

**SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
2015 MEMBERS**

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SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE RULES 2015 SESSION

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

1. The quorum for the Education and Youth Committee shall be 5 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 Chairman may appoint subcommittees and officers of subcommittees, and at the discretion of the chairman, 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. All publications, flyers, or any other materials to be distributed to the Committee shall be given to the Chairman or their assistant and will be distributed by the Chairman at the appropriate time.

12. 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 Chairman. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Aide, which will then be passed to the Chairman for approval.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Hufstetler, 52nd
James, 35th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th

The Chairman called the meeting to order 1:08 pm asking Senator Wilkinson to begin with prayer.

The First item on the agenda is the adoption of the 2015-2016 Senate Education Committee Rules. Senator Stone, 23rd, made the motion to adopt the Senate Education Committee Rules, seconded by James, 35th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 2, Tippins, 37th – Competencies and Core Curriculum in Elementary and Secondary Education

SUMMARY: Authorizes a local board of education to award a high school diploma to a student that completes certain requirements relating to postsecondary coursework.

ANALYSIS:

This bill creates a new Code section which authorizes a local board of education to award a high school diploma to any student who:

- Completes coursework at a postsecondary institution that is accredited;
- Is 16 years of age or older;
- Completed ninth and tenth grade courses in english, mathematics, science, and social studies; students will also need to complete any testing associated with these courses;
- Receives an admissible score on the readiness assessment required by the postsecondary institution; and
- Obtains an associate degree, a technical diploma, or completes two technical college certificates of credit programs.

If a student meets all these requirements, he or she meets the graduation requirements and is not subject to any other assessments. The rules and regulations of this Code section must be established by the State Board of Education, the State Board of the Technical College System, and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The Chairman stated this is just a hearing today. He also told the committee it was an honor to carry the Lt. Governor's bill as this was a good piece of legislation that will help our high school dropout rate as well as better prepare our students for the work force upon graduation from 12th grade.

The Chairman asked Irene Munn, Lt. Governor's office, to answer any questions members or the audience may have.

Irene Munn introduced Barbara Processer, CEO Effingham College and Career Academy, and Dwayne Sewell, Decatur City Schools. Both support this legislation and believe it will help move our students forward and work ready after high school. Irene made the statement you do not have to have a College and Career Academy to implement this bill. This legislation gives students additional options for a post-secondary degree or certificate.

Senator Tate, 38th stated she appreciates the bill but feels we are sending a message that we no longer need 11th and 12th grade for our students.

Irene Munn, Lt. Governor's office, made the statement that we are focusing on High School requirements as well as giving students a choice of receiving a certificate from a Tech school in a certain trade or a 2 year degree for those who are college bound.

Senator Tippins, 37th stated this bill changes the entire climate in education as we are focusing on specialized instruction towards a particular trade that full fills the greatest need in the workforce which will produce a better high performing student.

Those speaking in favor of SB 2:

Angela Palm, GSBA

Michael Soma, GSSA

Cita Cook, retired college professor

Elizabeth Rhodes

Dr. McGiboney, DOE spoke on behalf of Superintendent Woods

Mathew Gamble, Association of Career and Technical Education

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on January 28, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
James, 35th
Millar, 40th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., Senator Wilkinson opened with prayer. The first item on the agenda is SB 2 substitute.

SB 2 Substitute (LC 33 5850S): Competencies and Core Curriculum in elementary and Secondary Education.

ANALYSIS:

This bill creates a new Code section which authorizes a local board of education to award a high school diploma to any student who:

- Is enrolled in coursework pursuant to Code Section 20-2-159.5;
- Completes rigorous coursework at a postsecondary institution which meets requirements in paragraph (7) of Code Section 20-3-519;
- Is 16 years of age or older;
- Completed state required ninth and tenth grade courses in english, mathematics, science, social studies, and one health and physical education course; students will also need to complete any testing associated with these courses;
- Receives an admissible score on the readiness assessment required by the postsecondary institution; and
- Obtains an associate degree, a technical diploma, or completes two technical college certificates of credit programs.

The Technical College System will annually identify areas of study where there is a critical need of trained personnel and provide that information to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education will annually provide the information to the

local school systems to emphasize these shortages to high school students to assist them in selecting their career pathway.

If a student meets all of these requirements, then he or she meets the graduation requirements and is not subject to any other assessments. The rules and regulations of this Code section must be established by the State Board of Education, the State Board of the Technical College System, and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The Chairman stated that the substitute before the committee is changes that clarify language and intent of the legislation but it does not change the substance of the bill.

Millar, 40th stated this is a good bill

Tate, 38th stated this is a good bill and she believes every student needs an option for vocational track and be ready for work.

Those speaking in favor of the bill:

Andrea Harper, GA Association of Manufactures

Kyle Jackson, NFIB

Mark Woodall, Associated General Contractors

Josh Stephens, PAGE

Stone, 23rd made the motion "Do pass by substitute", seconded by Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 2 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 5850S)

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on February 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB.

Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
James, 35th
Millar, 40th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th (arrived at 1:20p.m.)

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. asking Senator Wilkinson, 50th to open with prayer. The first item on the agenda was the assigning of subcommittees.

Academic Achievement Sub Committee

Senator John Wilkinson, 50th Chairman
Senator Fran Millar, 40th Vice Chairman
Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd
Senator Horacena Tate, 38th
Senator Lindsey Tippins, 37th, Ex-Officio

Academic Support Sub Committee

Senator Fran Millar, 40th, Chairman
Senator Jesse Stone, 23rd Vice Chairman
Senator Ellis Black, 8th
Senator Vincent Fort, 39th
Senator Donnelly James, 35th
Senator Lindsey Tippins, 37th Ex-Officio

School Choice and Policy

Senator Jesse Stone, 23rd, Chairman

Senator Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd

Senator John Wilkinson, 50th

Senator Freddie Powell Sims, 12th

Senator Horacena Tate, 38th

Senator Lindsey Tippins, 37th Ex-Officio

Dana Rickman, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, made a presentation to the committee with the 2015 Top 10 Priorities:

1. High Standards – Value of Diploma
2. Assessments – How much is to much
3. District Governance – Charter, IE2, or status quo
4. To Elect or Appoint – School Superintendent
5. Funding Reform – How do we divide the pie
6. Early Learning – Challenge Accepted
7. Post Secondary Success – Key to Georgia Workforce
8. Charter Schools – New Challenges
9. Equality in Education – Access and opportunity
10. Race to the Top- Now what

Senator Fort, 39th made the comment the he is interested in #9 – 62% of the students in Georgia are poor and he would like to see longer school days for the kids. He stated that for most kids school might be the only meal they get for the day or may be the only environment of which they can learn.

