

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

**2015**

Senator John Wilkinson, Chairman, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 2227  
Toccoa, GA 30577

Senator Tyler Harper, Vice-Chairman, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 798  
Ocilla, GA 31774

Senator Ellis Black, Secretary, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
5900 Jumping Gully Road  
Valdosta, GA 31601

Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
1500 East Shotwell Street  
Bainbridge, GA 39819

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

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
1501 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 6085  
Americus, GA 31709

Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> District  
1070 Delaware Avenue SE  
Atlanta, GA 30316

## **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015 in Room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator John Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>

Absent Senators:

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, led the Committee in an opening prayer.

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, presented the Committee with copies of the proposed rules for the Committee to use for the 2015-2016 General Assembly sessions.

Senator Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>, moved to adopt the rules, Senator Burke, 11<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the rules were adopted by a unanimous vote. The Rules of the Committee are attached to these minutes.

With no further business Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

**Rules**  
**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**  
**2015-2016**

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule **2-1.5** regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be four (4) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such a time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. Any members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report, in writing, with the Secretary of the Senate when the committee report is read, pursuant to Senate Rule **2-1.6**.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee in a meeting called by the Chairman.
8. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principle author shall be the one whose name appeared first in the list of authors.
9. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern, pursuant to Senate Rule **2-1.5**.

## **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

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The following Senators were present:

Senator John Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio  
Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>  
Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

Absent Senator:

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, convened the meeting at 3:03 pm with a quorum being present.

**[SB 139, Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, \(LC 28 7538ERS\), Selling and Other Trade Practices; provide regulation; auxiliary containers.](#)**

Senator Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, introduced the legislation explaining that the entire state needs to have the same regulations concerning containers. When each county or city can have different regulations it causes an unnecessary burden on the businesses.

Testimonies on SB 139:

- Karen Bremer, Georgia Restaurant Association, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Mark Woodall, Sierra Club, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Catherine Fleming, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Kathy Kuzava, Georgia Food Industry Association, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, offered the following amendment: remove the period on line 30 and add “or other designated recycling locations”.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, moved to adopt the amendment offered and Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted by unanimous vote which the Committee considered to be a Committee substitute. The Committee instructed the staff to formulate the Committee substitute.

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Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, moved SB 139 **DO PASS by Substitute** (LC 40 0848ERS) and Senator Burke, 11<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, the vote passed by 5-0 vote. Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> abstained from voting.

**SB 139 DO PASS by Substitute (LC 40 0848ERS)**

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> made the following Subcommittee appointments:

Vice Chairman Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>

Secretary Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>

Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

With no further business Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

## **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 in Room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator John Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman

Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>

Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Note: he arrived at 3:38 pm)

Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>

Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

### **SB 173, Senator Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>, (LC 29 6444ER), Animal Protection; payment of expenses while an animal is impounded.**

Senator Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>, said that local governments cannot afford the cost of care for the impounded animals. The legislation suggests a monthly fee to be charged to the animal's owner while the animal is impounded.

Testimonies:

- Cindy Wiemann, Georgia Animal Care and Control Association, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Lara Hudson, Director, Fulton County Animal Services, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Dr. Gloria Dorsey, Veterinarian, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Claudine Wilkins, Attorney, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup> presented amendment (AM 29 2367): Amend SB 173 (LC 29 6444ER) by inserting “than” between “more” and “21” on line 52.

Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> moved that the committee adopt the amendment (AM 29 2367) and Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> seconded the motion, the amendment passed unanimously.

Senator Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup> presented amendment (AM 29 2369): Amend SB 173 (LC 29 6444ER) by replacing “and adequate and necessary veterinary services” with “and adequate and necessary veterinary services” on lines 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 109, and 110.

Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> moved that the committee adopt the amendment and Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> seconded the motion, the amendment passed unanimously.

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Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> moved **DO PASS as Amended** and Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-4. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; and Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 173 motion failed, (LC 29 6444ER).**

### **SB 180, Senator McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0841), Wild Animals; exempt the African pygmy hedgehog from wild animal license and permit requirements.**

Senator McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup> explained that these hedgehogs are domestically bred, the chances of disease beginning from these hedgehogs is very low, and this is one of the few animals bred in Georgia for sale that an individual cannot own.

