

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
2015 MEMBERS**

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
COMMITTEE RULES  
2015-2016 Term**

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1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chair shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chair 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.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
5. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
6. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
7. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom the author or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
8. Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.
9. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice Chairman  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

The Chairman directed members to review and consider the Committee rules presented and asked if there were any questions. There were none. The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the Committee rules as presented.

Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) made a motion to adopt the Committee rules as presented. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The Committee rules were adopted by unanimous vote.

### **SR 135 (Sen. Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>) General Assembly; authorize to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing -CA**

Chairman Jeffares stated that this meeting would be a hearing only, and no vote would be taken by the Committee. The Chairman further explained that he would allow 20 minutes for supporting comments, and 20 minutes for opposing comments. Each side would have to determine how to divide the time among them. The Chairman then recognized Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), author of SR 135, to speak on the bill.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) thanked the Committee and introduced four individuals who accompanied him to speak on the bill:

Dean Reeves, President of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition (*Suwanee, GA*)

Jack Damico, Treasurer of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition (*Suwanee, GA*)  
Dr. Forest Northrop, member of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition (*Suwanee, GA*) and  
American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) (*Lexington, KY*)  
Tim Ritvo, Chief Operating Officer, Racing Division, of the Stronach Group (*Hallandale  
Beach, FL*)

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) provided information to Committee members to review during his presentation, and began by stating that SR 135 is mostly about two things: jobs and tourism. He stated his belief that government can do things to create job growth, and presented several facts he believed supported the passage of SR 135.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) stated that SR 135 would create thousands of jobs for the state of Georgia. Implementation would be privately funded, with zero tax dollars used. He further stated that it is believed that 87% of revenue generated will come from out-of-state wagering, and that 72% of Georgia citizens support horse racing. He believed that Georgia's environment was perfect for horse racing, and that revenues generated could be dedicated to education for need-based students. He stated that horse racing revenues would complement the lottery, and not compete with it.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) asked Dean Reeves, President of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition, to address the Committee. Mr. Reeves referred to the information provided to the Committee, and presented what he stated as facts about the horse racing industry. Mr. Reeves stated that horse racing is a \$1 billion industry in the state of Florida, creating 12,000 jobs across the state. He stated that there are generally 20 race days in Florida, worked around a schedule that does not conflict with race days in other states. Mr. Reeves further stated his opposition to casino gambling as it relates to horse racing.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) asked Jack Damico, Treasurer of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition, to address the Committee. Mr. Damico further reviewed information presented to the Committee. Mr. Damico explained the term "handle" in horse racing, which generally means the amount of money that's wagered on races. Mr. Damico further broke down the economic impact of revenues gained from "handle."

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) asked Dr. Forest Northrop, member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, to address the Committee. Dr. Northrop affirmed the benefit of the state of Georgia potentially locating the racetrack near the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Services.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) asked Tim Ritvo, Chief Operating Officer, Racing Division, of the Stronach Group, to address the Committee. Mr. Ritvo affirmed the belief that, if appropriate groundwork is put into place, horse racing in Georgia can be a high-class event without having a casino-like atmosphere.

Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) closed his statement by once again stating his belief that SR 135 would bring a revenue-generating industry to the state that would create thousands of jobs with zero tax dollars from citizens.

Chairman Jeffares asked if there were further questions from the Committee, and recognized various members for a series of questions, which were answered by Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), Mr. Reeves, Mr. Damico, and Mr. Ritvo.

Chairman Jeffares thanked Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) and his invited guests for their presentation, and opened the floor to those wishing to speak in opposition of SR 135. The Chairman recognized Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Mr. Griffin outlined his fervent beliefs that bringing the horse racing industry to the state of Georgia would be a detrimental decision for families and for the morality of all citizens of Georgia. He believed horse racing would be an “ominous threat to the state.”

Chairman Jeffares asked if there were further questions from the Committee, and recognized various members for questions. Mr. Griffin answered a series of questions from members of the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares recognized one final person who signed up to speak in opposition to the bill, Mr. Paul Smith, a member of Citizen Impact (*Atlanta, GA*). Mr. Smith outlined his beliefs that gambling, which comes along with horse racing, would be on the increase and would cause grave detriment to Georgia families. He further stated his belief that counseling resources would have to be made available to families state-wide due to the negative impact of gambling on those with gambling addictions and their families.

