

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
2016 MEMBERS**

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

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 he 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
JANUARY 25, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49th) to open with prayer.

SB 264 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Horse Racing; provide for pari-mutuel wagering; definitions; conditions; regulation and operation

Chairman Jeffares (17th) reminded the audience and Committee members that SB 264 would receive a HEARING ONLY, and that no action would be taken at this time on the bill.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) to address the Committee and speak on the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) introduced Mike Rogers, President of Stronach Group (Hallandale Beach, Florida), and Tim Ritvo, Chief Operating Officer, Racing Division, of Stronach Group, to accompany him in presentation.

Sen. Beach (21st) stated that a new Committee substitute was being presented to the Committee, LC 28 7862ERS, which provides for the licensing of three pari-mutuel betting sites across the state. Informational hand-outs were distributed to the Committee members for their review.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ritvo explained some components of the informational hand-outs as they pertain to application and implementation of pari-mutuel betting in Georgia.

Mr. Ritvo further explained that the state of Georgia has to vote on the location of tracks in various counties as well, and that the bill calls for two levels of voter participation. Mr. Ritvo defined the meaning of the term “handle” as the total amount of wagering from all sources, and that generally, people would be betting against each other, with a portion of funds designated for the Georgia lottery, and the remaining amount to winning bettors.

Sen. Beach (21st), Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ritvo continued to answer a series of questions from Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Ginn (47th).

Chairman Jeffares (17th) announced the recognition of those persons desiring to speak in opposition to the bill, and signed up to address the Committee: Paul Smith, Dave Baker, Mike Griffin, and Judy Craft.

Mr. Smith thanked Chairman Jeffares (17th) for the opportunity to speak, and informed the Committee that his organization represents churches throughout Georgia, of which many members’ pastors within senatorial districts have spoken in opposition to gambling, generally speaking. Mr. Smith stated that he would not speak on the morality of gambling, but would address the consequences of gambling.

Mr. Baker thanked the Committee for allowing his testimony, and said that he serves as the Executive Director of Faith and Freedom Coalition. Mr. Baker called horse racing a beautiful sport, known as the sport of kings, but that in state after state, horse racing has proven to be a money loser. He further stated his belief that if off-site betting were taken out of the bill, it would be an improvement. Mr. Baker concluded by quoting facts and figures from articles written in opposition to race track horse racing.

Mr. Griffin, Public Affairs Representative for the Georgia Baptist Convention, thanked the Committee for its attention and distributed a Georgia Baptist Convention resolution against casino gambling and horse racing in Georgia. Mr. Griffin also shared his statement as provided to the Senate Study Committee on the Preservation of HOPE Scholarship (2015) meeting held at Armstrong Atlantic University.

Ms. Judy Craft read a statement on behalf of Tonya Ditty, CWA (Concerned Women for America of Georgia) and concluded with her personal statement against horse racing in Georgia.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Sen. Beach (21st) and all participants, reminding the audience that the day’s proceedings were for a HEARING ONLY.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
JANUARY 27, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., asking Sen. Ginn (47th) to open with prayer.

SB 264 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Horse Racing; provide for pari-mutuel wagering; definitions; conditions; regulation and operation

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked everyone for their diligence, acknowledging the hearing held at the previous meeting for SB 264, and asked if there were any lingering questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th), who asked about the wisdom of allowing the Lottery Corporation control over pari-mutuel betting. Sen. Beach (21st) responded that the thought was to create the same model as the Lottery Corporation board, without creating a whole separate entity for pari-mutuel betting.

Sen. Beach (21st) continued to answer a series of questions from Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Unterman (45th), one specifically if there were any arcade-type facilities for pari-mutuel betting. Sen. Beach (21st) responded that he was unsure of the answer, but believed there are other entertainment sources available; almost like a sports bar situation where people can view various sporting events and activities.

Sen. Unterman (45th) commented that there was no mention of funding for addiction services within the body of the bill, and referenced the fact that, in other states where only horseracing is permitted, funds have been designated for addiction problems. Sen.