Testimonies:

- Dr. Robert Cobb, Veterinarian, Georgia Department of Agriculture, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- John Bowers, Chief of Game Management, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Tony Hayes, Georgia citizen, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Bella Hayes, Georgia citizen, spoke in favor of the legislation.

**SB 180 HEARING ONLY**

### **SB 175, Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0846), Animal Protection; require inspection of certain animals entering into the state.**

Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup> introduced the legislation because of an outbreak of livestock illness at the Georgia Junior Livestock Show this past February. This illness is still in the process of being contained.

Testimonies:

- Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Dr. Robert Cobb, Veterinarian, Georgia Department of Agriculture, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, moved **DO PASS** for SB 175 (LC 40 0846) and Senator Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

**SB 175 DO PASS (LC 40 0846).**

**NOTE:** An error was made on the Committee Report regarding SB 173 on March 2, 2015. The Senate Journal was corrected on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

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With no further business Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ offers the following amendment:

- 1 *Amend SB 173 (LC 29 6444ER) by inserting "than" between "more" and "21" on line 52.*

\_\_\_\_\_ offers the following amendment:

- 1 *Amend SB 173 (LC 29 6444ER) by replacing "~~and adequate and necessary veterinary~~*
- 2 *services" with "and adequate and necessary veterinary services" on lines 14, 17, 18, 19, 20,*
- 3 *109, and 110.*

## **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Monday, March 4, 2015 in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator John Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman

Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>, (arrived at 3:50 pm)

Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>

Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, (arrived at 3:20 pm)

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

Senator Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup> led the Committee in an opening prayer.

**SB 148, Senator Kennedy, 18<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0801-EC), Commerce and Trade; transfer powers and responsibilities of Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs to Georgia's Attorney General's office.**

Senator Kennedy, 18<sup>th</sup> submitted a substitute when he arrived at the Committee meeting (LC 40 0855 ER-ECS). Senator Kennedy, 18<sup>th</sup> said that 48 states already do this.

Testimonies:

- Britt Grant, Solicitor General, Office of Georgia's Attorney General, in favor of the legislation.
- Dan Walsh, Senior Assistant, Office of Georgia's Attorney General, in favor of the legislation.

Senator Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>, moved **DO PASS by Substitute** (LC 40 0855 ER-ECS) and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Senator Orrock did not vote because she arrived after the discussion had ended.

**SB 148 DO PASS by substitute (LC 40 0855 ER-ECS).**

**NOTE:** Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, gave Vice Chairman Harper, 7<sup>th</sup> the Chairman position for the next piece of legislation.

**SB 183, Senator Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0858), Animals; provide for liability protection for certain activities related to livestock; limitations.**

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Senator Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> said the legislation would expand the civil liability limits to include livestock activities, with livestock being defined as swine, cattle, sheep, and goats. Warning signs would notify people of the “inherent risk” of animal activities and these must be posted when choosing to engage in livestock activities.

### Testimonies:

- State Representative Regina Quick, 117<sup>th</sup> spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Jeffrey Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Bill Clark, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, spoke in opposition of the legislation. They proposed four amendments and each were presented by Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment: on line 81, before the symbol and number (7.3), insert the following: “Livestock activity shall not, however, include a rodeo.”

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, moved to adopt the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-5. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>; and Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment: On line 142, following the word “determine”, insert the following: “the propensity of the animal to cause harm and”. Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, moved to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-5. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>; and Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment: On lines 144 and 145, delete the following: “based on the participant’s representations of his or her ability”. Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, moved to adopt the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment, Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The amendment failed 2-5. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>; and Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment: On line 224, insert a new subsection (c) to read as follows: “The person, or if that person is under the age of 18 or an incapacitated adult, that person’s parent or guardian, who has paid admission or provided other financial gain to the livestock activity sponsor, livestock professional, or owner of a livestock facility in order to enter their property for the purposes of engaging in livestock activities has signed a waiver of liability form stating that the person entering the

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property of the livestock activity sponsor, livestock professional, or owner of a livestock facility, of that person's parent or guardian, has waived all civil liability against the

livestock activity sponsor, livestock professional, or owner of a livestock facility for any injuries caused by the inherent risks associated with livestock activity. Such waiver of liability form shall mirror the language provided for in subsection (b) of this section regarding the warning notice.”