Chairman Jeffares thanked Mr. Smith for addressing the Committee, and thanked all participants of the hearing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

FEBRUARY 18, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:30 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch, (51<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

**SB 63 (Sen. Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic Beverages; provide for manufacturers of malt beverages to make limited retail sales of malt beverages under certain circumstances**

Chairman Jeffares stated that this meeting would be a hearing only, and no vote would be taken by the Committee. The Chairman then recognized Sen. Hunter Hill (6<sup>th</sup>), author of SB 63, to speak on the bill.

Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) introduced Nancy Palmer, spokesperson for the Georgia Craft Brewers Guild, who accompanied him on his presentation to the Committee. Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) stated that the bill was mostly about helping small businesses expand in Georgia and create jobs. He affirmed his belief that he was not alone in the desire to help small businesses achieve higher profit margins with their products by being able to sell more of their products.

Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) informed the Committee that he wanted to go line-by-line in explaining the bill to them, and proceeded to do so. Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) answered a series of questions from various Committee members.

Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) asked Nancy Palmer to address the Committee, who began her statements by stating that craft brewery is not a young industry in Georgia, with the oldest craft brewery company now being at least twenty (20) years old. Ms. Palmer answered a series of questions from various Committee members.

**SB 63 HEARING ONLY**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 4, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice Chairman  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Bill Cowser (46<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m., asking Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

### **SB 91 (Sen. Harper, 7<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic Beverages; provide for local control of distance requirements for grocery stores; locations near school buildings; local governing authority**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Tyler Harper (7<sup>th</sup>), author of SB 91, to speak on the bill. Sen. Harper explained that this bill seeks to make amendments to a bill introduced and passed by Sen. Ginn in the 2014 legislative session.

The Chairman asked if there were questions from any Committee members, and recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), who asked how close to schools buildings is the allowance? Sen. Harper answered that the definition of what is deemed a “grocery store” is what was codified last year and that local authorities still have the ability to determine proximity to schools.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) for a question, who simply asked Sen. Harper if this bill was “alright.” Sen. Harper affirmed that he felt the bill was “alright” for them to vote for passage.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) who expressed his concern for strengthening the definition of local control. Chairman Jeffares stated that he agrees that local control is needed and should be considered on certain instances during the legislative process.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) who asked if there were a representative from the grocery stores to express a position. Chairman Jeffares then recognized Kathy Kuzava, a representative of the Georgia Food Industry Association, who stated that they had no issues with SB 91, and would be happy to work with members of the committee to perfect the legislation if needed.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative for the Georgia Baptist Convention, to speak against the bill. Mr. Griffin addressed the committee and briefly stated his opposition to SB 91 as a further decline of the moral compass for the state of Georgia and its lawmaking policies.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) motioned **DO PASS**. Sen Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 10-0.

### **SB 91 DO PASS**

### **SR 135 (Sen. Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>) General Assembly; authorize to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing -CA**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), author of SR 135, to speak on the bill. Sen. Beach thanked the committee for its attention, and reviewed sections of the committee substitute being presented.

The Chairman asked if there were questions from any Committee members, and recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) for a comment. Sen Henson stated that, when the bill implementing the lottery was passed, then Governor Zell Miller stated there would be no horse-racing and no supplanting of lottery funds into the general state funds.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) for a question, who asked Sen. Beach why he was proposing a constitutional amendment without the enabling legislation? Sen. Beach stated that it was his intention that, down the road, he would do what was legislatively needed to be done. Sen. Unterman further asked when this constitutional amendment would appear on the ballot? Sen. Beach answered in 2016. Sen. Unterman then asked when the enabling legislation would be introduced. Sen. Beach stated in the 2016 legislative session. Sen. Unterman finally asked why both are not being presented at the same time. Before an answer was presented, Sen. Ginn asked if he could ask a question.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) for a question, who asked if the legislation could be done in a manner that it is contingent upon the counties to decide if the constitutional amendment should be placed on the ballot? Chairman Jeffares recognized Shawn Marie Story of the Senate Legislative Counsel, who affirmed that the legislation could be crafted in that manner.

Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) asked Chairman Jeffares if he would permit him to draft an amendment to the committee substitute, with the help of Shawn Marie Story from Legislative Counsel that would insert language allowing local counties to determine if the constitutional amendment can be placed on their ballot.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) for a question, who asked why the bill was phrased as it was, not specifying the Lottery Corporation as the governing body for funds distribution? Sen. Beach answered that he believed that funds distribution would still be under the purview of The Lottery Corporation. Sen. Henson further stated that the bill does not put it directly under The Lottery Corporation, and that the amendment mentioned does not address that issue. Sen. Beach asked Sen. Henson to refer to line 11 of the bill to answer his concerns.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), who stated her belief that the public should be allowed at least two years to consider this issue, and has a problem with voting on this constitutional amendment without the enabling legislation. She further stated that the committee has no idea what is being voted on without the enabling legislation, with the added problem of off-site betting being allowed within the bill. She believes off-site betting to be a big question with this legislation.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), who expressed who concern with not wanting to create a scholarship program that would ultimately compete with the HOPE scholarship. He proposes to strike the wording “need-based” on line 26. Sen. Beach responded by stating that the language was specifically placed there by request from the Chancellor of the Board of Regents. The Chancellor saw a need for need-based students to be serviced within the university system.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), who commented that the tipping point for his support of the bill is the need-based language contained within.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>), who commented that he was opposed to the proposed amendment because he does not think the legislature should get into this type of “hodge-podge” voting, and should allow statewide voting on the issue.

The Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the amendment. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) made a motion for adoption of the amendment to the committee substitute. Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 8-1, with Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) voting NO.

Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3, with Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>), voting YES, and with Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) voting NO.

**SR 135 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

**SB 142 (Sen. Beach, 21<sup>st</sup>) Local Government; regulate procedures governing applications for permits for critical infrastructure projects**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), author of SB 142, to speak on the bill.

Sen. Beach thanked the committee for its continued indulgence, and explained this bill as a measure to ensure that 911 calls are re-routed to appropriate counties and call centers. He relayed to the committee his personal experiences with deaths of Georgia citizens whose calls to 911 were incorrectly routed, thus resulting in their deaths.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), for a question, who asked if this bill were a moratorium on cell phone towers? Sen. Beach responded that it was not a moratorium on cell phone towers. Sen. Unterman also inquired as to why these people died? Sen. Beach answered that their calls to 911 were routed to the wrong call centers, which delayed the arrival of medical personnel.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), who stated his belief that the bill, as drafted, was too broad to address the problem he's bringing forth to the committee, further stating that there exists multiple legitimate reasons why local governments impose moratoriums on cell phone towers. Sen. Henson concluded that he could not support the bill because there were broader issues/scopes to be considered before passing the legislation.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) for a question, who expressed his support of local zoning ordinances, and asked if this bill violates local zoning? Sen. Beach affirmed that it was his belief that local control remained intact with the bill.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Shafer, who commented that the sponsor of the bill met with him and representatives of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to make substantive changes to the legislation presented.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions. There were no further questions.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2, with Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting YES, and Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) and Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) voting NO.

**SB 142 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES**

MARCH 5, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on **Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.**, in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB).

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., and immediately suspended the meeting until **Friday, March 6, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.**, in Room 310 CLOB.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 6, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
10:30 AM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Friday, March 6, 2015, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn, 47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m., asking Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

### **HB 340 (Rep. Petrea, 166<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; sales on Sunday during Saint Patrick's Day holiday period; change certain provisions**

The Chairman announced that, upon request of Rep. Jesse Petrea (166<sup>th</sup>), author of the bill, HB 340 will be tabled until further notice.

#### **HB 340 TABLED**

### **SB 174 (Sen. Ginn, 47<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic Beverages; operation of company stores by distillers/brewers public can purchase limited quantities; limited conditions**

The Chairman announced that SB 174 will receive a hearing only, and the Committee would not be voting on the bill.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) author of SB 174, to speak on the bill. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) briefly explained the purpose of the bill and thanked Chairman Jeffares and the Committee for its consideration. The Chairman asked if there were questions from any Committee member on the bill. There were none.