Beach (21st) responded that in those states, owners have set aside funds for that purpose, and he was open to doing the same for this bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Henson (41st), who asked if the bill only permitted horse racing in Georgia. Sen. Beach (21st) responded yes, the bill only permits horse racing.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th), who asked for a commitment from the author of the bill to work with her in adding language for addiction funds to be provided, and that a “comfort zone” be instituted, so that if any changes are made in business practices of horse racing companies, then those changes must come back before the General Assembly for approval.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th), who stated his belief that the HOPE Scholarship should not be addressed within the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th), who stated his belief that the General Assembly should not address HOPE within this bill, and that it should be addressed in another fashion to ensure that it is done correctly. He expressed his belief that another setting is appropriate to fix the problems with HOPE.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th), who agreed with Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) that the debate surrounding the HOPE Scholarship should not be addressed with this bill and that the Committee would be “muddying the water” to do so.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) asked the Chairman’s permission for a motion on the proposed amendment. The Chairman agreed. Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a motion to amend lines 48 through 78, striking all language referencing the HOPE Scholarship. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Henson (41st), who expressed his belief that Georgia has a great disparity with people not having access to the opportunity to attend college, and that this bill should incorporate needs-based assistance where needed. He further stated his belief that it is good for the Lottery Corporation to have the ability to consider monies for needs-based students.

Sen. Beach (21st) assured the Committee that the needs-based language was added after his initial meeting with Chancellor of the Board of Regents, and was put there based on particular needs of students identified by the Chancellor.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3, with Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), and Sen. Unterman (45th) voting yea, and Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Henson (41st) voting nay.

SB 264 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 2946ERS

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 1:14 p.m.

SR 135 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) General Assembly; authorize to provide by law for pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing -CA

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 2941ERS as the correct version of the bill, and asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) moved **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Mullis (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3, with Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), Sen. Unterman (45th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hill (4th), and Sen. Miller (49th) voting yea, and Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Henson (41st) voting nay.

SR 135 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 2941ERS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
FEBRUARY 17, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

[SB 326](#) (Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th) Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; shorten the time period for permit issuance/denial by local issuing authorities

Chairman Jeffares (17th) announced that SB 326 would be tabled until further notice.

[SB 188](#) (Sen. Ed Harbison, 15th) Bingo; increase the permissible prize amounts

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) to speak on the bill. Sen. Harbison (15th) stated that it would increase the amount of gifts to be won playing Bingo in Georgia, which would allow the state to be competitive with bordering states. He further stated that many services for veterans are funded through revenues generated from Bingo.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3014S as the correct version of the bill, and asked for a motion.

Sen. Beach (21st) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. McKoon (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

SB 188 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3014S

[SB 333](#) (Sen. John Kennedy, 18th) Nonprofit Corporations; allow for a nonprofit corporation organized in foreign jurisdiction to change its jurisdiction of organization to this state

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) to address the Committee and speak on the bill.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) confirmed LC 41 0635 as the correct version of the bill, and explained that the legislation applies to nonprofit corporations, allowing a foreign nonprofit corporation to become a corporation, and a domestic nonprofit corporation to become a foreign corporation, if certain requirements are met.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Ginn (47th), who asked if the author would clarify the distinction of a “foreign corporation.” Sen. Kennedy (18th) explained that the distinction is for a corporation that is not a Georgia corporation, and does not apply to international corporations.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

SB 333 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
FEBRUARY 22, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49th) to open with prayer.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) announced that he would change the order of bill presentations since an author was not present, and confirmed that SB 351 would receive a HEARING ONLY from the Committee, with no action taken on the bill. Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Beach (21st) to speak on the bill.

SB 351 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Crematories; distance certain crematories may be located in relation to residential subdivision; change provisions

Sen. Beach (21st) thanked the Committee, and directed attention to lines 29-34, stating that the bill shall only apply to the issuance of renewal licenses for any stand-alone crematory.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any questions from the Committee, and recognized Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Miller (49th) for a series of questions. Chairman Jeffares (17th) and the Committee deferred some questions to Shawn Marie Story from the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Greg Cannon from Henry County (private citizen) and Charlie Watts (private citizen) to speak against the bill. Mr. Watts spoke of his concerns about mercury, and stated his belief that independent funeral home owners were opposed to the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 1:19 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were further questions, and recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) for questions.

NOTE: Sen. McKoon (29th) left at 1:26 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Sen. Beach (21st) and other speakers for their participation.

[SB 352](#) (Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th) Selling and Other Trade Practices; provide consumer protection requirements for fantasy contest operators

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) to speak on the bill. Sen. Unterman (45th) shared her appreciation for the Chairman's help with perfecting the Committee substitute to this point. Sen. Unterman (45th) confirmed LC 36 3034S as the correct version of the bill.