And re-number subsection (c) as subsection (d). **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

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Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, moved to adopt the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>, seconded the motion. The amendment failed 2-5. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>; and Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> moved **DO PASS** (LC 40 0858) and Senator Burke, 11<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>; Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>; and Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>. Senators voting against the legislation were: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 183 DO PASS (LC 40 0858).**

**NOTE:** Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> thanked Vice Chairman Harper, 7<sup>th</sup> for his assistance. Then Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> served as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

**[SB 184, Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, \(LC 40 0857\), Dogs; provide breed-specific regulation shall be limited to enactment by general law.](#)**

Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, said the legislation would prohibit local governments from regulating domestic dogs based by their breed and places that authority in the hands of the General Assembly.

Testimonies:

- Catherine Fleming, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Ledy Van Kavage, Senior Legislative Attorney, Best Friends, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Gail LaBerge, Georgia Canine Coalition, spoke in favor of the legislation.

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Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> moved **DO PASS** (LC 40 0857) and Senator Harper, 7<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, the vote passed unanimously (6-0). NOTE: Senator Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup> had to leave before the vote was taken.

**SB 184 DO PASS (LC 40 0857).**

With no further business Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

## **Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs**

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Monday, March 23, 2015 in Room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator John Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Vice-Chairman

Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Dean Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>, (Note: he arrived at 3:08 pm)

Senator Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio, (Note: he arrived at 3:07 pm)

Senator Lester G. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Senator Greg Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>

Senator Nan Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> (Note: she arrived at 3:08 pm)

### **HB 255, Representative Cheokas, 138<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0878S), State purchasing; equal credits be given to certain forestry certification systems when using green building standards in state construction operation, repair, and renovation projects.**

Representative Cheokas, 138<sup>th</sup> said the legislation would provide definitions for green building standards concerning state buildings. The current law requires all contracts for construction, additions, or repairs of buildings which are paid for with state funds; contain a stipulation to use Georgia forest products for the construction if they are available. This new legislation would add renovations to the current stipulations. He also mentioned this is a legislation that would protect Georgia jobs. It would codify Governor Nathan Deal's Executive Order (August 10, 2012) that expressed the need for state buildings to be constructed using green building standards.

#### Testimonies:

- Steve McWilliams, Georgia Forestry Association, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Suzanne Haerther, School Program Manager, USGBC of Georgia, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- State Representative Debbie Buckner, 137<sup>th</sup> spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Colleen Kiernan, Sierra Club, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- John Poole, Executive Director, Paper Products for Georgia Paper and Forest Products Association, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Paula McEvoy, Architect, Perkins and Will, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- John McFarland, Working Buildings, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Dagmar Epsten, Architect, Epsten Group, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- David Southerland, American Institute of Architects, spoke to the legislation, but was neither in favor nor in opposition.
- Mark Levine, American Institute of Architects, spoke to the legislation, but was neither in favor nor in opposition.
- Meghan McNulty, Engineer, Servidyne, LLC and a member, USGBC of Georgia, spoke in opposition to the legislation.

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- Monte Simpson, Weyerhaeuser, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> offered an amendment: Strike section C lines 28-33 replace it with “To avoid the on-going debate between forest certification programs the state shall not seek credit for certified wood as part of a green building certification as codified in other code sections this state would exclusively use Georgia forest products.”

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> moved that the amendment be adopted, it failed due to lack of second.

Senator Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup> moved **DO PASS** (LC 40 0878S) and Senator Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>; Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>; Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>; and Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>. The Senator voting against the legislation was: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. NOTE: Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> had to leave before the vote was taken.

**HB 255 DO PASS (LC 40 0878S).**

**HB 397, Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup>, (LC 40 0868S), Soil & Water Commission moved to provide for administrative attachment; to provide for appointment to the commission; to remove authority related to eminent domain.**

Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> submitted a substitute when he arrived at the Committee meeting (LC 40 0922S). Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> said the legislation is to clean up current legislation to prevent zero base budgeting (dissolution) of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and to make provisions to get the Commission out of a current situation and to prevent future mishaps. Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> said that while the Commission would be administratively attached under the legislation, it would remain a stand-alone agency and only administrative operations such as human resources would be altered. Representative Knight, 130<sup>th</sup> also said they have attempted to work with the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission for over a year, but no one seemed to listen.