#### **SB 174 HEARING ONLY**

**SB 63 (Sen. Hill, 6<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic Beverages; provide for manufacturers of malt beverages to make limited retail sales of malt beverages under certain circumstances**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Hunter Hill (6<sup>th</sup>), author of SB 63, to speak on the bill, and to review the changes that were implemented in the bill as a result of the hearing that was held on February 18, 2015, with the Committee.

Sen. Hill (6<sup>th</sup>) thanked the Chairman for his leadership and guidance, and apologized for the treatment he had received from local media outlets and the public in reaction to the bill. Sen. Hill reviewed the changes made to the bill and answered a series of questions from Committee members. Chairman asked Sen. Hill to review the changes made for growler size specifications, which was not specified in the previous version. Sen. Hill referenced line 62 for growler size specification.

The Chairman directed the committee's attention to line 201 for language on the amount of ounces permissible for a growler.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Ginn for a question, who directed his question to line 177 for the definition of a souvenir size, wanting to make sure that line 42 does not create conflict or confusion on what's permissible. Sen. Ginn asked if possibly our legislative counsel representative, Shawn Marie Story, could further explain. Chairman recognized Shawn Marie Story, who explained that the souvenir size could not exceed 64 ounces, and can be consumed on-site, and that a growler must be capped and sealed on-site.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions on the bill. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1, with Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) voting YES, and Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting NO.

**SB 63 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

**SB 190 (Sen. Miller, 49<sup>th</sup>) Bona Fide Coin Operated Machines; provide certain definitions; license fees and requirements for manufacturers and distributors**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>), author of SB 190, to speak on the bill.

Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) briefly explained the purpose of the bill was to close a few loopholes created in coin operation legislation that was passed a few years ago by the Georgia General Assembly.

Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) offered an amendment to the committee substitute, which was presented as a new committee substitute to the committee. Copies of the newly presented

committee substitute were distributed to committee members for review. Sen. Miller directed attention to the striking of lines 213-216.

The Chairman asked if there were questions from the committee, and recognized Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) for a series of questions regarding the implementation of proposed corrections for the bill.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) for a question, who asked if there were representatives from the amusement industry to address questions from the committee. Chairman Jeffares queried if any representative was present, and there was no response.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) left the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Unterman moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2, with Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) voting NO.

**SB 190 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES**

MARCH 11, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB).

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., and immediately suspended the meeting until **Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 12:00 p.m.**, in Room 310 CLOB.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 12, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
12:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2015, at 12:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Due to his sore throat, the Chairman asked Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>), as Vice-Chairman, to preside over the meeting.

**HB 18 (Rep. Spencer, 180<sup>th</sup>) Professional engineers and land surveyors; defense, aviation, space or aerospace companies from complying with provisions; exempt**

Vice-Chairman Ginn recognized Rep. Jason Spencer (180<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 18, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Spencer (180<sup>th</sup>) greeted the Committee and briefly explained the implications of the bill, first verifying the correct LC version of the bill presented. Rep. Spencer stated that the bill updates Georgia code regulating Tesla automobiles, and mirrors the statute in Florida. He further commented that Georgia would be the second state to pass such legislation.

The Vice-Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members, and recognized Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) for a brief question.

The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

**HB 18 DO PASS**

The Vice-Chairman asked Rep. Spencer (180<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Spencer (180<sup>th</sup>) responded that Sen. John Albers (56<sup>th</sup>) will serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 57 (Rep. Dudgeon, 25<sup>th</sup>) Solar Power Free-Market Financing Act of 2015; enact**

Vice-Chairman Ginn recognized Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 57, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Dudgeon (25<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained that the bill is a solar market bill which makes clear in Georgia law that Georgians have the right to finance solar powering in homes and businesses. He further explained that Georgia has very few citizens taking advantage of solar powering technology because of costs associated, but believed this bill would offer more possibilities for Georgians to explore its use.