Senator Freddie Powell Sims, 12th stated that she would like to get kids in rural Georgia on the same page as those in larger cities and she also emphasized that we need to get learning tools to the students via virtual, internet, Wi-Fi access.

Chairman Tippins, 37th thanked Ms. Rickman for a great presentation and stated he was assigning the following bills to the School Choice and Policy Sub- committee; **[SB 56](#) and [SB 60](#)** **were assigned to sub- committee.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00p.m

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on February 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
Stone, 23rd

Chairman Tippins, 37th made the announcement we would be hearing testimony on SB 81, the committee would not be taking a vote today.

SB 81, Wilkinson, 50th: Election Process of Local School Superintendents and Local Board of Education Members

Senator Wilkinson, 50th explained the bill stating it changes election process of local school superintendents and board of education members; creates term limits and eligibility and enforces measures for suspensions and or removal of office.

This bill will serve as an alternative to the election process for local state superintendents and local board of education members relating to elementary and secondary education. Instead of being selected for appointment, local state superintendents will be elected by voters of that local school district, while board of education members will be elected by grand juries. All members elected to the grand jury will file an affidavit with the county election superintendent prior to taking office.

School superintendents will be elected by voters of their local school districts quadrennially in even-numbered years on Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Before becoming eligible to qualify for election, all candidates for the superintendent will file with the State Board of Education a certificate under oath showing their qualifications. All eligibility requirements in Code Section 45-2-1 must be met. All superintendents will hold their office until his or her successor is elected and qualified. A local board of education can suspend or remove a local school superintendent's office for incompetency and other adequate causes. Any appeals will be taken to the State Board of Education.

If a vacancy occurs because of resignation, disqualification, or death, and there is less than six months remaining in the unexpired term, the local board of education will appoint an acting local school superintendent that will be subject to all eligibility

requirements. If the unexpired term is more than six months, a special election will take place to permanently fill the position; however, until that election, the local board of education will appoint an acting superintendent and they will hold the position until their successor is elected.

This Act will become effective on January 1, 2017 only if the Constitutional Amendment is approved by the voters of this state. Otherwise, this Act will stand repealed.

Senator Stone, 23rd asked what the point of the Grand Jury was?

Senator Wilkinson, 50th replied it was how the law was previously written. He also stated this would require a state wide referendum then a local referendum. By allowing the Grand Jury to appoint it would keep politics out of the process.

Senator Black, 8th agreed with Senator Wilkinson, 50th

Senator Tippins, 37th stated no speaker has signed up to speak.

Observations from questions:

1. Grand Jury appointments will have different structure than in the past
2. Governance- concerns for qualifications and expertise for both Board and grand jury
3. Residency issues
4. Voter approval is necessary for legislation to go further

The Chairman stated we need to move slowly and cautiously to ensure good policy, clear understanding of constitutional requirements of and qualifications of members. We cannot underestimate the importance of the relationship between superintendent and board members.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th stated this bill is not intended to attach superintendents or administrators but we want to do what is right – especially in rural areas.

SB 81 HEARING ONLY

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate and House Education Committees'** met on February 11, 2015 in Room 506 CLOB.

Senate Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary
Hufstetler, 52nd
Black, 8th
Tate, 38th
Fort, 39th
Stone, 23rd

Chairman Coleman, 97th opened the meeting with prayer. He stated the purpose for both committees' to come together is to have the opportunity to hear from Louisiana and Tennessee of how well their Opportunity School Districts have worked in their states.

The presenters were:

Kevin Huffman, Former Tennessee Commissioner of Education. Mr. Huffman stated he has spent two decades in education as a teacher, lawyer, and non-profit executive and non-profit board member. In April 2011 Governor Bill Haslam appointed Huffman as the Commissioner of the Department of Education. Huffman oversaw the creation of Tennessee's Achievement School District. Mr. Huffman stated this has allowed Tennessee to identify failing schools and have them taken over by the state on a 5 year plan to improve student achievement.

Paul Pastorek, Former Louisiana State School Superintendent. Mr. Pastorek served on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from 1996-2004. In 2007 he was appointed to the role of State School Superintendent where he served until 2011. The Recovery School district, which passed the Louisiana Legislature in 2003 and was expanded in 2005, is overseen and operated by the State Superintendent. Under his leadership as Superintendent, the state played a major role in rebuilding and turning around schools in New Orleans.

Neerav Kingsland, CEO of New Schools for New Orleans, which is a non-profit organization, partnered with RSD leaders to ensure that great educators were prepared

to transform underperforming schools in New Orleans. New Schools for New Orleans operates independently but in close coordination with the RSD. The organization provided resources, training and support to educators who started and scaled many of the city's highest-performing educational organizations.

Sam Rauschenberg, Deputy Director, Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement, previously served as a public school teacher in the Recovery School District in New Orleans. A native Georgian, Sam was attracted to New Orleans because of the education reform going on in that state.

The three main objectives that were pointed out to make this such a successful program were:

1. Educators run schools
2. Parents have choice
3. Government oversees that money is spent effectively

In 2005 62% of kids attended failing schools in Louisiana.
2014 only 7% attend failing schools.

This was an informational meeting. Senator Tippins, 37th announced he will have a hearing on SB 287 at the next Education Committee meeting on Monday February 23rd at 1:00 on Room 307 CLOB.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate and House Education Committees'** met on February 18, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 606 CLOB.

Senate Members Present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Powell-Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Stone, 23rd
Millar, 40th

Chairman Coleman, 97th opened the meeting with prayer.

Chairman Tippins, 37th explained to the audience the structure of this meeting will be as follows;

Two representatives for the College Board and two representatives opposed to AP History will have a question and answer session to identify the concerns with AP History. Senator Ligon, 3rd will be the mediator.

Mr. Larry Krieger and Mr. Stanley Kurtz spoke against the AP History framework. The concerns were:

1. The APUSH Framework presents a slanted, intellectually dishonest view of American history designed to showcase negative events while minimizing and often ignoring positive achievements.
2. The Framework is relentless in castigating Europeans, particularly the English, as racist.
3. The Framework has a clear bias and left-leaning agenda.
4. Very little flexibility within the Framework.

Mr. Trevor Packer, College Board and Mr. Chad Hogie, AP History Teacher, spoke in favor of the AP History Framework. Mr. Packer made a few comments concerning the Framework stating the Framework is designed to align with the Georgia Standards and what the state colleges were teaching.

Mr. Hoagie, AP History teacher stated he has flexibility to choose the material to use. He also stated that this is a volunteer class students choose to take. It is not a requirement to pass high school. He stated he is in full support of the AP History framework.

Mr. Packer also stated that the College Board is currently taking suggestions and listening to concerns that will be presented to the board for review and consideration of changes this summer when the framework is reviewed.