Testimonies:

- Bert Langley, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, spoke to the legislation, but was neither in favor nor in opposition.
- Trip Addison, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, spoke to the legislation, but was neither in favor nor in opposition.
- John Kay, District Supervisor, Soil and Water Conservation, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Sydne Smith, Georgia Department of Agriculture, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Gary Bell, District Supervisor, Soil and Water Conservation, spoke in opposition of the legislation.

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- Alan Toney, District Supervisor, Soil and Water Conservation, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Kevin Jeselnik, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Ed Zipperman, Coastal Soil and Water, spoke in opposition of the legislation.
- Jeffrey Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau, spoke in favor of the legislation.
- Jim Ham, Monroe County Commissioner, spoke in opposition of the legislation
- Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> moved to table the legislation, but the motion failed due to lack of second.

Senator Burke, 11<sup>th</sup> moved **DO PASS by Substitute** (LC 40 0922S), Senator Black, 8<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-2. Senators voting in favor of the legislation were: Black, 8<sup>th</sup>; Burke, 11<sup>th</sup>; and Kirk, 13<sup>th</sup>. The Senators voting against the legislation were: Heath, 31<sup>st</sup> and Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. NOTE: Senator Harper, 7<sup>th</sup> and Senator Orrock, 36<sup>th</sup> had to leave before the vote was taken.

**HB 397 DO PASS by Substitute (LC 40 0922S).**

Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> introduced Dr. Robert Cobb to speak to the Committee. Dr. Robert Cobb, Veterinarian, Georgia Department of Agriculture, gave the Committee an update on the swine illness that was mentioned in the March 2, 2015, meeting of the Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

With no further business Chairman Wilkinson, 50<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Ellis Black, 8<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary



## THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is dedicated to the goals of energy efficiency, economic growth, and protection of the State's vast environmental resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia's forests are being sustainably managed to meet the numerous environmental and economic needs of the State of Georgia, primarily by thousands of private tree farmers and timber growers; and
- WHEREAS:** The State leads the nation in commercially available privately-owned timberlands and its forested area has remained stable over the past fifty years at about 24 million acres; and
- WHEREAS:** The State should undertake initiatives that foster cost-efficient and ecologically responsible buildings; and
- WHEREAS:** Reducing long-term operations and maintenance costs is essential to the economic health of the State; and
- WHEREAS:** So-called "Green Building" standards have the potential to reduce waste in building; and
- WHEREAS:** Said standards have certain requirements on the harvest of natural construction materials but only some of the standards recognize equally several forest certification systems currently utilized in Georgia and North America; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia is a national leader in the growing and processing of wood construction materials that are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the American Tree Farm System; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system unfairly awards its wood certification credits only to products certified to the Forest Stewardship Council standard; and
- WHEREAS:** Recognizing all forest certifications equally will help promote sustainable forestry in the State of Georgia and help create thousands of jobs while maintaining our strong outdoor heritage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That the design, construction, operation and maintenance of any new or expanded state building shall incorporate "Green Building" standards that give certification credits equally to forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System and the Forest Stewardship Council.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** The design, construction, operation and maintenance of any existing state building to be renovated shall incorporate "Green Building" standards that achieve significant energy efficiency and environmental sustainability relevant to the scope of the renovation, provided this can be accomplished on a cost-effective basis, considering construction and operating costs over the life cycle of the improvement.

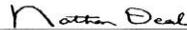
**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** Each department, office, board, commission or agency of state government is directed to identify any policies not in conformance with this Executive Order and submit them to the Governor's Office by July 1, 2013.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** For the purposes of this order, a "state building" includes any building owned, constructed or acquired by the State of Georgia or any department, office, board, commission or agency thereof, including state-supported institutions of higher learning. School districts, counties and municipalities are not subject to the requirements of this Order.

This 10 day of August, 2012.

  
GOVERNOR



The State Senate  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

April 13, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

On behalf of Chairman John Wilkinson, I am returning herewith to your office the following bills that were not acted upon during the 2015 General Assembly Session by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs:

SB 173  
SB 180

Sincerely,

Paula Foil