a judge outside of the circuit to make a ruling on a tax dispute to nonbinding arbitration submitted by a county and municipalities. Action was deemed unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers between legislative and judicial branches.

**HB 719 (Kevin Tanner, 9<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to sales and use tax levied and collected and provides continuation of joint county and municipal tax by permitting the city and county to come to a binding agreement which honors distribution certificates filed with the tax commissioner between June 4, 2010 and October 18, 2013**

<b>Organizations in Support of HB 719</b>
Georgia Municipal Association
Association of County Commissioners of Georgia

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was, 5-0. Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> declined to vote. Senator Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup> carried the bill in the Senate.

**HB 719: DO PASS**

The next bill on the agenda was [SB 327](#) and was a **HEARING ONLY**. Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill.

**SB 327 (John Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>): This bill would modify certain provisions of tax executions.**

Testified for SB 327	Organization
Dan Ray	Georgia Association of Tax Officials

**SB 327: HEARING ONLY**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary



**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
2/25/2014**

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, 2/25/2014 in room 450 of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Late Arrivals</b>	<b>Early Departures</b>
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Chairman Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup>	Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Secretary Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman Arrived at 8:35 a.m.	None

This meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. There were three pieces of legislation on the agenda, SB 293, SR 1027, and SB 412. The committee took up [SB 293](#) first. Senator Millar, 40<sup>th</sup> spoke on SB 293, which had been postponed at the previous Senate Finance Committee meeting on 2/6/2014. SB 293 adds new compliance regulations for county boards of tax assessors and outlines rights of taxpayers. Senator Millar, 40<sup>th</sup> stated the bill was designed to provide a more even playing field for taxpayers dealing with tax assessors by offering more readily available information that is useful in the appeals process. At the request of President Pro Tempore, Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> new guidelines were incorporated. The provisions state the county board of tax assessors will have 90 days, opposed to 180 days, to respond to the taxpayer's appeal of property assessment. If the board of tax assessors fails to respond to an appeal within 90 days, the property valuation submitted by the taxpayer will become the tax assessed value for the tax year under appeal. In addition, if the county board of equalization fails to hold the required hearing on a taxpayer's appeal within 30 days, the valuation submitted by the taxpayer in the appeal will become the assessed value.

**SB 293 (Fran Millar, 40<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to ad valorem tax so as to revise a definition and provide certain information to be given to the taxpayer upon request.**

Testified Against SB 293	Organization
Steve Pruitt	Gwinnett County Chief Appraiser
Stephen White	Cobb County Chief Appraiser
Calvin Hicks	DeKalb County Chief Appraiser

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0. Representative Jacobs, 80<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the House.

**SB 293: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [SR 1027](#). Senator Beach, 21<sup>st</sup> spoke on the resolution which creates the SPLOST Reform Joint Study Committee which would examine and offer considerations to enhance flexibility by granting local governments and school systems more options in structuring existing local option sales taxes to better meet local needs.

**SR 1027 (Brandon Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>): This resolution creates the SPLOST Reform Joint Study Committee.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 5-1, Yeas: Senators Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>, Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>. Nay: Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Representative Harbin, 122<sup>nd</sup> will carry the resolution in the House.

**SR 1027: DO PASS**

The final piece of legislation taken up was [SB 412](#). Senator Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup> spoke on the bill which changes the amount of the Basic Skills Education Program tax credit from equal to 1/3 of the costs of education per full-time equivalent student or \$150.00, whichever is of lesser value, to \$500.00 per full-time student. The Basic Skills Education Program tax credit provides an incentive for employers to offer employees the opportunity to achieve high school level education.

**SB 412 (Steve Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup>): This bill relates to income tax and increases the amount of the basic skills education program tax credit.**

There was no public comment.

There were two amendments added:

Amendment #1: Places a cap of \$2 million on the total amount of tax credits granted in a taxable year.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1, Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion.

Amendment #2: Lowers the amount of tax credit per qualified employee from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #2, Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion.

**Both Amendments were adopted unanimously.**

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0.

**SB 412: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, Chairman

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
3/6/2014**

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Thursday, 3/6/2014 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Late Arrivals</b>	<b>Early Departures</b>
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Chairman Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Secretary Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Secretary Arrived at 4:47 p.m. Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Arrived at 5:02 p.m.	Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Departed at 5:40 p.m. Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Departed at 5:41 p.m. Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Departed at 5:42 p.m.

This meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. There were six bills on the agenda which were as follows: HB 153, HB 658, HB 782, HB 791, HB 918, and HB 958. The committee first took up [HB 782](#). Representative Williamson, 115<sup>th</sup> spoke on HB 782 which exempts the requirement for state income taxes for emergency workers that come into Georgia for infrastructure repairs during times of natural disasters.

**HB 782 (Bruce Williamson, 115<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to state administration and enforcement of taxation so as to grant immunity to certain tax liabilities for businesses and employees entering Georgia to repair damage due to a disaster or emergency.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 782: DO PASS**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 153](#). Representative Carson, 46<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which gave counties and cities the options to levy fractional SPLOST. Representative Carson, 46<sup>th</sup> included that his fractional SPLOST proposal differs from similar legislation in the past because it requires the fraction be in increments of .05%. Secondly, if the county chooses to enact fractional SPLOST it must sign an intergovernmental agreement with all its municipalities. In addition, the committee had concern with one particular provision that stated only one fractional SPLOST could be levied at one time. The committee then offered an amendment that would return lines 63-64 to the original language, striking the word “single” which in turn would permit levying more than one fractional SPLOST up to 1%.

**HB 153 (John Carson, 46<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to the county special purpose local option sales tax, so as to allow such taxes to be imposed at a rate of less than 1 percent and to provide for simultaneous levy of more than one tax under such part if the combined rate of such taxes does not exceed 1 percent.**

<b>Testified for HB 153</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Terry Lawler	Regional Business Coalition of Metro Atlanta
Slade Gullede	Cobb Chamber of Commerce
Joel Foster	Americans for Prosperity
James Touchton	Council for Quality Growth
<b>Testified Against HB 153</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Michael McPherson	Georgia Municipal Association

Amendment #1: Return lines 63-64 to original language, while striking the word “single” from line 63.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1, Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. **Motion was adopted.**

Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 153: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 791](#). Representative Stephens, 164<sup>th</sup> spoke on HB 791 which provides that the redrawing of a census tract does not disqualify a designation as a less developed area for tax credit purposes. The bill addresses an issue pertaining to parts of Bryan County which was redrawn, inadvertently excluding certain

portions from the military zone, subsequently causing Bryan County to lose their tax credit. The bill ensures that if portions of an area were in a military zone prior to the redrawing of the census tract then it will still qualify for the tax credit.

**HB 791 (Ron Stephens, 164<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to credits for business enterprises in less developed areas and provides that redrawing census tracts shall not disqualify a designated military zone as a less developed area.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Carter, 1<sup>st</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 791: DO PASS**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 658](#). Representative Pak, 108<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which repeals the state estate tax in its entirety. Representative Pak, 108<sup>th</sup> explained that there is still estate tax money that is due to the state. Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> proposed an Amendment which clarifies that no tax return shall be required by the state.

**HB 658 (B.J. Pak, 108<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to revenue and taxation so as to repeal Chapter 12, pertaining to estate tax and would prohibit the levy or collection of estate taxes.**

There was no public comment.

Amendment #1: Insert the words “by the state” to the end of line 15.

Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1 and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. **Motion was adopted unanimously.**

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 658: DO PASS BY SUBSTITTUE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 958](#). Representative Nimmer, 178<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which includes extension and revision of the qualified interactive entertainment production company tax credit, sales tax exemptions for purchases made

by food banks and food donated to food banks, extensions of the project of regional significance sales tax exemptions, and back to school sales tax holidays.

**HB 958 (Chad Nimmer, 178<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to revenue and taxation so as to change certain provisions relating to the state income tax credit for qualified entertainment production companies; provide for a new exemption from state sales and use taxes to qualified food banks; provide for a new exemption from state sales and use taxes for covered items on specified dates; and to provide a new exemption for purchase of energy efficient products or water efficient products to extend the exemption from state sales and use taxes for competitive projects of regional significance.**

Testified for HB 958	Organization
David Raynor	Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 958: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The final piece of legislation taken up was [HB 918](#). Representative Peake, 141<sup>st</sup> spoke on the bill which is the annual Internal Revenue Code update. The bill matches up federal law with state law. In addition, the bill includes a provision which requires all third-party payroll providers to submit all state withholding tax registration application electronically.