Also, Mr. Packer stated to Mr. Krieger and Mr. Kurtz they are welcome to attend the open discussion before the board so their concerns can be addressed. Mr. Packer also stated that some of the concerns that were mentioned have already been discussed and will be changed with board approval this summer.

Chairman Tippins, 37th stated he appreciated all who attended the meeting and he hopes this discussion will open dialog for both sides to get together and work out some concerns we heard here today.

With there be no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 2:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB.

Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
Millar, 40th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th

The chairman called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and asked Senator Wilkinson, 50th to say the devotion.

SB 156, Tippins 37th, State Charter Schools Foundation

Senator Tippins, 37th asked Ms. Bonnie Holiday, State Charter Schools to explain the bill. She explained this bill stating:

This bill allows the Commission to establish a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of actively seeking supplemental revenue and in-kind goods, services, and property to promote state charter schools, and any other purpose of the Commission. Such corporation shall:

- Abide by the Constitution of Georgia;
- Upon its dissolution, remit all remaining assets to the Commission, or any successor thereof, or, if none, to the State of Georgia;
- Be prohibited from paying for direct employee costs of the Commission from private source donations;
- Be subject to laws relating to open meetings and inspection of public records;
- Maintain errors and omissions liability coverage insurance of at least \$1 million;
- Only be empowered to incur short-term credit obligations.

This bill provides that funds received by the foundation may be awarded through a competitive grant process.

If such a nonprofit corporation is created, it must provide, in addition to all corporate filings required by the federal Internal Revenue Service, an annual report showing: the

identity of all donors; the amount each person or entity donated; and, all expenditures or other disposal of money or property donated. Such report and filings are to be provided to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and Youth Committee. The annual report is to be made public.

Senator Fort, 39th was concerned about the openness and transparency and asked if 990's were available every year.

Ms. Holiday stated the reports would be made available in the same manner as required by the law.

Senator Stone, 23rd made a motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd, the vote was 7 yeas, (Wilkinson, 50th, Powell Sims, 12th, Black, 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd, Millar, 40th, Stone, 23rd, Tate, 38th) and 1 nay (Fort, 39th)

SB 156 Do Pass

SB 133 (Substitute) Miller, 49th: Opportunity School Districts (LC 33 6086S)

The Chairman asked Senator Miller to go through the bill and explain the changes that were made.

Senator Miller, 49th stated the following:

Line 24 –defines Opportunity School District Charter School;

Line 49-51 – OSD clarifies language for Superintendent

Line 60 – added requirement for public hearing

Lines 66-75 – Establishes time line

Lines 92-94 –specifies school zones

Lines 117-118 – school closure as last resort

Lines 133-140-clarifies make up of governing board

Lines 151-160 – clarifies process for teachers

Lines 191-192 – clarifies contract with OSD charter schools superintendent, local boards of education, governing board and principal

Lines 218-222 – Transfer of facility

Lines 228-232 – clarifies Charter renewals

Lines 236-237 – clarifies geological changes

Lines 241-244- clarifies the OSD superintendent closure of a school

Lines 249-250 – clarifies who is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of facility

Lines 258-263 – clarifies requirements for a school to come out from under the OSD

Lines 280-290 – defines reporting of data and requirements of reporting
Lines 309-311 – clarifies the 3% of funding that is appropriated for OSD Charter schools
Lines 326-345 – clarifies Department of Education requirements

Senator Fort, 39th asked if a teacher who has not been asked to stay with a school that has been taken over by the OSD loses his/her job. The answer is if the contract is not renewed then he/she falls under current law.

NOTE: Senator Wilkinson, 50th left at 2:00 p.m.

NOTE: Senator Stone, 23rd left at 2:05p.m.

NOTE: Senator James, 35th arrived at 2:10 p.m.

NOTE: Senator Fort, 39th and Senator Tate, 38th left at 2:15p.m.

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd was concerned with giving the Governor full power of OSD with no oversight.

Senator Millar, 40th stated that the Department of Education will not be able to manage any OSD Charter Schools, even intervention models.

Senator Black, 8th asked if there was any mediation for schools who do not want to be in the OSD Charter System.

Senator Millar, 40th offered an amendment (AM 33 1504) that states after “superintendent” on line 43 add “to be confirmed by the Senate”.

The Governor’s office had no objections.

Senator Stone, 23rd asked about if the Governor had appointing powers during the interim. The answer was yes and confirmed by Senate next legislative session.

The chairman asked for a motion to adopt Millar’s, 40th amendment. Millar, 40th made the motion to **Amend** the substitute, seconded by Black, 8th. The vote was unanimous and the motion **Passed**.

Senator Millar, 40th made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Black, 8th. The vote was 4 yeas (Powell Sims, 12th, Black 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd and Millar, 40th) 1 nay (James, 35th).

SB 133 Do Pass by Substitute

SR 287, Miller 49th: Opportunity School District, Constitutional Amendment

Senator Miller, 49th stated this legislation proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia to authorize the creation of a new school district to intervene with failing public schools. The proposed amendment establishes the “Opportunity School District”. This allows the state to assume, supervise, manage, and operate failing public elementary and secondary schools.

Senator Miller, 49th also stated that he is working off of a substitute (LC 33 6080 ECS). On line 15 language was added to clarify funding.

Senator Millar, 40th made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Black 8th. The vote was 4 yeas (Powell Sims, 12th, Black, 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd and Millar, 40th) One nay vote by James, 35th.

SR 287 Do Pass by Substitute

Senator Fort, 39th returned at 2:30 p.m.

Senator Stone, 23rd returned at 2:10 p.m.

SB 132, Dugan, 30th: Move on when Ready Act

Senator Dugan, 30th explained this bill expands and modifies dual enrollment. This bill modifies the current program where high school students can take post-secondary classes for high school course credit. The oversight for dual enrollment is being moved from the Board of Education to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (Finance Commission).

The bill requires the Finance Commission to enter into agreements with post-secondary institutions to offer dual credit enrollment for high school students. The bill expands the opportunity for dual enrollment by allowing any 9th–12th grade students at a Georgia public, private, or home based school, to enroll in the program.

The Finance Commission is responsible for working with the Department of Education to develop counseling guidelines for the dual enrollment program and to make them available to local high schools and post-secondary schools. Materials are also to be made available for each 8th grade public school student for developing their individual graduation plan.

High schools are required to grant secondary credit for any post-secondary work completed in an approved course, upon successful completion of the course. This secondary credit will be for a comparable course; a career, technical, and agricultural course; or an elective course. A student participating in dual enrollment is also able to count those post-secondary credits for their high school graduation requirements and towards their diploma. The Department of Education is required to specify the subject area requirements or elective courses that may be satisfied with dual credit courses. These courses shall come from:

- An associate degree program;
- A technical college diploma program; or
- At least two technical college certificate of credit programs in one specific career pathway.

