

**Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

**2015**

Senator Hunter Hill, Chairman 6<sup>th</sup> District  
2451 Cumberland Parkway  
Suite 3439  
Smyrna, GA 30339

Senator Ed Harbison, Vice Chairman, 15<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 1292  
Columbus, GA 31902

Senator Mike Dugan, Secretary, 30<sup>th</sup> District  
106 Champion Drive  
Carrollton, GA 30116

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 1074  
Jonesboro, GA 30237

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
PO Box 777  
Marietta, GA 30061

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman  
Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman  
Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary  
Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Absent Senator:

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> thanked Senator Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> for all of the great work he has done for the Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee, Veterans, and the state of Georgia in the years he has served as Chairman of the committee.

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> introduced the committee and staff members present.

Chairman Hill, 6<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 Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup> moved to adopt the rules, Senator Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the rules were adopted by a unanimous vote (3-0).

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> introduced Mike Roby, Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations & Claims, Georgia Department of Veterans Services and Dan Holtz, Assistant Commissioner, Health & Memorial, Georgia Department of Veterans Services to give the committee an update on their department.

With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

**Rules**  
**Senate Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security**  
**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 Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Absent Senator:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> introduced Jim Butterworth, Director of Georgia's Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to give the committee an update on the agency. Director Butterworth also introduced other GEMA staff members that were present.

With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 3:05 pm with a quorum being present.

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> introduced Brigadier General Joe Jarrard, The Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard to give an update on the National Guard.

With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 3:00 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Vice Chairman Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 3:15 pm with a quorum being present since Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> was delayed due to another meeting.

Vice Chairman Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> introduced Colonel Paul Longgear (retired) and Colonel Rick White (retired) from the Georgia Veterans Military Hall of Fame. Col. Longgear and Col. White gave each Senator on the committee a special certificate thanking them for their service on the committee and for their assistance in creating the Georgia Veterans Military Hall of Fame.

NOTE: Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> arrived at 3:20 pm and led the meeting from that point forward.

**SB 69, Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> (LC 28 7429), State Defense Force; remove restrictions; rights of public officers and employees to be absent for service; reemployment rights.**

Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup> introduced this legislation which would extend some rights currently given to National Guard and Reserve members to the Georgia Defense Force as well. There are some 800 volunteers that report directly to the Governor and deploy before the National Guard. Some of them are in jeopardy of losing their employment. This legislation would assist them in protecting their positions of employment.

Testimonies:

Brigadier General Tom Danielson, Commanding General, Georgia Defense Force, spoke in favor of the legislation.

Senator Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup> moved SB 69 DO PASS (LC 28 7429), Senator Harbison 15<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously (4-0).

**SB 69 DO PASS (LC 28 7429).**

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With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015 in room 123 of the State Capitol at 8:30 am.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Brandon Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>, Ex-Officio

Senator Tyler Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>, Ex-Officio

Absent Senators:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 8:40 am with a quorum being present.

### **SB 203, Senator Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> (LC 21 3737), Georgia World War I Centennial Commission; create; membership, powers, and duties.**

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> presented SB 203 (LC 21 3737) to the committee. Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> said this would create a Georgia World War I Centennial Commission to help commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I.

Senator Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup> moved SB 203 DO PASS (LC 21 3737), Senator Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously (4-0).

**SB 203 DO PASS (LC 21 3737).**

With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary



**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

240 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 9, 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 Tyler Harper to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee meeting on March 9, 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 9, 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 Brandon Beach to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee meeting on March 9, 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

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 5 pm.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 5:05 pm with a quorum being present.

### **[HB 443, Representative Dempsey, 13<sup>th</sup>, \(LC 43 0085\), Voluntary Veterans' Preference Employment Policy Act.](#)**

Representative Dempsey, 13<sup>th</sup> presented HB 443 (LC 43 0085) to the committee. This legislation allows employers to create and maintain a veterans' preference employment policy, which must be in writing and applied uniformly, to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion, or retention during a reduction in force.

An employer's use of a veterans' preference employment policy does not constitute a violation of any local or state equal employment opportunity law. Senator Hunter Hill will be the Senate sponsor. Both the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Retail Association were in support and view the bill as a good way for businesses to give back.

Senator Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup> moved HB 443 DO PASS (LC 43 0085), Senator Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously (4-0).

**HB 443 DO PASS (LC 43 0085).**

### **[HB 180, Representative Kidd, 145<sup>th</sup>, \(LC 43 0056\), War Veterans' Home; residency requirements to qualify for admission.](#)**

Representative Kidd, 145<sup>th</sup> presented the bill. Under current law, a veteran wishing to be admitted into the Georgia State War Veterans' Nursing Home or the Georgia State War Veterans' Home must be a Georgia resident for at least five years immediately prior to the time of applying for admission.

This legislation reduces the residency requirement to two years. A veteran may also fulfill the residency requirement if he or she is a current Georgia resident and has been a resident for at least five out of the last 15 years prior to application for admission. The Veterans Service Board is authorized to adopt appropriate rules to determine if a war veteran qualifies under this legislation.

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Representative Kidd indicated there are currently no waiting lists for these facilities. Therefore, reducing the residency requirement will not exacerbate any existing waiting lists. Senator Burt Jones will be the Senate sponsor.

Senator Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup> moved HB 180 DO PASS (LC 43 0056), Senator Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously (4-0).

**HB 180 DO PASS (LC 43 0056).**

With no further business Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

\*\*Paula Foil was absent due to a medical situation.

## **Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security**

The **Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security** held a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 in room 125 of the State Capitol at 8:15 am.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chairman

Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

Absent Senators:

Senator Hunter Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>, Chairman

Senator Gail Davenport, 44<sup>th</sup>

Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett, 33<sup>rd</sup>

Vice Chairman Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> convened the meeting at 8:15 am for Chairman Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> who was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict with another meeting.

Vice Chairman Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> introduced Colonel James Palmer (retired), Commandant of the Corps of Cadets at the University of North Georgia and Colonel Billy Wells (retired), Vice President of Executive Affairs at the University of North Georgia. The Colonels updated the committee on the Corps of Cadets program.

With no further business Vice Chairman Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup> adjourned the meeting at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Mike Dugan, 30<sup>th</sup>, Secretary

/s/ Paula Foil, Recording Secretary

August 6, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

On behalf of Chairman Hunter Hill, there were no bills from the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security that were not acted upon and needing to be returned to your office for the 2015 General Assembly Session.

Sincerely,

Paula Foil