**HB 918 (Allen Peake, 141<sup>st</sup>): This bill relates to revenue and taxation, so as to define the terms “Internal Revenue Code” and “Internal Revenue Code of 1986” and thereby incorporate certain provisions of the federal law into Georgia law.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 918: DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary



**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
3/10/2014**

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee was held on Monday, 3/10/2014 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Late Arrivals	Early Departures
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Chairman Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Secretary Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup>	Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	None	None

This meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. There were four bills on the agenda which were as follows: HB 683, HB 755, HB 900, and HB 933. The first bill taken up was [HB 933](#). Representative Atwood, 179<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which removes the sunset for the tax exemption for the sale or use of engines, parts, equipment, and other tangible personal property used in the maintenance or repair of aircraft being repaired in this state, provided that the aircraft is not registered in Georgia. Secondly, the bill includes a tax credit for construction materials to be used in the construction of the civil rights museum.

**HB 933 (Alex Atwood, 179<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to sales and use tax so as to remove sunset exemptions regarding sale or use of certain property used in maintenance or repair of certain aircrafts.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 4-3, Yeas: Senators Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nays: Senators Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Senator Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 933: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 755](#). Representative Powell, 171<sup>st</sup> spoke on the bill which expands the current definition of the 2008 forest land fair market value to allow it to reflect a change as a result of an appeal. In addition, the bill addresses procedures for the appeals process.

**HB 755 (Jay Powell, 171<sup>st</sup>): This bill relates to ad valorem tax so as to revise the definition and provisions of forest land fair market value.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 755: DO PASS**

The two remaining pieces of legislation on the agenda were hearing only. The committee heard next [HB 900](#). Representative Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which exempts consumables used in the manufacturing process from state sales and use tax. Representative Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup> went on to mention that energy inputs were exempted by the General Assembly a few years ago, however, consumables were left out of the exemption. This bill has minimal fiscal impact and broad support from the manufacturing industry.

**HB 900 (Brett Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to state sales tax exemption so as to include consumable supplies used in manufacturing.**

Testified for HB 900	Organization
Roy Bowen	Georgia Association of Manufacturers

**HB 900: HEARING ONLY**

The final bill discussed on the agenda was [HB 683](#). Representative Carson, 46<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which provides that allocations to owners of an entity that are eligible for low-income tax credit under Georgia law remain eligible for the Georgia credit irrespective of their eligibility under the Federal income tax law. The legislation neither expands nor contracts the number of eligible participants or the credit amounts so the revenue impact is neutral.

**HB 683 (John Carson, 46<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to income tax and provides that certain allocations to owners of certain entities shall be governed by Georgia law.**

<b>Testified for HB 683</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Robin Delmer	Georgia State Tax Credit Exchange

**HB 683: HEARING ONLY**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the  
Senate Finance Committee  
3/13/2014**

The final Senate Finance Committee meeting of the 2014 Session was held on Thursday, 3/13/2014 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at 10:47 a.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Late Arrivals	Early Departures
Hill of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Chairman Hill of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Secretary Hill of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Albers of the 56 <sup>th</sup> Balfour of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> Davis of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Heath of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Golden of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman	Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Arrived at 10:50 a.m. Thompson of the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Arrived at 11:15 a.m.	Unterman of the 45 <sup>th</sup> Ex-Officio Departed at 11: 35 a.m. Chance of the 16 <sup>th</sup> stepped out at 11:36 a.m. and returned at 11:47 a.m. Shafer of the 48 <sup>th</sup> stepped out at 11:38 a.m. and returned at 11:50 a.m.

This final meeting began with opening remarks from Chairman Hill. There were ten bills on the agenda which were as follows: HB 1000, HB 757, HB 900, HB 983, HB 295, HB 819, HB 954, HB 729, HB 34, and HB 816. The first piece of legislation taken up was [HB 1000](#). Representative Fleming, 121<sup>st</sup> spoke on the bill which grants courts the ability to collect debt which it is owed through collection of a debtor’s state income tax refund. The legislation extends ability for the Department of Revenue to collect outstanding debt owed to the courts. Representative Fleming, 121<sup>st</sup> proposed an amendment to correct a clerical error by striking “local claimant agency” and adding “court” on line 245.