The Finance Commission is required to review the eligible programs at least every three years to ensure compliance with program requirements. If an institution certifies an ineligible student, the institution is to refund all money related to that certification to the Finance Commission

The bill also modifies the funding structure for dual enrollment. Institutions are still required to waive tuition and fees and provide books for eligible high school students. However, the Finance Commission will determine the amount the institution will be paid per student. This amount will be determined by the number of participants and the allocation of funding from the legislature for the 2016 fiscal year. Should the amount of funding provided by the legislature not be enough to cover all students in the program, then the amount per student paid to each institution will decrease in order to cover all of the students in the program.

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

SB 132 Do Pass

SB 164, Jones, 10th: PBIS and RTI Programs

Senator Jones explained this bill authorizes the State Board of Education, subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, to provide funds to local school systems to support Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) programs, initiatives, and personnel.

This bill adds a new Code section that encourages local boards of education to implement PBIS and RTI programs and initiatives in their schools; particularly in high needs schools.

The State Board of Education is authorized, based on the appropriations given by the General Assembly, to:

- Fund and support PBIS and RTI programs, initiatives, and personnel; and
- Establish rules and regulations for PBIS and RTI programs and initiatives that receive funding.

“PBIS” is defined as evidence-based, data-driven framework to reduce disciplinary incidents, increase a school’s sense of safety, and support improved academic outcomes through a multi-tiered approach while using disciplinary data and principles of behavior to improve individualized interventions and supports.

“RTI” is defined in the bill as addressing the academic and behavioral needs of students through a tiered system.

Chairman Tippins, 37th made the statement he was in favor of this bill.

Senator Millar, 40th made a motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Powell Sims, 12th. The vote was unanimous

SB 164 Do Pass

The chairman thanked everyone for sitting through this long meeting. He stated the committee had Bills that needed to get passed and we had lost two committee days due to bad weather. With no further business the chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 4, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in room 307 CLOB.

Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
Millar, 40th
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th

The Chairman asked Senator Wilkinson, 50th to lead us in prayer.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and stated he was assigning two bills to the Policy Subcommittee because the concerns of these bills should be addressed in the Governor's Education Reform study committee of which he is a member. With that being said [SB92](#) and [SB 80](#) are assigned to sub-committee.

SR 80, Ligon, 3rd: Revision of the Advanced Placement US History Framework

Senator Ligon, 3rd stated he had a substitute (LC 40 0830S) – the Resolution does not say Georgia is pulling out of AP History. The Resolution calls for the General Assembly to:

- Urge the State Board of Education to instruct the College Board to return to an approach more compatible with the traditional topic outline;
- Urge the State Board of Education to instruct the College Board to return to the APUSH test that allows flexibility to incorporate the Georgia Performance Standards for Social Studies in classroom teaching and specifically incorporates the Georgia Performance Standards emphasis and an emphasis on America's founding principles and the uniqueness of America's role in the world;
- Urge the Georgia congressional delegation to push for greater market competition in funding;
- Direct the Governor to contact other governors of several or all states to join Georgia in its efforts to further market competition in advanced subject-based testing for college credits; and
- Direct the State Board of Education and Georgia Department of Education to explore alternatives to the College Board's Advanced Placement program that will allow Georgia students to obtain college credit by mastering the content dictated by Georgia standards, including the possible redirection of state funds for professional

development activities, textbooks, or other instructional materials. The Governor will seek reciprocity among several or all states to urge them to do likewise.

Senator Fort, 39th said he had concerns that Martin Luther King was not mentioned in the framework.

Senator Millar, 40th stated other states are looking at the framework and APUSH is trying to have a more balanced approach.

Senator Millar, 40th, made a motion Do Pass by Substitute, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was 4 yeas (Black, 8th, Stone, 23rd, Millar, 40th, Wilkinson, 50th), 2 nay votes (Fort, 39th and Tate, 38th)

SR 80 Do Pass by Substitute

HB 91, Representative Coleman, 97th: Georgia High School Graduation Test

Chairman Coleman, 97th explained HB 91 stating:

- Eliminates the Georgia High School Graduation Test for purposes of graduation; and
- Allows former students who did not pass one or more portions of the test to petition for a high school diploma.

This bill would eliminate the Georgia High School Graduation Test and retroactively allows past students who failed the Georgia High School Graduation Test but fulfilled all of the other requirements for graduation, to petition their local school board in order to obtain a degree from their high school. Past students receiving their diploma through this method will not count towards graduation rate calculations.

Each local school system will advertise the provisions of this Code section in the legal announcements of the local newspaper one time per year, beginning no later than January 15, 2016 and each year thereafter annually.

The Department of Education will report on or before January 31, 2020 to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly the number of diplomas granted by the local school systems according to this Code section. The change he is proposing in on Page 7 Section 5.

Senator Millar, 40th made the motion Do Pass, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous. Senator Millar, 40th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 91 Do Pass.

NOTE: Senator James, 35th arrived at 1:40 p.m.

SB 116, Ligon, 3rd: Celebrate Freedom Week

Senator Ligon, 3rd explained this bill establishes the week of September 17th each year as Celebrate Freedom Week, beginning the 2015-16 school year. At least three hours of instruction in each grade level's social studies class, focusing on "the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Constitution including the Bill of Rights, in their historical context including the background of the colonial era along with instruction about the Founding Fathers..." The bill specifies that any religious or cultural references of the Founding Fathers shall not be censored.

Students in grades 3-12 are required to participate in recitations of various founding documents at least once during the week. Students could be exempt if their parents opt-out, or if they are the children of foreign diplomats. Schools are encouraged to urge their students to read at least one book during the year related to the founding period. Schools are also encouraged to post copies and excerpts of important documents, such as:

- The Preamble to the Georgia Constitution;
- The Declaration of Independence;
- The United States Constitution;
- The Bill of Rights;
- The Mayflower Compact;
- The national motto;
- The Pledge of Allegiance;
- The National Anthem;
- The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the Founding Fathers and Presidents of the United States;
- Decisions of the United States Supreme Court; and
- Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the published text of the 74 Congressional Records.

Finally, the Department of Education is required to establish a website with links and resources to support teachers and schools for these educational requirements. This online resource is to be available no later than July 31, 2015.

Senator Tate, 38th made the statement that lines 32-46, citing the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and Preamble of the U.S. Constitution should be brought

forward to the 21st Century and that our kids should learn from current historical moments.

Senator Millar, 40th pointed out that on line 47, it gives students and parents the option to opt out.

Senator Stone, 23rd applauded Senator Ligon, 3rd for the bill and suggested we add the Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Georgia Flag, beginning on line 61.

Senator Fort, 39th suggested we add the Civil War.

Senator Wilkinson, 50th made the statement that as a former teacher he had reservations about telling local school systems when and how to teach.

