

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
2015-2016 MEMBERS**

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
JANUARY 25, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth held a Joint Meeting with the House Committee on Education in Room 506 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Vincent Fort (39th) and Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) were absent.

This meeting can be found online in the House video archives at:  
<http://www.house.ga.gov/Committees/en-US/CommitteeArchives102.aspx>

Chairman Tippins (37th) and Chairman Brooks Coleman (97th) called the joint meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) offered a prayer.

Chairman Tippins (37th) introduced Stephen Dolinger, Ed.D. and Dana Rickman, Ph.D. of Georgia Partnership for Education. They presented 10 Critical Education Issues for 2016. The document used can be found online at [www.gpee.org](http://www.gpee.org).

Chairman Tippins (37th) introduced Betty Gray, former South School Board Member (16 years), 50 years in education in Cobb County and Dr. Doris Billips-McClure, Principal of Riverside Primary School (15 years), Cobb County.

Ms. Gray spoke on Challenges Faced in Changing Schools. Dr. Billips-McClure spoke on Parental and Community Engagement in Economically Challenged Areas.

There was a short Q & A.

Chairman Tippins (37th) introduced State Superintendent. Richard Woods. Supt. Woods gave an overview of DOE past and current programs, and their strengths and weaknesses. The DOE mission statement is: To educate Georgia's future. All kids should graduate ready to learn, live and lead. We should prepare our kids for life. They should all be able to read and comprehend.

Everything builds on that. He gave an overview of the DOE teacher survey which had: 1) a high response rate and 2) lots of concerns about high teacher turnover. Supt. Woods gave his vision of DOE: to help move our students and teachers forward to radically change education.

Both Chairmen thanked the audience and speakers. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**JANUARY 27, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Vincent Fort (39th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion to change the number of members required for a quorum from five to six (due to an increase in the number of Committee members). Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Tippins (37th) appointed Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. VanNess (43rd) to serve on the Subcommittee on Academic Achievement. He reviewed the list of carryover bills and assigned the following to Subcommittees:

[SB 281](#) and [287](#) were assigned to Academic Achievement.

[SR 719](#) was tabled.

[SR 723](#) was assigned to Academic Support.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman

**RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
2016 SESSION**

**The Rules of the Committee shall be the Rules of the Subcommittees.**

1. The quorum for the Committee on Education and Youth shall be six (6) members. Record of attendance will be maintained for each full Committee or Subcommittee meeting. This information shall be considered public.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairperson. Recess or adjournment of the Committee may also take place by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
3. A bill or resolution will only be placed on the Committee agenda after its principle sponsor completes a bill summary form. When a bill or resolution is placed on the Committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and the place of the hearing. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal sponsor or a legislator designated by the principal sponsor.
4. The Chairperson shall establish the meeting agenda and determine the measures to be considered and the order of consideration. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairperson has stated that such a motion will be entertained.
5. The Chairperson may appoint Subcommittees and officers of Subcommittees, and at the discretion of the Chairperson, refer any matter to a Subcommittee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate until it is considered by the full Committee. All Committee officers will be ex-officio voting Subcommittee members.
6. Any member or members who disagree with the majority report of the Committee may file a minority report as provided in the Rules of the Senate.
7. These Rules may be amended or suspended upon motion duly made and approved by a majority of the members of the Committee.
8. Five minutes prior to, during, and five minutes after a televised or web-cast Committee meeting, no one other than a member of the Committee, Legislative Counsel, Committee Aide, Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson, or Committee Intern, shall walk beyond the witness pulpit for any reason.

9. During Committee meetings, Committee members and everyone in the audience shall either turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers or other similar devices.
10. Any proposed measure shall include a fiscal note when appropriate, as determined by the Chairperson, prior to Committee consideration.
11. All publications, flyers, or any other materials to be distributed to the Committee shall be given to the Chairperson or their assistant and will be distributed by the Chairperson at the appropriate time.
12. Except for Legislative Counsel, no one shall speak to a member of the Committee while a televised or web-cast meeting is in progress without first obtaining the consent of the Chairperson. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Intern, which will then be passed to the Chairperson for approval.
13. Action may be taken by the Committee on any bill the first time it is presented. The Chairperson shall have the option to take action on a resolution.
14. Committee and Subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairperson for that purpose. The Chairperson may also set time limits for this process.
15. The Secretary of the Committee shall cause a copy of these Rules to be distributed to all members of the Senate.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Sims (12th), Secretary, and Sen. Fort (39th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**SB 309 (Sen. Burt Jones, 25th) Education; high school that receive state funding cannot participate in athletic association which prohibits religious expression on clothing of student athletes**

Sen. Jones (25th) presented the bill to Committee.