**HB 1000 (Barry Fleming, 121<sup>st</sup>): This bill pertains to revenue and taxation so as to provide for setoff debt collection against state income tax refunds for debts owed to political subdivisions and courts.**

There was no public comment.

Amendment #1: Strike “local claimant agency” and add “court” on line 245.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1 and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. **Amendment #1 was adopted unanimously.**

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 1000: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 757](#). Representative Powell, 171<sup>st</sup> spoke on the bill which alters the CUVA statute so as to permit land owners who have property in a covenant, who wish to install solar power panels, to remove such property from the covenant without causing a breach. In addition, the property would be taxed at fair market value once it is removed from the covenant.

**HB 757 (Jay Powell, 171<sup>st</sup>): This bill pertains to ad valorem tax so as to provide that the use of certain property for collection and conversation of solar energy shall not constitute breach of conservation use covenants.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 8-1, Yeas: Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>. Nay: Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 757: DO PASS**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 900](#), which had a hearing in committee on 3/10/2014. Representative Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which exempts consumables used in the manufacturing process from state sales and use tax. Energy inputs were exempted by the General Assembly a few years ago; however, consumables were left out of the exemption. This bill has minimal fiscal impact and broad support from the manufacturing industry.

**HB 900 (Brett Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to state sales tax exemption so as to include consumable supplies used in manufacturing.**

Testified for HB 900	Organization
Roy Bowan	Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Steve McWilliams	Georgia Forestry Association
Lee Lemke	Georgia Mining Association

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 900: DO PASS**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 983](#). Representative McCall, 33<sup>rd</sup> spoke on the bill which more clearly defines who is eligible for tax exemptions within the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) program. In addition, the bill explains the tax exempt status of a contractor doing business with a qualified agricultural producer.

**HB 983 (Tom McCall, 33<sup>rd</sup>): This bill pertains to state sales and use tax so as to clarify eligible exemptions for qualified agriculture producers.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 983: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 295](#). Representative Battles, 15<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which makes numerous changes to property assessments and appeals laws that were primarily initiated by SB 346 (2010) which provided many protections and options for property owners to receive better service, more information, and broader appeal options and guarantees. Among the highlights are options for property owners to receive election communications regarding their property assessment and tax bills. There will be stronger Board of Equalization oversight with appointment/removal and educational requirements. Counties with a high number of appeals will receive longer duration to provide appeal determinations. Property owners can combine multiple appeals into a single hearing. Sales ratio studies regarding the Tax Digest may be reviewed by the State Auditor and Tax Digest must be provided to the State by July 15<sup>th</sup> annually. The Clerks of Superior Courts may appoint appeals administrators to oversee appeals. Property taxes must be paid 85 percent of sum due during the appeal process.

**HB 295 (Paul Battles, 15<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to ad valorem taxation and provides for a comprehensive revision of provisions.**

<b>Organizations in Support of HB 295</b>
The Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
Georgia Association of Tax Assessors
Clerks of Superior Court
Georgia Tax Commissioners

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Gooch, 51<sup>st</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 295: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 819](#). Representative Martin, 49<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which adds a due diligence requirement for tax collectors and commissioners to apply when ascertaining the location of a delinquent tax payer for the purpose of transferring a tax execution.

**HB 819 (Chuck Martin, 49<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to revenue and taxation so as to modify certain provisions relating to tax executions.**

<b>Organization in Support of HB 819</b>
Georgia Association of Tax Assessors

Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Chance, 16<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 819: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 954](#). Representative Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which redefines fair market value for commercial housing so that the low income housing tax credit is considered. The new language would require assessors to apply rent limitations and other restrictions placed upon the properties which are eligible for low-income housing tax credits.

**HB 954 (Brett Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to ad valorem tax of property so as to change the definition of fair market value.**

<b>Organizations in Support of HB 954</b>
Georgia Affordable Housing Coalition
Silas Hrobar- Lowndes County Chief Appraiser

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 954: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 729](#). Representative Rice, 95<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which provides an update to the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT). The two main provisions of the bill are as follows: 1) The lessor of a vehicle gets the benefit of a trade-in on a car they get back from a lessee and in turn trade-in the vehicle with a dealer for another car. 2) The fair market value of a used car is changed to the average of book for selling price and book for trade-in. Representative Rice, 95<sup>th</sup> explained that the bill levels the playing field for leasing a car in Georgia compared to buying. In addition, the bill outlines provisions regarding title transfers as a result of a divorce. The title transfer fee is 1% in a divorce and Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> proposed an amendment to limit the amount of local TAVT fee collected by the county tag agent to 1%. This fee is distributed to the county governing authority, municipal governing authority, and boards of education.