Gary McGibony, Department of Education, suggested the bill be changed from “shall” to “may.”

Chairman Tippins, 37th suggested “shall” be changed to “strongly encourage” and change the start date from July 31, 2015 to July 31, 2016.

Senator Millar, 40th made a motion to **Amend** the substitute, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous. The motion **Passed**.

Chairman Tippins, 37th called for a vote. Senator Black, 8th made the motion **Do Pass** by Substitute, seconded by Senator Millar, 40th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 116 Do Pass by Substitute. (LC 33 61085)

SB 187, Bethel, 54th, Amending the Scholarship Program for Special Needs Students.

Senator Bethel, 54th explained this bill waives the one-year prior attendance requirement for students eligible for the Scholarship Program for Special Needs Students, if they are a lawful refugee as defined by the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The student must also have a valid 1-94 designating their refugee status and proof that the student resides in the resident school district. Secondly, the bill allows for limited English proficiency to count as an eligible disability, if the student is a refugee.

Senator Millar, 40th asked how many students and how much money.

Senator Bethel, 54th stated 704 actual individuals at the average of \$5,403 per student.

Mr. Jimmy Stokes, GAEL, stated that the funding is accelerated from ESOL students.
Senator Millar, 40th suggested we limit funding amount to what we give ESOL students.

Senator Bethel stated under Code section 20-1-21-16 sub paragraph A we insert a new section 2 to define how the funding is calculated.

Senator Millar, 40th made the motion to **amend** the substitute, seconded by Senator James, 35th. The vote was 6 yeas, (Wilkinson, 50th, Black, 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd, Millar, 40th, Stone, 23rd, James, 35th), and 2 nays (Fort, 39th and Tate, 38th). The motion **Passed**.

Senator Millar, 40th made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was 6-2, (Wilkinson, 50th, Black, 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd, Millar, 40th, Stone, 23rd, James, 35th), 2 nays (Fort, 39th and Tate, 38th)

SB 187, Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 6106S)

SB 161, Jones, 10th: Possession of Dangerous Weapons at School

Senator Jones stated we were working off of the substitute he has provided to the committee, (LC33 6104S). The substitute added “or” on line 16 after the word “superintendent” and removed the words “or local board of recommendation: and removed the word “modify on line 17 and replaced with “recommended modifications”.

Current law requires each local board of education to establish a policy regarding a student’s possession of a firearm, dangerous weapon, or a hazardous object at school.

This bill requires expulsion from school for at least one year if the student is determined to have possessed a firearm. A hearing officer, tribunal, panel, administrator, or superintendent, has the authority to recommend changes to the expulsion on a case-by-case basis subject to approval of the local board of education.

This bill removes the automatic one-year expulsion provision for possession of a dangerous weapon. It also allows the local board of education to determine the expulsion period for possession of a dangerous weapon.

Senator Fort, 39th made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Tate, 38th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 161 Do Pass by Substitute

SB 176: James 35th, Deantre Gregory Turman Act

Senator James, 35th stated all this bill does is encourage youth athletes participating in gridiron football as a activity of a local board of education, nonpublic elementary or secondary school, governing body of a charter school or public recreation facility to wear a helmet designed for gridiron football.

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd made a motion to **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous.

SB 176: Do Pass by Substitute

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tippins, 37th, Chairman

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on March 18, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Hufstetler, 52nd
Stone, 23rd
Tate, 38th

The Chairman began the meeting at 1:10

HB 62, Tanner 9th: Scholarship Program for Special Needs Students

Representative Tanner, 9th explained this bill waives certain qualifications for students whose parent is an active duty member of the military and was stationed in Georgia within the preceding year.

Current law states that special needs students qualify for the scholarship program if their parent currently resides in Georgia and has been a Georgia resident for at least one year. This legislation removes the one-year residency requirement if the student's parent is an active duty military member and was stationed in Georgia within the previous year.

Senator Stone, 23rd, made the motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was 4 yeas, (Wilkinson, 50th, Black, 8th, Hufstetler, 52nd, and Stone 23rd.) 2 nays (Tate, 38th and Powell Sims 12th.) Senator Miller, 49th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 62 Do Pass

NOTE: Senator Fort, 39th arrived at 1:15 p.m.

HB 65, Caldwell, 20th; Proposed Annual Operating Budget

Representative Caldwell, 20th explained this bill requires each governing body of a local education agency to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget. The governing body of a charter school with a state-wide attendance zone must hold one public meeting in the county where its primary business is located and one public meeting in metro Atlanta. The meetings must be advertised in the local newspaper of general circulation in which other legal announcements of the board of education are advertised.

Further, a summary of the annual operating budget adopted by the governing body must be posted and maintained on a publicly available area of the governing body's website until the annual operating budget for the next fiscal year is adopted by the governing body. The summary must provide notice that upon request, the governing body must provide an electronic copy of the line item detailed adopted annual operating budget to any person, at no cost, within three days of the request.

The provisions of this bill do not apply to the operating budget or accounting records of a nonprofit corporation itself that operates a charter school.

Representative Caldwell told the committee he has a substitute that simply added the word "business" on line 42 after the word "three".

Senator Black, 8th had concerns with language on line 21 that did not allow for clarification of when the meetings can be held. He added language on line 21 "which shall not occur within the same week" after the word "meetings".

Senator Stone, 23rd made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Fort, 39th. The vote was unanimous. Senator Thompson, 14th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 65 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 6144S)

NOTE: Senator Tate, 38th left at 1:30 p.m. and did not vote on HB 65.

HB 362, Clark 101st: Emergency Treatment of Breathing Distress in Schools Representative Clark, 101st explained this bill specifically authorizes public and private schools to stock premeasured single dose delivery mechanisms of levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate for treatment of perceived respiratory distress. This distress can include wheezing, shortness of breath, and difficulty breathing. These premeasured doses must be prescribed by a licensed practitioner.

An individual that has received proper training, and is authorized to administer the drug by the local school board, may give the drug to any student experiencing perceived respiratory distress for self-administration. The authorized individual can also administer the drug, if in good faith, to a student experiencing perceived respiratory distress, regardless if the student has a prescription for the drug.

Schools are authorized to enter into agreements with manufacturers of levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate to obtain the drug for free, for a reduced cost, or for fair market value. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, is to adopt regulations necessary for implementation of this bill.

The bill specifies that any school personnel who act in good faith to administer or refrain from administering the drug shall be immune from civil liability. This immunity is also extended to the practitioner who prescribes the levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate to the school. This immunity will not extend to willful or wonton misconduct.

Finally, the bill requires local boards of education to adopt policies authorizing school personnel to administer levalbuterol sulfate or albuterol sulfate. The local boards are also required to provide information to personnel on how to recognize symptoms of perceived respiratory distress.