**SB 310 (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) "Transparency in Education Act"; prohibit implementation of certain grants; written analysis; grant terms are ratified by General Assembly**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented the bill to Committee.

Dr. Jimmy Stokes, former high school and college coach and former high school principal, spoke against the bill. He explained GHSA and GISA & National High School Federation rules.

**HB 65 (Rep. Michael Caldwell, 20th) Education; local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget; require**

HB 65 will be heard at the next meeting.

This meeting was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 8, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) and Sen. Fran Millar (40th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**HB 65 (Rep. Michael Caldwell, 20th) Education; local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget; require**

Rep. Caldwell (20) presented HB 65 to the Committee.

**SB 310 (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) "Transparency in Education Act"; prohibit implementation of certain grants; written analysis; grant terms are ratified by General Assembly**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 310 to the Committee.

Ted Beck, Department of Education (DOE), and Jane Robin, American Principles Project, spoke for the bill.

This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Vincent Fort (39th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**SB 309 (Sen. Burt Jones, 25th) Education; high school that receive state funding cannot participate in athletic association which prohibits religious expression on clothing of student athletes**

Sen. Jones (25th) presented SB 309 to the Committee.

Mr. Glen White, President of the Georgia High School Association, spoke for the bill.

A constituent of Sen. Jones (25th) spoke against the bill.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

**SB 309 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6470S**

Sen. Tippins (37th) turned control of the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Wilkinson (50th).

**SB 348 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th) Education; provide for colleges and career academies as charter school or schools within a strategic waivers school system**

Chairman Tippins (37th) presented SB 348 to the Committee.

Mark Peevy and Lou Erstes of the Department of Education spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

**SB 348 DO PASS**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th),  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) (SB 364), Ex- Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Fran Millar (40th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) turned control of the meeting over to Sen. Wilkinson (50th).

**SB 364 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th) "Quality Basic Education Act"; annual teacher, principal, and assistant principal evaluations; revise provisions**

Chairman Tippins presented SB 364 to Committee.

The following 17 people spoke in support of the bill:

Elizabeth Rhodes, Educators First  
Jimmy Stokes, G.A.E.L.  
Jane Howe, T.R.A.G.I.C.  
Amanda Miliner, Houston County Board of Education  
Richard Woods, State School Superintendent  
Sid Chapman, Georgia Association of Educators  
Connie Jackson, Cobb County Association of Educators  
John Zauner, G.S.S.A  
Erin Baker, Cobb County Educators  
Michele Willis, Cobb County Educators  
Karl Mercer, Forsyth County Schools  
Margaret Ciccarelli, P.A.G.E.  
Mickey White, T.R.A.G.I.C.  
Angela Palm, G.S.B.A.  
Cita Cook, Metro Atlantans for Public Schools

Dexter Mills, Northwest Georgia R.E.S.A.  
Chuck Clay, Georgia Education Coalition

Michael O'Sullivan, Students First, was a neutral speaker.

**SB 353 (Sen. Ben Watson, 1st) "Charter Schools Act of 1998"; limit training for governing board members of charter schools to six hours per year**

Sen. Watson (1st) presented SB 353 to the Committee.

**SB 328 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th) Education; students who are subject to compulsory attendance shall not be assigned to alternative education program for more than two semesters**

Sen. Jones (10th) presented SB 328 to the Committee.

This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Horacena Tate (38th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**[SR 723](#) (Sen. Donzella James, 35th) Youth Athletes; encourage local boards of education, nonpublic elementary/secondary to guarantee certain safety rights in sports competition**

Sen. James (35th) presented SR 723 to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) arrived at 2:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Powell Sims (12th) arrived at 2:12 p.m.

Gwen McKee, Chair of Brian Injury Association of Georgia, spoke in support of the bill.

SR 723 was a **HEARING ONLY**.

**[SB 281](#) (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) Education; require schools to provide certain information to students and parents prior to using any digital-learning platform**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 281 to the Committee.

SB 281 was a **HEARING ONLY**.

**[SB 374](#) (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th) "Quality Basic Education Act"; temporary exemption; financial reporting requirements for local school systems in federally authorized pilot program**

**NOTE:** Sen. James (35th) left the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented a substitute (LC 33 6534S) for SB 374 to the Committee.