The Vice-Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

Vice-Chairman Ginn asked for a motion. Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. HB 57 passed by a vote of 7-1, with Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting NO.

**HB 57 DO PASS**

The Vice-Chairman asked if Sen. Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>) would serve as Senate sponsor for the bill. Rep. Dudgeon (25<sup>th</sup>) affirmed that Sen. Gooch would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 246 (Rep. Knight, 130<sup>th</sup>) Accountants; provide for powers and actions granted to other licensing boards; provisions**

Vice-Chairman Ginn recognized Rep. David Knight (130<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 246, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Knight (130<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained that during the 2014 legislative session, HB 292 was legislation introduced and passed which moved the State Board of Accountancy from governance under the Secretary of State, to create the State Board of Accounting. The move has been an overall good move, but there were some fixes that were needed, and this bill addresses those.

Rep. Knight outlined three specific issues the bill corrects:

- (1) Ratifies the Executive Order for the board's hiring process
- (2) Corrects conflicting language identified by the Attorney General pertaining to the creation of the State Board of Accounting being a lateral move
- (3) Updates the definition of the attestation function, ensuring that licensing requirements remain intact.

**NOTE:** Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) left the meeting at approximately 12:28 p.m.

The Vice-Chairman asked if there were questions from any Committee members. Vice-Chairman Ginn recognized Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) and Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) for a series of questions. Vice-Chairman Ginn also asked questions about the bill, with Rep. Knight addressing the questions presented.

Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. HB 246 passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**HB 246 DO PASS**

The Vice-Chairman asked who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Knight (130<sup>th</sup>) stated that Sen. Michael Williams (27<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 18, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
4:00 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Bill Cowser (46<sup>th</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m., asking Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

### **SB 188 (Sen. Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>) Bingo; increase the permissible prize amounts**

The Chairman announced that the bill would only receive a hearing, and no vote would be taken on the bill. The Chairman recognized Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), author of SB 188, to speak on the bill.

Sen. Harbison briefly explained that the bill's purpose was to help Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organizations increase membership and participation by increasing the monetary value of possible winnings from bingo games. Sen. Harbison gave the example that the state of Alabama caps its bingo winnings at \$120,000.

Chairman Jeffares asked if there were questions from the committee. There were none. The Chairman thanked Sen. Harbison for his efforts and for bringing the issue to the attention of the committee.

**SB 188 HEARING ONLY**

**HB 368 (Rep. Strickland, 111<sup>th</sup>) Construction; glass installations; repeal and reserve Part 5 of said article**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Brian Strickland (111<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 368, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Strickland (111<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained that the bill was merely a “clean-up” bill for this specific code section.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 11-0.

**HB 368 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Strickland (111<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Strickland (111<sup>th</sup>) responded that Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 261 (Rep. Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; sale during certain times on Sunday in commercial service airports owned or operated by a municipal governing authority; provide**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Brett Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 261, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained that the bill simply clarified language with the code section specified.

Chairman Jeffares brought attention to the recent addition of language within the bill that addresses and prohibits the sale of powdered alcohol in Georgia, which was recently approved by the federal government. The Chairman recognized Shawn Marie Story with the Legislative Counsel Office to further explain the added language.

Ms. Story explained the implications of the added language, which would presumably allow the Georgia General Assembly more time to establish a better position on the issue of powdered alcohol, and deferred further questions to the attention of Sean Casey, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue.

Mr. Casey greeted the committee, and explained the Department of Revenue’s position on powdered alcohol, which was currently against the sale of powdered alcohol in Georgia, but was still being investigated and studied due to the timeliness of the federal legislation passed in the last couple of days.

Mr. Casey further explained that the Department of Revenue felt there were still too many unanswered questions about regulating the sale of powdered alcohol in Georgia, and felt the best option at this time would be to prohibit it altogether until more information can be attained.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members, and recognized Sen. Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>) for one question.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 11-0.