Senator Stone, 23rd made a motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous. Senator Unterman, 45th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 362 Do Pass

NOTE: Senator James, 35th arrived at 1:50p.m.

SR 447, Black, 8th: Joint Study Committee on School Construction

Senator Black, 8th explained this resolution establishes an eight-member joint study committee with four members from the Senate, as appointed by the President of the Senate, and four members from the House, as appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The purpose of this joint study committee is to study:

- The issue of school construction and financing;
- Including historical data on school construction prior to the implementation of the local option sales tax and adjustment of such data for inflation;
- The various methods of financing school construction;
- The differential of school construction costs;
- Including both cost per square foot and cost per full-time equivalent student, in various regions, counties, and municipalities of the state;
- The practice of compensating architects based on a percentage of construction costs; and
- Other pertinent matters.

Any report of the committee must be approved by a majority of its members, and filed on or before December 1st, 2015. In the absence of a report, the co-chairs of the committee may file with the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate minutes of the meetings. The committee will stand abolished on December 1st, 2015.

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd made the motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous.

SR 447 Do Pass

HB 164, Martin 49th: Extending the Date for Professional Learning Requirements

Representative Martin, 49th explained current law in Georgia does not require professional learning requirements for certificate renewal through the Professional Standards Commission for certified professionals and paraprofessionals, until July 1, 2015. This bill extends that window until June 30, 2017.

This bill also extends the time period for the Professional Standards Commission to revise their renewal rules until June 30, 2017.

Dr. Henson, Professional Standards Council, said this bill is simply linking professional learning to performance.

Senator Stone, 23rd made the motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator James, 35th. The vote was unanimous. Senator Wilkinson, 50th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 164 Do Pass

HR 394, Nix, 69th - Proposed Georgia Constitutional Amendment; Distribution of the Sales Tax for Educational Purposes

Representative Nix, 69th explained this resolution is proposing a constitutional amendment to be placed on the ballot for consideration by Georgia voters.

The proposed amendment is changing certain provisions relating to education sales tax. Currently, when one or more independent school systems are located in a county school system, an agreement must be made on how to divide the distribution before an E-SPLOST vote can take place. Under this amendment, if an agreement cannot be reached, the E-SPLOST net proceeds will be distributed according to the latest full-time equivalent count prior to the referendum on imposing the tax.

Senator Black, 8th stated he could not support this legislation. We do not need to add additional constitutional amendments for distribution of sales tax for educational purposes.

Senator Stone, 23rd would like to hear from the Department of Education.

Chairman Tippins, 37th said this bill really needs to be looked at closely and stated he will hold the bill until the next Education and Youth Committee meeting.

HR 394 HEARING ONLY

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording secretary

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on March 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Wilkinson, 50th, Vice chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Millar, 40th
Tate, 38th

The Chairman convened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. asking Senator Wilkinson, 50th to open with prayer.

HB 372, Coomer, 14th Utopian Academy for the Arts Act: enact

Representative Coomer, 14th explained this bill prohibits any municipality, county, or other local political subdivision of this state from requiring charter schools that have passed the Department of Education's facility inspection and have a valid certificate of occupancy to obtain any additional licensure to operate. However, charter schools, are subject to all applicable zoning, planning and building permitting requirements when constructing or renovating a facility.

Chairman Tippins, 37th had concerns about this bill and asked legislative council if this would apply to for-profit charter schools. The chairman has a concern the for-profit charter schools are deemed as a vendor, which would require the facility to comply with all state and local municipalities to operate; they would not be eligible for waiver. The Chairman was holding HB 372 until the next schedule meeting to clarify language.

HB 372 HEARING ONLY

HB 131, Dickerson, 113th: The End of Cyber Bullying Act

Representative Dickerson, 113th explained this bill revises the definition of bullying to include acts that occur through the use of electronic communications, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act:

- Is directed specifically at students or school personnel;
- Is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and
- Creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

The Chairman wanted to clarify some language in the bill regarding the definition of cyberbullying. His concern was the language needs to have clear definition. He did not want to open the door to have unnecessary complaints filed for kids being kids. Chairman Tippins, 37th will hold HB 131 for the next scheduled meeting to clarify language.

HB 131 HEARING ONLY

HB 401, Efstration, 104th: Facilities Fund for Charter Schools

Representative Efstration, 104th explained this bill adds definitions for the following terms:

- Change of ownership applicant;
- Support centers;
- Family child care learning home;
- License;
- Permit; and
- Registration.

The bill then updates the current Code for these new definitions, as well as removes other outdated provisions.

This bill also clarifies that the Department of Early Care and Learning can solicit and accept donations or grants from outside entities.

Further, the bill alters the process for fingerprinting and background checks. It allows temporary staffing agencies and students (those enrolled in institutes of higher learning) to have a background check prior to employment with a care facility or prior to completion of their education. This bill clarifies the term employee so as not to discourage parental involvement. Individuals that desire to volunteer will be required to receive a background check if they are involved more than once a quarter.

Finally the bill allows the Department to establish a transition process for a change of ownership that would allow a change of ownership without a disruption of care.

Senator Tate, 38th asked the Chairman if he would hold the bill until the next scheduled meeting because she had not had time to read the bill and had some concerns.

Senator Powell Sims, 12th also had some concerns and made the statement she was concerned about the children not the administrators.

Chairman Tippins, 37th held the bill until the next scheduled meeting to make sure everyone had time to read and work out their concerns with the author.

HB 401 HEARING ONLY

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The Senate **Education and Youth Committee** met on March 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Black, 8th
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
James, 35th
Millar, 40th
Tate, 38th

The chairman called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. asking Senator Black, 8th to lead in prayer.

HB 100, Dickson, 6th: Age Requirements for Education

Representative Dickson, 6th explained current law specifies that students must reach certain age requirements by September 1st of the year they are enrolled in certain educational programs. This bill changes that date to:

- August 1st for the 2017-2018 school year; and
- July 1st for the 2018-2019 school year, and thereafter.

The following ages must be reached for the specified programs, by the dates listed above:

- Kindergarten students must be five years old;
- High school students must not be more than 20 years old;
- Students with an individualized education program (IEP) requiring an extra year, must not be more than 21 years old;
- Students eligible for primary grades must be six years old; and
- Students with five unexcused absences signing for receipt of information about penalties for violating mandatory education laws must be ten years old.

Senator Black, 8th has concerns with the bill and stated that he was not prepared to make that decision.

Senator Powell Sims, 12th was disturbed by the legislation stating we want kids to begin school earlier and now we are setting them back. Does not agree and cannot vote for this legislation.

Senator Millar, 40th stated this bill needs to be discussed at the Governor's Education Reform Committee.

Senator Black, 8th stated he could support the bill if language was added that left the discretion to the local school boards.