Sen. Unterman (45th) credited the new phenomena of fantasy sports as the origin of the bill, and has seen its growth in popularity within the past few years. She further stated how playing fantasy sports has become much more sophisticated, in that people can collaborate easily on the internet. Sen. Unterman (45th) expressed her concern for children becoming involved with the activity to their detriment, speculating that more than 1.5 million are playing fantasy sports with no regulation.

Sen. Unterman (45th) concluded by stating that fantasy sports are operating in 40 states, with 18 states looking at legislation to regulate the activity. She has followed the issue through the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and seen fantasy sports sweep the nation, with the controversy being if it is considered gambling or not. She stated her belief that fantasy sports should be defined and regulated so we can know exactly what we're dealing with, and that the General Assembly of Georgia wants nothing to interfere with HOPE.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Beach (21st), and Sen. Cowsert (46th) for a series of questions, with Sen. Unterman (45th) responding.

Sen. Unterman (45th) invited Ben Vinton, an expert in the field of fantasy sports, to answer any questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Director for the Georgia Baptist Convention, to speak against the bill. Mr. Griffin pointed out that 13 gambling bills have come before the General Assembly during this legislative session.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Jane Robbins and Dave Baker, both individual citizens of Georgia, to speak against the bill.

NOTE: Sen. McKoon (29th) left at 1:56 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any further questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

SB 352 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3034S

SB 387 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd) **Local Government 9-1-1 Authority; provide for creation, authority, powers and membership**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) announced that, pursuant to the author's request, SB 387 would be tabled until further notice.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE
COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
FEBRUARY 24, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., asking Sen. McKoon (29th) to open with prayer.

[SB 387](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) Local Government 9-1-1 Authority; provide for creation, authority, powers and membership

Chairman Jeffares (17th) announced that upon request of the author, SB 387 would be **tabled** until further notice.

[SR 593](#) (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th) Senate Power Grid Protection Study Committee; create

Chairman Jeffares (17th) appointed a Subcommittee Committee for SR 593, with the following Committee members serving: Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. McKoon (29th), and Sen. Jeffares (17th).

[SB 326](#) (Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th) Soil Erosion and Sedimentation; shorten the time period for permit issuance/denial by local issuing authorities

Chairman Jeffares (17th) appointed a Subcommittee Committee for SB 326, with the following Committee members serving: Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Jeffares (17th).

[SB 402](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs; provide for a moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to narcotic treatment programs

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) to address SB 402. Sen. Mullis (53rd) brought three people to speak on behalf of the bill: Josh McKee, Brook Etherington (Providers of Georgia), and Stacy Pearce (Opioid Treatment of Macon, Georgia).

Sen. Mullis (53rd) stated that Georgia is not doing a good job providing access to care for opioid treatment, and that the entire process is weak. He stated that there are some legitimate clinics that understand the intricacies of treatment, but many that do not. Sen. Mullis (53rd) deferred his comments to the three individuals with him, and invited the Committee to ask any questions.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) and Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:12 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Sen. Mullis (53rd) and his guest speakers and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Jim Dunlap, an attorney for James A. Dunlap Jr. and Associates, LLC of Atlanta, Georgia, to speak against the bill. Mr. Dunlap distributed information to the Committee per the Chairman's permission, suggested that Georgia was in the middle of an epidemic of opioid use, and stated his belief that this is the wrong time to stop expansion of treatment.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 1:17 p.m.

In summary, Mr. Dunlap stated that free market choice and competition are the best ways to improve the problem of opioid use in our society, and asserted that to allow a businessman to come in and wipe out his competitors through legislation is a bad way to go. He expressed his hope for the Committee to move forward with legislation.

For final comments, Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th), who also answered questions from Sen. Mullis (53rd), Sen. Ginn (47th), and Sen. Miller (49th).

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:23 p.m.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1, with Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), Sen. Lucas, (26th), Sen. Unterman (45th), Sen. Beach (21st), and Sen. Hill (4th) voting yea, and Sen. Miller (49th) voting nay.

SB 402 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2165S

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
MARCH 7, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49th) to open with prayer.

[HB 869](#) (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) Professions and businesses; responsibilities of brokers and qualifying brokers to review certain documents; change certain provisions

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) to address the bill. Chairman Jeffares (17th) explained briefly that the bill achieves some upgrading to Georgia real estate laws, and was brought to him by the Georgia Real Estate Commission.

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 1:12 p.m.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mullis (53rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 869 DO PASS

[HB 952](#) (Rep. Chad Nimmer, 178th) "Georgia Professional Regulation Reform Act"; enact

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Nimmer (178th), who was accompanied by Sen. Dugan (30th), to address the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:18 p.m.

