

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
2015 - 2016

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
P. O. Box 1356
Perry, GA 31069
Phone: 404-656-0081

Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
6320 Glenbrook Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 404-463-1318

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
1300 Keys Ferry Ct.
McDonough, GA 30253
Phone: (678) 432-7676

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
139 Midway Road
Marietta, GA 30064
Phone: 770-424-2700

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
P.O. Box 798
Ocilla, GA 31774
Phone: (229) 425-4840

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
P. O. Box 2227
Toccoa, GA 30577
Phone: 706-886-1898

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
P.O. Box 1136
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706) 680-4466

Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)
148 Williams Avenue
Lyons, GA 30436
Phone: 912-526-7444

Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
2643 Sterling Acres Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: (404) 243-5107

Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
P.O. Box 486
Reidsville, GA 30453
Phone: (912) 557-3811

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742
Phone: 404-463-5259

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He welcomed the members and explained the Rules for 2015-2016 and asked for the pleasure of the Committee. Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion to adopt the Rules. Sen. Williams (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE RULES
2015 - 2016 SESSION

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5(d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.
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 time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name first appears on the list of authors.
7. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
8. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

SB 36 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd LC 40 0708) Underground Water Supply Protection Act of 2015; prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridian aquifer in certain counties

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Thompson (5th) and Sen. Williams (19th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

Sen. Ligon (3rd), the author of SB 36, presented his bill, saying that the Aquifer is the only source of water for the coast. Aquifers can create arsenic and other problems such as biological contamination. It is important that we protect this river source, which applies to 11 counties.

Speaking in favor of the bill were:

Gordon Rogers – River Keeper of the Flint River
Jim Renner—Geologist, Ecologist & manager of Southern Onyx Mineral Company
Chris Manganiello—Policy Director of Georgia River Network
Emily Markesteyn – Ogeechee Riverkeeper

Speaking in opposition to the bill were:

Doug Miell – Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Russ Pennington – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) & Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

NOTE: Sen. Jeffares (17th) arrived at 3:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) said that he wanted to have a complete sound science study done by EPA before the bill passes out of the Committee.

Sen. Thompson (5th) made a motion to table SB 36. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 36 TABLED

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) and Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

SB 62 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 28 7391) **Probate Courts; remove certain limitations on the jurisdiction of the probate courts over the game and fish violations**

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 62 DO PASS

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, February 19, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:02 p.m.

[SR 26](#) (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 40 0715) Joint House and Senate Coastal Greenway Study Committee; create

Sen. Williams (19th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 26 DO PASS

Sen. Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary, Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

SB 101 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 40 0799) Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; provide for buffer against coastal marshlands within which certain land-disturbing activities are prohibited

Those speaking in favor of the bill were:

Spud Woodward, Environmental Protection Division
Doug Miell, Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Robert Ramsay, Georgia Conservancy
Patricia Barmeyer, King & Spalding

Those speaking in opposition to the bill were:

Gil Rogers, Southern Environmental Law Center
Megan Derosier, One Hundred Miles Advocacy Group
Martin McConaughy, Sierra Club
Alton Brown, Resource & Land Consultants

NOTE: Sen. Williams (19th) left at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:40 p.m. and returned at 3:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) left at 3:55 p.m.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 0835S)**. Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 101 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 40 0835S)

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Environment met on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were present:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

[SB 119](#) (Sen. Jeffares, 17th, LC 28 7455) Water Professionals Appreciation Day"; designate the first Monday in May of each year in Georgia

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 119 DO PASS

[SB 112](#) (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 40 0769) Wildlife; general hunting provisions; prohibit the removal, transportation; game animal or game bird carcasses

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Williams (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 112 DO PASS

Chairman Tolleson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, March 5, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were present:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)

NOTE: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

There being no quorum, Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

SB 36 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 40 0708) 'Underground Water Supply Protection Act of 2015'; prohibit the injection of ground water into the Floridian aquifer in certain counties

Sen. Ginn (47th) said he would like to amend the bill by inserting the word “potentially” after the word “recovery” on line 23 on page 2. Sen. Ligon (3rd) agreed with the amendment.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion to adopt the amendment and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 0892S)**. Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 36 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 40 0892S)

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, March 12, 2015 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

NOTE: Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

There being no quorum, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st) and Sen. Lindsey Tippens (37th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

[SR 449](#) (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 107 0436) United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); encouraged to withdraw the proposed Clean Power Plan

Senator Beach presented the bill to the Committee.

Speaking in favor of the bill was Randy Eminger, from the American Coalition for Clean Coal.

Speaking against the bill was Ashton Bailey, of the Sierra Club.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Williams (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 2. The yea votes were Vice-Chairman Jeffares (17th), Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Wilkinson (50th) and Sen. Williams (19th). The nay votes were Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Thompson (5th).

SR 449 DO PASS

[HB 199](#) (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 40 0823S) Timber harvesting; require notice only in an approved form; provisions

Speaking in favor of the bill was Steve McWilliams, of Georgia Forestry Association.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 199 DO PASS

[HB 172](#) (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 41 0367) Watercraft; operation while under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs; revise types of vessels

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Thompson (5th) left at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Thompson (5th) returned at 3:29 p.m.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Williams (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 172 DO PASS

HB 160 (Rep. Dunahoo, 30th, LC 40 0762) **Game and fish; trapping of raccoons in certain counties; repeal a provision**

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 160 DO PASS

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the Capitol.

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order and adjourned since there were no members in attendance. He stated that the Committee would meet on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Sen. Jeffares (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares, (17th), Vice-Chairman

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, March 26, 2015 in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper, (7th), Secretary
Sen. Lindsey Tippens (37th)
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

NOTE: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

[HB 82](#) (Rep. Kidd, 145th, LC 40 0397S) Oconee River Greenway Authority; certain members to appoint a designee; allow

NOTE: Sen. Wilkinson (50th) arrived at 4:50 p.m.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Williams (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 82 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 4:53 p.m.

[HB 475](#) (Rep. McCall, 33rd, LC 40 0900S) Game and fish; hunting of feral hogs; revise provisions

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 0929S)**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 475 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 40 0929S)

[HB 172](#) (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 41 0367) Watercraft; operation while under the influence of alcohol, toxic vapors, or drugs; revise types of vessels

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 0932S)**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 172 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 40 0932S)

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Friday, March 27, 2015 in the Mezz. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Ross Tolleson (20th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Tolleson (20th) called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

[HR 419](#) (Rep. Sims, 123rd, LC 108 0539) United States Congress; extend authorization for Augusta Canal National Heritage Area to receive federal funding from the National Park Service through 2021; encourage

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HR 419 DO PASS

Chairman Tolleson (20th) adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

May 1, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment did not have any bills remaining from the 2015 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Betty Conner
Recording Secretary
Senate Natural Resources and the Environment