Speaking against the bill:

Ross Florence- parent

Mindy Benderman

Christian Neighbor

The Chairman stated he was holding the bill and will discuss in the Governor's Education Funding Commission meetings.

HB 100 HEARING ONLY

HB 209, Cantrell, 22nd: Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act

Representative Cantrell, 22nd explained currently in law, parents of students with a disability are notified at the beginning of each school year in a timely manner by letter, electronic means, or by other reasonable means of their scholarship options. This legislation will stipulate that the resident school system provide written notice of the scholarship options at the initial Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting when the student's disability is acknowledged.

The Chairman stated he was holding this bill for Wednesday's meeting as he wanted to talk to the author about some amendments.

HB 209 HEARING ONLY

HB 502, Dudgeon, 25th: Title 20 Clean Up

Representative Dudgeon, 25th explained each section: There are several Code sections that are repealed:

- The bill repeals a prohibition on local school board members, in districts with 500,000-600,000 residents, from holding another elected office.
- The State School Superintendent is no longer required to report on first grade readiness of kindergarten students.
- The State Board of Education is no longer required to report expenditures and participation rates based on gender.
- The Department of Education is no longer required to report on the assistance to local boards and their acquisition of digital learning capabilities.

The bill repeals an outdated pension provision for counties with a population higher than 500,000.

Name Changes: This bill contains several name changes and updates for outdated language.

- The bill redefines school systems opting for the status quo as school system electing not to request increased flexibility.
- The bill removes references to middle grades.
- The bill identifies any school system seeking flexibility waivers as a strategic school system.
- References to Quality Core Curriculum and competencies are modified to reflect the current content standards based approach for education.

Clarification: There are several areas where the bill further clarifies current Code.

- The bill establishes that the teacher evaluation system cannot be waived for local school systems.
- The bill streamlines the current certification model for online classes.
- The bill ensures that the Professional Standards Commission is able to certify teachers that reside outside of Georgia, but teach online classes for students within Georgia.
- The bill allows for the Chief Financial Officer to execute contracts up to \$50,000 upon delegation from the State School Superintendent.
- The bill removes references to tests no longer administered, as well as attempts to future proof testing related language for new test names.
- The bill moves the Governor's Honors Program to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement from the State Board of Education, to reflect changes made in a previous budget.
- The bill adjusts the allocation of funds for the Georgia Virtual School. There is a preference established for public school students, as well as students who are not taking classes beyond the maximum number of courses that the student would be able to take in the course of a normal school day.
- The bill modifies a reporting requirement for home school programs. They must now also report the school system they are geographically located in.
- This bill changes the dates for acceptance and notification, for teacher contracts, to May 15 and June 1, respectively. Current Code has these dates at April 15th and May 1st.
- The bill allows for the State Board to proportionally cut funds to local school systems delinquent in their payments for the State Health Benefits Plan.

The bill clarifies the funding mechanism for funding virtual charter schools as it relates to the 5 mill local share.

New Code: The bill contains several new Code provisions.

- Currently, any student waiver must go through the Administrative Procedures Act. This bill would allow for the State Board of Education to establish its own review process for student waivers and would eliminate the role of the Secretary of State in the process.
- The bill allows computer equipment and software which is integral to the implementation of the school's curriculum, instruction, or administration to be considered a capital outlay.
- The bill allows the state board to affirm, reverse, remand, or refer disputes with a local board of education to remediation. Current law only allows reversal.
- The bill moves the annual report deadline, required of charter schools, to November 1st from • from October 1st.
- The bill allows a local school board 90 days to approve a charter petition.

Senator Fort, 39th asked if Section 44 was created when the State Charter School Commission was created. The answer was yes. Fort, 39th stated he was not voting for anything that changed the funding mechanism.

Dr. Robert Avossa, Fulton County School Superintendent stated Section 25 page 19 Line 631 add more bureaucracy and complexity for systems.

The Chairman stated this bill will be amended and heard at the next scheduled committee meeting. He also applauded Dr. Avossa for the great work he is doing in Fulton County and for his bold initiatives he has taken.

HB 502 HEARING ONLY

HB 474: Kaiser 59th: Charter School Attendance Preferences Update

Representative Kaiser, 59th explained this bill adds two definitions to the Code section that governs charter schools: Educationally Disadvantaged Students:

- Students who are economically disadvantaged,
- Students with disabilities,
- Limited English proficient students,
- Neglected or delinquent students,
- Homeless students,

- Military Students; The dependent child of an active duty military service member who is stationed in Georgia or who is on deployment and lists Georgia as such service member's home of record.

The bill then alters the ability for charter schools (both start-up and conversion schools) to offer preference to these two types of students for their attendance.

Current law allows charter schools to offer preference for:

- Siblings of current students;
- Children of governing board members or other full time employees;
- Students enrolled before the school was converted to a charter;
- Students who reside in the attendance zone specified in the charter; and
- Students who matriculate from a pre-k program associated with the school.

Senator Millar, 40th wanted a definition for “economically disadvantaged”

Senator Tippins, 37th stated this bill will be amended and will clarify definitions.

HB 474 HEARING ONLY

HB 401, Efstration, 104th: Early Child Care and Learning Code Section Updates Representative Efstration, 104th stated the bill was discussed at the last Senate Education and Youth Committee meeting. Representative Efstration, 104th and the Department of Early Child Care and Learning reached an agreement on the clarification and concerns they had with the legislation. Everyone was satisfied with the language in the bill.

Senator Millar, 40th made the motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Fort 39th. The vote was unanimous.

HB 401 Do Pass

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary

The **Senate Education and Youth Committee** met on March 25, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 CLOB. Members present:

Tippins, 37th, Chairman
Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary
Fort, 39th
Hufstetler, 52nd
James, 35th
Stone, 23rd

The chairman stated all of the bills on the agenda have been discussed. The recommendations that were made have been added to the bills in a form of substitute.

HB 131, Dickerson, 113th – The End to Cyber Bullying Act:

Representative Dickerson, 113th thanked the Chairman for clarifying “Cyber Bullying” on line 12. She was in agreement with the substitute and asked the committee for their favorable consideration.

Senator James, 35th made to motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, (LC 33 6192S), seconded by Senator Stone, 23rd. The vote was unanimous. Senator Jeffares, 17th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 131 Do Pass by Substitute, (LC 33 6192S)

NOTE: Senator Black, 8th arrived at 3:20 p.m.

HB 313, Dickey, 140th, Authorize certain public employees to limited paid leave to promote education in this state.

Senator Dugan, 30th explained the bill to the committee because Representative Dickey, 140th had to attend another meeting. The Senator explained he was presenting a substitute that addressed the concerns of the Chairman. The substitute added language clarifying leave was specific to academic support and student achievement and added specific language prohibiting political purposes or agendas. (Lines 16-18)

Senator James, 35th made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, (LC 33 6190S), Senator Powell Sims, 12th seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Senator Dugan, 30th will carry bill in the Senate.