Dan Weber, Charter System Foundation, spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 374 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6534S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) was out of the room during the vote on SB 374. She left at 2:41 p.m. and returned at 2:50 p.m.

**SB 328 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th) Education; students who are subject to compulsory attendance shall not be assigned to alternative education program for more than two semesters**

Sen. Jones (10th) presented SB 328 to the Committee.

Jimmy Stokes, Department of Education and hearing officer, spoke in support of the bill.

Garry McGibboney, Department of Education, spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Fort (39th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6528S**

**SB 310 (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) "Transparency in Education Act"; prohibit implementation of certain grants; written analysis; grant terms are ratified by General Assembly**

Chairman Tippins (37th) postponed SB 310 due to the lateness of the meeting.

**SB 395 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th) 'Georgia Special Needs and Junior G. I. Bill Scholarship Act'; expand the scholarship program to children of military personnel**

Sen. Hill (6th) presented SB 395 to the Committee.

No action was taken on the bill. This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Fran Millar (40th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) arrived at 1:11 p.m. and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 1:12 p.m.

**[SB 357](#) (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th) Education; local board education members; revise provisions relating to standards**

Sen. Williams (27th) and Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 357 to the Committee.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 357 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6552S**

**[SB 409](#) (Sen. JaNice VanNess, 43rd) Education; require every public school to post a sign containing toll-free telephone number; reports of child abuse or neglect**

Sen. VanNess (43rd) presented SB 409 to the Committee.

Sen. James (35th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 409 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6560S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort (39th) left the meeting.

**[SR 723](#) (Sen. Donzella James, 35th) Youth Athletes; encourage local boards of education, nonpublic elementary/secondary to guarantee certain safety rights in sports competition**

Sen. James (35th) presented SR 723 to the Committee.



Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SR 723 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6546S**

**SR 993** (Sen. Donzella James, 35th) **Senate Strengthening Parental Participation in Education Study Committee; create**

Sen. James (35th) presented SR 993 to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort (39th) returned to the meeting.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

**SR 993 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6562S**

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) left the meeting.

**SB 310** (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) **"Transparency in Education Act"; prohibit implementation of certain grants; written analysis; grant terms are ratified by General Assembly**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 310 to the Committee.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (7-2). The yea votes were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Wilkinson (50th), Sen. Stone (23rd), and Sen. Fort (39th). The nay votes were Sen. Tate (38th) and Sen. Sims (12th).

**SB 310 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6509S**

**SB 355** (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) **"Student/Teacher Protection Act"; enact; end punitive testing consequences; related to federal, state, and locally mandated standardized assessments**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 355 to the Committee.

Twenty-three speakers signed up in support of the bill. For the sake of time, only one person spoke. Bridget Crux, CASA for Children, spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-3). The yeas were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Wilkinson (52nd) and Sen. Stone (23rd). The nays were Sen. Tate (38th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Fort (39th).

**SB 355 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6552S**

**SB 281 (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) Education; require schools to provide certain information to students and parents prior to using any digital-learning platform**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented SB 281 to the Committee.

Jane Robins, American Principal Project spoke for the bill.  
Tonya Ditty Dukes, CWA, spoke for the bill.

Lavette Williams and Lou Ernst of Department of Education spoke against the bill.

No action was taken on the bill. SB 281 was a **HEARING ONLY**.

**SB 124 (Sen. Vincent Fort, 39th) 'Unlocking the Promise Community Schools Act'; provide for Sustainable Community School Operational Grants; planning and implementation of grants**

Sen. Fort (39th) presented SB 124 to the Committee.

Seven people spoke in favor of the bill. No one spoke against the bill.

This was a **HEARING ONLY**. No action was taken on the bill.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 2, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Vincent Fort (39th), Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Sen. Horacena Tate (38th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

**NOTE:** Sen. James (35th) arrived at 2:18 p.m., Sen. Millar (40th) arrived at 2:20 p.m., Sen. Fort (39th) arrived at 2:22 p.m. and Sen. VanNess (43rd) arrived at 2:29 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

**[HB 614](#) (Rep. Valencia Stovall, 74th) "Landon Dunson Act"; enact**

Rep. Stovall (74th) presented HB 614 to the Committee.

