

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT MEMBERS**  
2015 - 2016

Sen. Frank Ginn, Chairman  
P.O. Box 1136  
Danielsville, GA 30633  
Phone: 706-680-4466

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. Greg Kirk  
P. O. Box 6085  
Americus, GA 31709  
Phone: (229) 854-9706

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

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
January 26, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice Chairman  
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)  
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)  
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

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

Chairman Ginn (47th) called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Chairman Ginn (47th) asked for a motion to adopt the Rules for the Committee since there is a new Chairman. Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion to adopt the Rules. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Ginn (47th) introduced the past President of the Georgia Forestry Association, Steve McWilliams, who introduced the new President, Andrea Villegas.

The following people who spoke were from the Department of Natural Resources:

Walter Rabon, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources  
Jed Turner, Director of Environment Protection Division  
Mark Williams, Commission of Department of Natural Resources  
Mark Whitney, Wildlife Resource Division  
Becky Kelley, Director of Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT RULES 2015 - 2016 SESSION**

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

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
February 4, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, February 4, 2016 in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)  
Sen. Lindsey Tippens (37th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

The Lt. Gov. appointed Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th) as an Ex-Officio for the meeting. The letter is attached.

Chairman Ginn (47th) called the meeting to order at 4:15p.m.

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

Rep. Lumsden (12th) presented his bill and explained the substitute LC 40 1077S.

Sen. Tippens (37th) made a motion that **HB 172 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 1077S)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**HB 172 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1077S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) left the meeting at 4:21 p.m. and returned at 4:28 p.m.

**[SB 311](#) (Sen. Bethel, 54th, LC 37 2091) Interstate Power Compact; enact**

Sen. Bethel (54th) presented a substitute LC 37 2111S.

Those speaking against the bill were:

Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light  
Rev. Leann Culbreath, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light  
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club  
Mary Walker, Environmental Protection Division  
June Deen, American Lung Association

Chairman Ginn (47th) said he talked with Sen. Bethel (54th) and told him his legislation needed to be studied. No motion was made and **SB 311** was **Hearing Only**.

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary



**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

240 STATE CAPITOL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

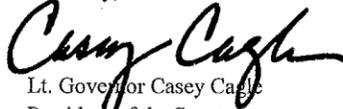
CASEY CAGLE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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 Charlie Beckel to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting on 2/21/16. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,



Lt. Governor Casey Cagle  
President of the Senate

CC/tes

Cc:  
Senate Committee Chairman  
Fiscal Office  
Appointee

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
February 18, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in the Mezz. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice Chairman  
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)  
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Ginn (47th) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and asked Sen. Wilkinson (50th) to say a prayer.

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

Sen. Burt Jones (25th) presented the bill for Rep. Kidd (145th).

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion that **HB 82 Do Pass**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Sen. Jones (25th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 82 DO PASS**

**[SR 730](#) (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd, LC 40 0974) Coastal Regional Commission; encourage to support implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway**

Sen. Jeffares (17th) made a motion that **SR 730 Do Pass**. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**SR 730 DO PASS**

**[HB 483](#) (Rep. Debbie Buckner, 137th, LC 40 0831) State symbols; shoal bass as official state native riverine sport fish; designate**

Chairman Ginn (47th) told Rep. Buckner (137th) that the Committee would hear the bill, but there would be no motion taken.

**HB 840 (Rep. Ron Stephens, 164th, LC 40 1061S) Conservation and natural resources; rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations; change provisions**

Lt. Wayne Hubbard, a law enforcement officer from the Department of Natural Resources, presented the bill for Rep. Stephens (164th).

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion that **HB 840 Do Pass**. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Sen. Ginn (47th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 840 DO PASS**

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
February 25, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, February 25, 2016 in 450 of the State Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

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

**[SR 1037](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd, LC 40 1092) Alternative Fuels Infrastructure; create Senate study committee**

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion to make the following changes: delete “Senate” after “of” on page 1, line 20 and add “Joint”; on Page 1, line 20 after “the” add “Joint” and remove “Senate Study”; on Page 1, line 21 after “Vehicles” add “Study Committee”; also, on line 22 after “composed of the,” delete the rest of the section and add the following: Members and officers. The committee shall be composed of the following ten members. Add (A) (B) and (C) sections. (A) The chairpersons of the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee and the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. The President of the Senate shall designate one of such members as co-chairperson. (B) The chairpersons of the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism and the House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one of such members as co-chairperson. (C) Three additional members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate and three additional members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker.

Sen. Jeffares (17th) made a motion to adopt the amendments and use them to create a substitute. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Jeffares (17th) made a motion that **SR 1037 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 1157S)**. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1037 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1157S**

**[SR 1038](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd, LC 40 1088) Joint Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Study Committee; create**

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion to amend lines 23 – 33 Sections (A) and (C) as follows: on line 23 after “following,” delete “seven” and add “ten.” On line 25 (A) after “the,” delete “Senate Economic Development and Tourism” and add “Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.” On (C) line 32 after “the,” add “Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate.” Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion that **SR 1038 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 1156S)**. Sen. Tippins ((37th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1038 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1156S**

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
March 8, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 in room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary, Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), and Sen. Tommie Williams (19th) were absent.

Chairman Ginn (47th) called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and asked Sen. Wilkinson (50th) to have prayer.

**NOTE:** Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) arrived at 3:17 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) arrived at 3:20 p.m.

**[HB 1028](#) (Rep. Bill Werkheiser, 157th, LC 40 1141S) Natural Resources, Department of; Environmental Protection Division; provide notice to affected localities upon certain events relating to permitted solid or hazardous waste facilities**

Sen. Hill (4th) made a motion that **HB 1028 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 40 1173S)**. Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Sen. Williams (19th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**HB 1028 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1173S**

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT  
March 15, 2016**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 in room 450 of the Capitol. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Chairman  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Secretary  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)  
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)  
Sen. Tommie Williams (19th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Ginn (47th) called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**[HB 483](#) (Rep. Debbie Buckner, 137th, LC 40 0831) State symbols; shoal bass as official state native riverine sport fish; designate**

Sen. Tippins (37th) made a motion that **HB 483 Do Pass**. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Sen. Ginn (47th) will be the Senate sponsor.  
**HB 483 DO PASS**

Chairman Ginn (47th) adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (9th), Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

March 29, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

Please find listed below the bills remaining in the Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee for the 2016 Legislative Session:

[SB 311](#)  
[SB 406](#)  
[SR 1049](#)

Sincerely,

Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary  
Natural Resources and the Environment