HB 313 Do Pass by Substitute, (LC 33 6190S)

NOTE: Senator Fort, 39th and Senator Powell Sims, 12th left meeting at 3:30.

NOTE: Senator Dugan, 30th and Senator Williams, 19th were appointed Ex-Officio's for today's meeting.

HB 372, Coomer, 14th; Facilities Fund for Charter Schools

Senator Miller, 49th presented the bill for Representative Coomer, 14th who had to be in another meeting. Senator Miller, 49th explained that he had a substitute that added language "any for-profit vendor of the charter school is subject to any applicable local requirement related to doing business in Georgia."

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute** (LC 33 6178S), seconded by Senator Black, 8th. The vote was unanimous. Senator Miller, 49th will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 372 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 6178S)

HB 209, Cantrell, 22nd, Special Needs Options Notification

Representative Cantrell, 22nd explained language was added on lines 16-18 "provide notice of the options available under this article to the parents at all subsequent Individualized Education Program meetings.

Senator Hufstetler, 52nd made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute** (LC 33 6189S), seconded by Senator James, 35th. The vote was unanimous. Senator Hill, 32nd will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 209, Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 6189S)

HB 474: Kaiser, 59th: Charter School Attendance Preferences Update

Representative Kaiser, 59th stated to the committee that she agreed with the Committee substitute that defined "Educationally Disadvantaged Students".

This bill modifies the order of preference for charter schools

This bill adds two definitions to the Code section that governs charter schools:

- Educationally Disadvantaged Students:
- Students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, neglected or delinquent students, and homeless students; and
- Military Students: The dependent child of an active duty military service member who is stationed in Georgia or who is on deployment and lists Georgia as such service member's home of record.

The bill then alters the ability for charter schools (both start-up and conversion schools) to offer preference to these two types of students for their attendance.

Current law allows charter schools to offer preference for:

- Siblings of current students;
- Children of governing board members or other full time employees;
- Students enrolled before the school was converted to a charter;
- Students who reside in the attendance zone specified in the charter; and
- Students who matriculate from a pre-k program associated with the school.

Senator Stone, 23rd made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous. Senator Parent, 42nd will carry the bill in the Senate.

HB 474, Do pass by substitute (LC 33 6194S)

SR 564, Black 8th: Senate Study Committee for School Construction

The Resolution establishes a five member Senate Study Committee with one member being appointed by the President of the Senate as chairperson.

Senator Black, 8th made the motion **Do Pass**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous.

SR 564 Do Pass

HB 502, Dudgeon, 25th: Title 20 Revisions

Representative Dudgeon, 25th explained he would be working off of the Senate Education Committee Substitute.

Repeal: There are several Code sections that are repealed.

- The bill repeals a prohibition on local school board members, in districts with 500,000-600,000 residents, from holding another elected office.
- The State School Superintendent is no longer required to report on first grade readiness of kindergarten students.
- The State Board of Education is no longer required to report expenditures and participation rates based on gender.
- The Department of Education is no longer required to report on the assistance to local boards and their acquisition of digital learning capabilities.
- The bill repeals an outdated pension provision for counties with a population higher than 500,000.

Name Changes: This bill contains several name changes and updates for outdated language.

- The bill redefines school systems opting for the status quo as school system electing not to request increased flexibility.
- The bill removes references to middle grades.
- The bill identifies any school system seeking flexibility waivers as a strategic school system.
- References to Quality Core Curriculum and competencies are modified to reflect the current content standards based approach for education.

Clarification: There are several areas where the bill further clarifies current Code.

- The bill establishes that the teacher evaluation system cannot be waived for local school systems.
- The bill streamlines the current certification model for online classes.
- The bill ensures that the Professional Standards Commission is able to certify teachers that reside outside of Georgia, but teach online classes for students within Georgia.
- The bill allows for the Chief Financial Officer to execute contracts up to \$50,000 upon delegation from the State School Superintendent.
- The bill removes references to tests no longer administered, as well as attempts to future proof testing related language for new test names.
- The bill moves the Governor's Honors Program to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement from the State Board of Education, to reflect changes made in a previous budget.
- The bill adjusts the allocation of funds for the Georgia Virtual School. There is a preference established for public school students, as well as students who are not taking classes beyond the maximum number of courses that the student would be able to take in the course of a normal school day.
- The bill modifies a reporting requirement for home school programs. They must now also report the school system they are geographically located in.
- This bill changes the dates for acceptance and notification, for teacher contracts, to May 15 and June 1, respectively. Current Code has these dates at April 15th and May 1st.
- The bill allows for the State Board to proportionally cut funds to local school systems delinquent in their payments for the State Health Benefits Plan.
- The bill clarifies the funding mechanism for funding virtual charter schools as it relates to the 5 mill local share.

New Code: The bill contains several new Code provisions.

- Currently, any student waiver must go through the Administrative Procedures Act. This bill would allow for the State Board of Education to establish its own review process for student waivers and would eliminate the role of the Secretary of State in the process.
- The bill allows computer equipment and software which is integral to the implementation of the school's curriculum, instruction, or administration to be considered a capital outlay.
- The bill allows the state board to affirm, reverse, remand, or refer disputes with a local board of education to remediation. Current law only allows reversal.
- The bill moves the annual report deadline, required of charter schools, to November 1st from October 1st.
- The bill allows a local school board 90 days to approve a charter petition.

Senator Stone, 23rd made the motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, seconded by Senator Hufstetler, 52nd. The vote was unanimous.

SB 502 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 6191S)

The meeting adjourned at 3:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Powell Sims, 12th, Secretary

/s/ Kathleen Cominski, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR


March 25, 2015

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

Dear David:

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Mike Dugan to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Education and Youth Committee meeting on March 25 2015. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,


Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
President of the Senate

CC/tes

Cc:
Senate Committee Chairman
Fiscal Office
Appointee



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR


March 25, 2015

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

Dear David:

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Tommie Williams to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Education and Youth Committee meeting on March 25 2015. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,


Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
President of the Senate

CC/tes

Cc:
Senate Committee Chairman
Fiscal Office
Appointee

April 6, 2015

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:

[SB 56](#)

[SB 60](#)

[SB 80](#)

[SB 81](#)

[SB 92](#)

[SB 124](#)

[SB 147](#)

[SB 157](#)

[SB 162](#)

[SB 165](#)

[SB 166](#)

[SB 167](#)

[SB 181](#)

[SB 202](#)

[SB 213](#)

[HB 100](#)

[HB 296](#)

[HR 394](#)

[SR 138](#)

[SR 393](#)

[SR 624](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Cominski
Recording Secretary