Jane Robbins, American Principles Project, spoke for the bill.  
Yvette Pegues, M.Ed, Your Invisible Disability Group and Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Ms. Wheelchair U.S.A., spoke for the bill.  
Kenyette Barnes, Nia Vizyon, LLC, spoke for the bill.

**[HB 659](#) (Rep. Dave Belton, 112th) Education; provide transparency of financial information of local school systems and schools; provisions**

Rep. Belton (112th) presented HB 659 to the Committee.

Michael O'Sullivan, Students First Georgia, spoke for the bill.  
Chuck Clay, Georgia Education Coalition, spoke for the bill.

**[HB 739](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) Elementary and secondary education; process for state approved instructional materials and content is optional; provide**

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented HB 739 to the Committee.

No action was taken on these bills. This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 7, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**HR 394 (Rep. Randy Nix, 69th) Sales and use tax; distribution of net proceeds for educational purposes between a county school system and one or more independent school systems; provide - CA**

Rep. Nix (69th) presented HR 394 to the Committee.

**HB 868 (Rep. Terry Rogers, 10th) State government; Georgia State Games Commission; eliminate**

Rep. Rogers (10th) presented HB 868 to the Committee.

**HB 870 (Rep. Brian Strickland, 111th) Quality Basic Education Act; high schools that receive state funding cannot participate in an athletic association which prohibits religious expression on clothing of student athletes; provide**

Rep. Strickland (111th) presented HB 870 to the Committee.

Glen White, President of the Georgia High School Association, spoke to clarify GAHSA rules. He gave neutral comments about the bill.

**HB 895 (Rep. Rahn Mayo, 84th) Elementary and secondary education; finance directors of charter schools participate in initial and annual training; require**

Rep. Mayo (84th) presented HB 895 to the Committee.

Andrew Lewis, of the Georgia Charter School Association, spoke for the bill.

**HB 879 (Rep. Tom Taylor, 79th) Elementary and secondary education; seal of biliteracy for high school graduates with a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English; provide**

Rep. Taylor (79th) presented HB 879 to the Committee.

Cosby Johnson, Georgia Chamber, spoke in support of the bill.

Rep. Taylor (79th) indicated that the Department of Education and Foreign Language Association of Georgia support the bill.

This was a **HEARING ONLY**. No action was taken on these bills.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 11, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Vincent Fort (39th), Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Sen. Horacena Tate (38th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

**HB 65 (Rep. Michael Caldwell, 20th) Education; local boards of education and certain charter schools to hold at least two public meetings on the proposed annual operating budget; require**

Rep. Caldwell (20th) presented HB 65 to the Committee.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 65 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1179S**

**HB 614 (Rep. Valencia Stovall, 74th) "Landon Dunson Act"; enact**

Rep. Stovall (74th) presented HB 614 to the Committee.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Stone (23rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 614 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6589S**

**HB 739 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) Elementary and secondary education; process for state approved instructional materials and content is optional; provide**

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented HB 739 to the Committee.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-1). The yeas were Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Stone (23rd), and Sen. James (35th). The nay vote was Sen. Sims (12th). Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 739 DO PASS**

**HB 879 (Rep. Tom Taylor, 79th) Elementary and secondary education; seal of bi-literacy for high school graduates with a high level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English; provide**

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. VanNess (43rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 879 DO PASS**

**HB 895 (Rep. Rahn Mayo, 84th) Elementary and secondary education; finance directors of charter schools participate in initial and annual training; require**

Rep. Mayo (84th) presented HB 895 to the Committee.

Sen. Sims (12th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 895 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) arrived at 3:19 p.m.

**HB 659 (Rep. Dave Belton, 112th) Education; provide transparency of financial information of local school systems and schools; provisions**

Rep. Belton (112th) presented HB 659 to the Committee.

Michael Sullivan of Students First and Chuck Clay of Georgia Education Coalition spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Black (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. VanNess (43rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 659 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6618S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) left the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) arrived at 3:22 p.m.

**HR 394 (Rep. Randy Nix, 69th) Sales and use tax; distribution of net proceeds for educational purposes between a county school system and one or more independent school systems; provide - CA**



Rep. Nix (69th) presented HR 394 to the Committee.

Sen. VanNess (43rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Black (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Black (8th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HR 394 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6324S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort (39th) arrived at 3:36 p.m.

**HB 959 (Rep. Beth Beskin, 54th) Education; K-12; update and clarify certain provisions**

Rep. Beskin (54th) presented HB 959 to the Committee.