**HB 729 (Tom Rice, 95<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to revenue and taxation so as to change the manner for determining fair market value of motor vehicles subject to tax.**

There was no public comment.

Amendment #1: On line 330 limit the amount to be retained by the tag agent not to exceed 1 percent.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1 and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. **Amendment #1 was adopted unanimously.**

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** and Senator Albers, 56<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 9-1, Yeas: Senators Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, Unterman, 45<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, Chance, 16<sup>th</sup>, Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>, Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>, and Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>. Nay: Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 729: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

The next piece of legislation taken up was [HB 34](#). Representative Parsons, 44<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which authorizes that an existing credit be expanded to cover commercial three phase geothermal heat pumps that meet Energy Star requirements. There was discussion over the bill's fiscal impact and unanswered concerns as to why it would be necessary to offer tax credits for buying a more energy efficient vehicle. The committee offered an amendment to the substitute on line 20 and 28 to strike the word "ratio" and insert "rating".



**HB 34 (Don Parsons, 44<sup>th</sup>): This bill pertains to income tax credit for clean energy property so as to include certain commercial geothermal heat pumps with the definition of the term ‘clean energy property’.**

Testified for HB 34	Organization
Clint Austin	Capitol Resources, LLC

Amendment #1: On line 20 and 28 insert “rating” in place of the word “ratio”.

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to adopt Amendment #1 and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> offered the second motion. **Amendment #1 was adopted unanimously.**

Senator Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS AS AMENDED** and Senator Hill, 4<sup>th</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was 3-4, Yeas: Senators Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>, Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>. Nays: Senators Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>, Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Thompson, 33<sup>rd</sup>. The motion failed.

**HB 34: DO NOT PASS**

The final piece of legislation taken up was [HB 816](#). Representative Williamson, 115<sup>th</sup> spoke on the bill which exempts postage on direct mail from sales and use tax by excluding postage charges from the definition of delivery charges.

**HB 816 (Bruce Williamson, 115<sup>th</sup>): This bill relates to sales and use tax so as to change a certain definition.**

There was no public comment.

Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> made the first motion to **DO PASS** and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> offered the second motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Cowsert, 46<sup>th</sup> will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 816: DO PASS**

There being no further business, Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

\*It should be noted that there was an administrative error pertaining to HB 729 and HB 1000, in which case the incorrect LC numbers were reported on the committee report supplied to the Secretary of Senate’s Office. The following legislative day (3/14/2014), Chairman Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> made a motion on the Senate floor to correct the clerical error. There was no objection.\*

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Abigail Thompson, Recording Secretary

May 6, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

The following bills remained in the Senate Finance Committee at the close of the 2014 Session:

[SB 39](#) (Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 40](#) (Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
[SB 41](#) (James, 35<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 67](#) (Henson, 41<sup>st</sup>)  
[SB 157](#) (Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 190](#) (Jones, 10<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 287](#) (Seay, 34<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 309](#) (Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 313](#) (Fort, 39<sup>th</sup>)  
[SB 327](#) (Albers, 56<sup>th</sup>)

[SR 8](#) (McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>)  
[SR 277](#) (Mullis, 53<sup>rd</sup>)  
[SR 412](#) (Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>)  
[SR 777](#) (Tate, 38<sup>th</sup>)  
[SR 987](#) (McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>)

[HB 34](#) (Parsons, 44<sup>th</sup>)  
[HB 69](#) (Benton, 31<sup>st</sup>)  
[HB 80](#) (Rice, 95<sup>th</sup>)  
[HB 412](#) (Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>)  
[HB 683](#) (Carson, 46<sup>th</sup>)  
[HB 823](#) (Powell, 171<sup>st</sup>)  
[HB 922](#) (Harbin, 122<sup>nd</sup>)  
[HB 969](#) (Smith, 134<sup>th</sup>)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Abigail Thompson  
Recording Secretary