Rep. Nimmer (178th) stated that a substitute was being presented and focused attention to Line 35 and Line 39, where clerical errors were made that should be corrected before passage.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed that the representative from Legislative Counsel for the Committee, Shawn Marie Story, was capable of making said corrections. Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Henson (41st) for a question.

Sen. Miller (49th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dugan (30th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 952 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3062S

HB 1036 (Rep. Bill Hitchens, 161st) Eminent domain; construction of petroleum pipelines and the environmental permitting requirements; change certain provisions

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Hitchens (161st) to address the bill. Rep. Hitchens (161st) verified LC 36 3060S as the correct Committee substitute version, and explained that petroleum pipelines were at issue with this bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Jack Hill (4th), who stated that Effingham County is in his district and would be greatly affected by the bill, and that he does not believe his constituents are against pipelines, but rather are against eminent domain. Sen. Hill (4th) further stated his desire to ensure that citizens are not being taken advantage of, and affirmed his belief that the legislation would give some time to fully vet those issues and be sure that the pipelines are going to be built within the safest conditions.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Hunter Hopkins, Georgia Petroleum Counsel, to speak in opposition to the bill. Mr. Hopkins stated that he represents all natural gas businesses in Georgia, and that his biggest concern was with lines 164-169 of the bill, and the precedent being set. He stated his belief that this bill would create a slippery slope.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Stephanie Kindregan, Director of Public Affairs for Kinder Morgan, to speak against the bill. Ms. Kindregan distributed a map and information to the Committee, stating that she represents a company that has operated safely in this state for 70 years, and that does not support the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Steve McWilliams, speaking on behalf of Landowners for Private Property Rights, to speak in favor of the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 1:39 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) invited Rep. Hitchens (161st) to re-address the Committee with closing comments. He affirmed his belief that we live in an environmentally safe world, that issues are important, and asserted that progress and construction has violated

environmental laws and destroyed bodies of waters and land, and that people in his area are very concerned about protecting the environment.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Hill (4th), who concluded that as this issue moves along, in the beginning it had more to do with eminent domain, but as it continues, environmental issues are a concern. Sen. Hill (4th) said he believed that a year to study the issue is not a high price to pay. He stated his desire for the Committee to make a motion on the passage of the bill.

Sen. Hill (4th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stone (23rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 1036 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3060S

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
MARCH 14, 2016

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

To achieve quorum, Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) was appointed to serve as Ex-Officio. The confirmation letter is attached.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

[HB 821](#) (Rep. Al Williams, 168th) "Military Spouses and Veterans Licensure Act"; enact

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Al Williams (168th), who was accompanied by Rep. Gloria Frazier (126th), to address the bill. Rep. Williams (168th) stated that the bill was brought to him because of difficulties that military members' spouses were facing with obtaining Georgia driver's licenses, and that the bill expedites the issuance of temporary driver's licenses until such time as they have cleared all checks.

Sen. Harbison (15th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Harbison (15th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 821 DO PASS

[HB 889](#) (Rep. E. Culver "Rusty" Kidd, 145th) Professions and businesses; funeral establishments and crematories; authorize certain advertisements related to crematories and cremation services

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Kidd (145th) to address the bill. Rep. Kidd (145th) confirmed LC 36 3073S as the correct version of the Committee substitute being presented.

Rep. Kidd (145th) briefly explained that the bill limits the cost of license renewal and registration to \$100 for funeral directors and establishments, embalmers, and crematories. The bill further states that a license would expire biennially, and if a license is not renewed prior to the date of expiration, it will lapse, but can be reinstated upon completion of a reinstatement application and fee, set by the State Board of Funeral Service not to exceed \$300.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 2:18 p.m.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Burt Jones (25th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 889 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3073S

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, 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 Lindsey Tippins to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Regulated Industries meeting on March 14, 2016. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,


Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
President of the Senate

CC/tes

Copy to:

Legislative Fiscal Officer
Committee Chair
Appointee

March 30, 2016

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

Secretary Cook,

Attached herewith are twenty (20) bills assigned to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities that were not acted upon during the 2016 legislative session:

SB 142	SR 570
SB 153	SR 593
SB 174	SR 1044
SB 244	HB 201
SB 326	HB 261
SB 349	HB 276
SB 351	HB 297
SB 387	HB 340
SR 143	HB 535
SR 389	HB 592

Respectfully submitted,

C. Denese Sampson
Legislative Assistant