**HB 261 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Harrell responded that Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 276 (Rep. Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; modernize certain terms; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Brett Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 276, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and reviewed each section of the bill, using a summary outline that he provided to committee members. After his summation, Rep. Harrell stated that language was added to this bill as well to address and prohibit the sale of powdered alcohol in Georgia.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members, and recognized Sen. Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) for a series of questions

Sen. Ginn asked the Chairman if our representative from Legislative Counsel could address some questions on the bill. Chairman Jeffares recognized Ms. Shawn Marie Story, who answered questions from the committee. Chairman Jeffares also recognized Mr. Sean Casey, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue, to answer questions from the committee.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-2, with Sen. Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) voting NO.

**HB 276 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Jeffares reaffirmed with Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) that he, Chairman Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), would serve as Senate sponsor for the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) left the meeting at approximately 4:58 p.m.

**HB 85 (Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; sale or furnishing to patients or inmates of Central State Hospital and sale or possession near or upon the grounds; change certain provisions**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 85, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 10-0. (*Sen. Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) had already left the meeting and therefore did not vote on the bill.*)

**HB 85 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor for the bill. Rep. Harrell responded that Sen. Burt Jones (25<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 25, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
5:30 PM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

### **HB 232 (Carter, 175<sup>th</sup>) State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers; change certain provisions**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Amy Carter (175<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 232, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Carter (175<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0. (*Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) and Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>) had not arrived yet and therefore did not vote on the bill.*)

### **HB 232 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Carter (175<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Carter (175<sup>th</sup>) stated that Sen. Dean Burke (11<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 461 (Shaw, 176<sup>th</sup>) Secondary metals recyclers; buying and selling of regulated metal property; change certain provisions**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Jason Shaw (176<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 461, to speak on the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowser arrived at approximately 5:42 p.m.

Rep. Shaw (176<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. (*Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) had not arrived yet and therefore did not vote on the bill*).

**HB 461 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Shaw (176<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Shaw responded that Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**HB 314 (Rep. Tankersley, 160<sup>th</sup>) Professions and businesses; State Board of Barbers and State Board of Cosmetology; combine**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Jan Tankersley (160<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 314, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Tankersley (160<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. (*Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) had not arrived yet and therefore did not vote on the bill*).

**HB 314 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Tankersley (160<sup>th</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Tankersley responded that Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**NOTE:** Sen. Mullis arrived at approximately 5:40 p.m.

**HB 535 (Harrell, 106<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; local authorization of sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises is lawful during a certain time on Sunday; provide**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Brett Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 535, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Harrell (106<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3, with Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>), and Sen. Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>) voting NO.

**HB 535 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares reaffirmed with Rep. Harrell that Sen. Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor for the bill.

**HB 253 (Rep. Ballinger, 23<sup>rd</sup>) Real estate appraisers; requirements for establishment and maintenance of a real estate appraisal management company; change certain provisions**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23<sup>rd</sup>), author of HB 253, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Ballinger (23<sup>rd</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

**HB 253 DO PASS by SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Jeffares asked Rep. Ballinger (23<sup>rd</sup>) who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Ballinger responded that Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES

MARCH 26, 2015  
ROOM 310 CLOB  
8:00 AM

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Sen. David Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Ex-Officio  
Sen. Brandon Beach (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49<sup>th</sup>)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>)

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Renee Unterman (45<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Steve Gooch (51<sup>st</sup>), and Sen. Steve Henson (41<sup>st</sup>) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m., asking Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) to open with prayer.

**HB 341 (Rep. Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup>) Buildings and housing; certain qualified inspectors may be certified by Building Officials' Association of Georgia; provide**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Howard Maxwell (17<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 341, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Maxwell (17<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. (*Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) had not arrived yet and therefore did not vote on the bill*).

**HB 341 DO PASS by SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Jeffares reaffirmed with Rep. Maxwell (17<sup>th</sup>) that he (Sen. Jeffares, 17<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor for the bill.

**HB 297 (Rep. Beskin, 54<sup>th</sup>) Professional licensing boards; make designations for the receipt and processing of applications for examination; provide**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Beth Beskin (54<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 297, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Beskin (54<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. (*Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) had not arrived yet and therefore did not vote on the bill*).