This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 14, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Vincent Fort (39th) (arrived late)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th) and Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Mike Crane (28th) served as Ex-Officio and left as soon as quorum was achieved.

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort arrived at 3:15 p.m.

**HB 868 (Rep. Terry Rogers, 10th) State government; Georgia State Games Commission; eliminate**

Rep. Rogers (10th) presented HB 868 to the Committee.

Abit Massey and Eric Presley of Georgia Games spoke against the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion to table the bill. Sen. Fort (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**HB 868 TABLED**

Chairman Tippins (37th) turned control of the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Wilkinson (50th), in order to leave to present a bill at another hearing.

**NOTE:** Chairman Tippins (37th) left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**HB 100 (Rep. Tom Dickson, 6th) Education; date by which a child must reach a certain age in order to be eligible for enrollment in certain educational programs; change provisions**

Rep. Dickson (6th) presented HB 100 to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 3:34 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort (39th) left at 3:36 p.m.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion to **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-0), with yea votes by Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Stone (23rd), Sen. VanNess (43rd), and Sen. Millar (40th). Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 100 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6627S**

Sen. Tate motioned to DO PASS HB 100 by Substitute  
Sen. Sims seconded the motion.  
The motion passed (6-0).

**HB 959 (Rep. Beth Beskin, 54th) Education; K-12; update and clarify certain provisions**

Rep. Beskin (54th) presented HB 959 to the Committee.

Garry McGibboney, with the Department of Education, indicated support for the provision which allows dual-enrollment students to be exempt from the end-of-course assessment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Fort (39<sup>th</sup>) returned to the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-3). The yeas were Sen. Black (8th), Sen. VanNess (43rd), Sen. Wilkinson (50th), Sen. Stone (23rd), and Sen. Millar (40th). The nays were Sen. Fort (39th), Sen. Tate (38th), and Sen. Sims (12th). Sen. Black (8th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 959 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6625S**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary



**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
240 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

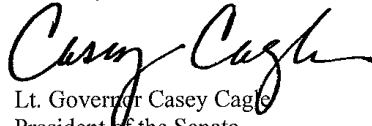
**CASEY CAGLE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

Dear David:

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Mike Crane to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Education and Youth Committee meeting on March 14, 2016. This appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Lt. Governor Casey Cagle  
President of the Senate

CC/tes

cc:  
Senate Committee Chairman

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 22, 2016**

A Joint Meeting of the Senate and House Committee on Education and Youth was held in Room 318 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building at 7:55 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Sen. Vincent Fort (39th), Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Sen. Horacena Tate (38th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

A presentation was made by multi-platinum Grammy winner, Kevin “Khao” Cates. His companies, Bridge Da Gap and Kool Curriculum are breaking new ground in K-12 curriculum and character education. His work is reflective of a modern-day version of "School House Rock" (former songs: Conjunction Junction, Crazy Eight, I'm Just a Bill.). Cates' animated music videos are aligned to Common Core using the best cognitive research and educational techniques. It replaces the need for boring repetition with effective content tutorials. He is looking for public support to expand in Georgia and be a part of the state's curriculum offerings.

Here are the websites that explain each program in more detail:

[www.bridgedagap.org](http://www.bridgedagap.org) and [www.koolcurriculum.com](http://www.koolcurriculum.com)

No action was taken. This was a **HEARING ONLY**.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary



**LINDSEY TIPPINS**  
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 302-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
 18 Capitol Square, S.W.  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
 Tel: (404) 657-0406  
 Fax: (404) 657-0459

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Education and Youth, Chairman  
 Appropriations  
 Judiciary  
 Transportation

March 28, 2016

MAR 29 AM 11:17

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

Dear Secretary Cook,

The Committee on Education and Youth is returning the following bills:

**Senate Bills**

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| SB 56  | SB 167 |
| SB 60  | SB 181 |
| SB 80  | SB 187 |
| SB 81  | SB 202 |
| SB 92  | SB 213 |
| SB 124 | SB 281 |
| SB 147 | SB 287 |
| SB 157 | SB 353 |
| SB 161 | SB 395 |
| SB 162 | SB 428 |
| SB 165 | SB 429 |
| SB 166 |        |

**Senate Resolutions**

SR 138  
 SR 393  
 SR 447  
 SR 719  
 SR 828

**House Bills**

HB 296  
 HB 474  
 HB 868  
 HB 870

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Se Williams*