**HB 297 DO PASS**

Chairman Jeffares reaffirmed with Rep. Beskin (54<sup>th</sup>) that Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**HB 152 (Rep. Duncan, 26<sup>th</sup>) Alcoholic beverages; holders of certain alcohol licenses and those who issue such licenses; impose certain requirements**

**NOTE:** Sen. Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) arrived at approximately 8:20 a.m.

Chairman Jeffares recognized Rep. Geoff Duncan (26<sup>th</sup>), author of HB 152, to speak on the bill.

Rep. Duncan (26<sup>th</sup>) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) arrived at approximately 8:25 a.m.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

Chairman Jeffares asked for a motion on the amendment. Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) moved for adoption of the committee amendment. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman asked for a motion for passage of the bill. Sen. Hill (4<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

**HB 152 DO PASS by SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Jeffares asked who would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill. Rep. Duncan (26<sup>th</sup>) stated that Sen. Cowser (46<sup>th</sup>) would serve as the Senate sponsor.

**SR 389 (Sen. Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>) Broadband Information Services; encourage opposition to the regulation in innovative and expanding markets**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Judson Hill (32<sup>nd</sup>), author of SR 389, to speak on the resolution.

Sen. Hill (32<sup>nd</sup>) briefly explained his opposition of the United States congress taking a neutral position on the issue of regulating broadband information services, and hoped this resolution would bring attention to the matter..

Sen. Hill mentioned his involvement with the Federal Communications National Advisory Committee as the origin of his interest in the issue.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Shafer (4<sup>th</sup>) left the meeting at approximately 8:41 a.m.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from any Committee members. There were none.

Chairman Jeffares asked for a motion. Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1, with Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Beach (21<sup>st</sup>), Sen. Jack Hill (4<sup>th</sup>), and (49<sup>th</sup>) Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) voting YES, and with Sen. Lucas (26<sup>th</sup>) voting NO. \*\*

**SR 389 DO PASS**

*\*\* Although SR 389 was voted out of committee by a DO PASS motion on March 26, 2015, the bill was inadvertently omitted from the committee report submitted to the Secretary of the Senate. SR 389 will be reported out of the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee during the 2016 legislative session.*

**SR 593 (Sen. McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>) Senate Power Grid Protection Study Committee; create**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), author of SR 593, to speak on the resolution.

Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) briefly explained that he would like for the study committee created from this legislation to study the implications of and potential dangers related to an electromagnetic pulse that could result from a nuclear device or solar flare, and report to the Senate the likelihood of any such threat.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from Committee members, and recognized Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) for a question.

Sen. Ginn (47<sup>th</sup>) asked if this issue was even within the state's purview.

**NOTE:** Sen. Mullis (53<sup>rd</sup>) left the meeting at approximately 8:49 a.m.

Chairman Jeffares thanked Sen. McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>) and stated that he would appoint a Subcommittee for the resolution.

**SR 593 HEARING ONLY**

**SR 570 (Sen. Thompson, 14<sup>th</sup>) Senate Pool Industry Standards and Licensing Study Committee; create**

Chairman Jeffares recognized Sen. Bruce Thompson (14<sup>th</sup>), author of SR 570, to speak on the resolution.

Sen. Thompson (14<sup>th</sup>) briefly explained that swimming pool industry professionals approached him asking for help with implementing state regulations related to licensing. Sen. Thompson mentioned a representative accompanying him (without identifying his name) as an industry professional interested in implementing swimming pool licensing regulations.

Sen. Thompson further explained that he would like the study committee created from the proposed senate resolution to look at the best approach to solving the problems addressed by swimming pool professionals, and present their findings to the senate.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions from committee members. There were none.

Chairman Jeffares thanked Sen. Thompson (14<sup>th</sup>) and stated that he would appoint a Subcommittee on pool industry standards and licensing

**SR 570 HEARING ONLY**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Josh McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

May 7, 2015

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

Secretary Cook,

Attached herewith are ten (10) bills assigned to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities that were not acted upon during the 2015 legislative session:

SB 153  
SB 174  
SB 188  
SB 244  
SR 143  
**SR 389\***  
SR 570  
SR 593  
HB 201  
HB 340

Respectfully submitted,

C. Denese Sampson  
Legislative Assistant

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